# Sparsified Distributed Adaptive Learning with Error Feedback

#### Abstract

To be completed...

### 1 Introduction

### 2 Method

Consider standard synchronous distributed optimization setting. AMSGrad is used as the prototype, and the local workers is only in charge of gradient computation.

### 2.1 TopK AMSGrad with Error Feedback

#### References:

[1] [2] [3] https://arxiv.org/pdf/1901.09847.pdf https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper/2018/file/b440509a0106086a67bc2ea9df0a1dab-Paper.pdf https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/8728/dee89906022c1d4f5cpdf?\_ga=2.152244026.2027005181.1606271153-15127215.1603945483

The key difference (and interesting part) of our TopK AMSGrad comprared with the following arxiv paper "Quantized Adam" https://arxiv.org/pdf/2004.14180.pdf is that, in our model only gradients are transmitted. In "QAdam", each local worker keeps a local copy of moment estimator m and v, and compresses and transmits m/v as a whole. Thus, that method is very much like the sparsified distributed SGD, except that g is changed into m/v. In our model, the moment estimates m and v are computed only at the central server, with the compressed gradients instead of the full gradient. This would be the key (and difficulty) in convergence analysis.

#### Algorithm 1 L&D LOCAL AMS FOR FEDERATED LEARNING

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1: Input: parameter \beta_1, \beta_2, learning rate \eta_t.
2: Initialize: central server parameter \theta_0 \in \Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d; e_{t,i} = 0 the error accumulator for each worker; sparsity
    parameter k; N local workers; m_0 = 0, v_0 = 0, \hat{v}_0 = 0
 3: for t = 1 to T do
        parallel for worker i do:
           Receive model parameter \theta_{t-1} from central server
 5:
           Compute stochastic gradient g_{t,i} at \theta_t
 6:
           Compute \tilde{g}_{t,i} = TopK(g_{t,i} + e_{t,i}, k)
 7:
           Update e_{t+1,i} = e_{t,i} + g_{t,i} - \tilde{g}_{t,i}
 8:
           Send \tilde{g}_{t,i} back to central server
9:
        end parallel
10:
        Central server do:
11:
        \bar{g}_t = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \tilde{g}_{t,i}
12:
        m_t = \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1) \bar{g}_t
13:
        v_t = \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2) \bar{g}_v^2
        \hat{v}_t = \max(v_t, \hat{v}_{t-1})
15:
        Update model\theta_t = \theta_{t-1} - \eta_t \frac{m_t}{\sqrt{\hat{\eta}_t}}
17: end for
```

#### 2.2 Convergence Analysis

Nonconvex smooth loss function. Bounded gradient variance.

#### 2.2.1 Single machine

We first define multiple auxiliary sequences. For the first moment, define

$$\bar{m}_t = m_t + \mathcal{E}_t,$$
 $\mathcal{E}_t = \beta_1 \mathcal{E}_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1)(e_{t+1} - e_t),$ 

such that

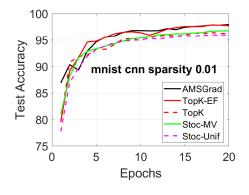
$$\begin{split} \bar{m}_t &= \bar{m}_t + \mathcal{E}_t \\ &= \beta_1 (m_t + \mathcal{E}_t) + (1 - \beta_1) (\bar{g}_t + e_{t+1} - e_1) \\ &= \beta_1 \bar{m}_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1) g_t. \end{split}$$

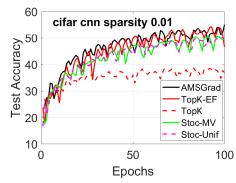
TBD...

#### 2.2.2 Multiple machine

## 3 Experiments

Our proposed TopK-EF with AMSGrad matches that of full AMSGrad, in distributed learning. Number of local workers is 20. Error feedback fixes the convergence issue of using solely the TopK gradient.





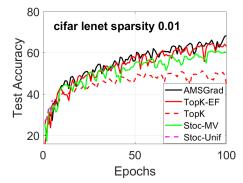


Figure 1: Test accuracy.

## 4 Conclusion

## References

- [1] Sai Praneeth Karimireddy, Quentin Rebjock, Sebastian U Stich, and Martin Jaggi. Error feedback fixes signsgd and other gradient compression schemes. arXiv preprint arXiv:1901.09847, 2019.
- [2] Shaohuai Shi, Kaiyong Zhao, Qiang Wang, Zhenheng Tang, and Xiaowen Chu. A convergence analysis of distributed sgd with communication-efficient gradient sparsification. In *IJCAI*, pages 3411–3417, 2019.
- [3] Sebastian U Stich, Jean-Baptiste Cordonnier, and Martin Jaggi. Sparsified sgd with memory. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, pages 4447–4458, 2018.

## A Appendix