# ElasticTrainer: Speeding Up On-Device Training with Runtime Elastic Tensor Selection

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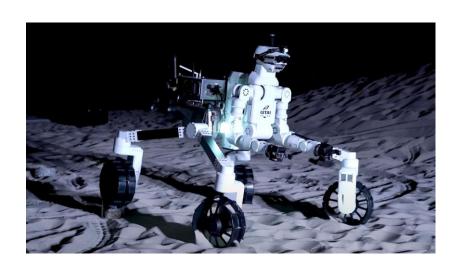
Mobisys'23

#### Introduction

• Continuously training the AI models



Mobile auto-suggestion



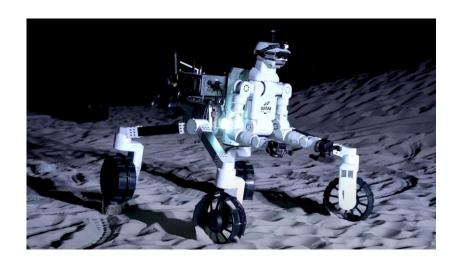
All-terrain robot

#### Introduction

- Considering data privacy & bandwidth constraint
  - On-cloud training
  - On-device training  $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$



Mobile auto-suggestion



All-terrain robot

• On-device training is expensive and slow.





Mobile GPU ~16 hours

- Existing schemes
  - Offline Selection: Only Training a portion of the NN model.
    - Lack of considering the variability of online data that result in dynamic training feedback.
  - Online Pruning: Adaptively adjust the trainable NN portion at runtime.
    - The pruned NN portions can never be selected again even if they may be useful.

- ElasticTrainer
  - Every NN substructure can be freely **removed** from or **added** to the trainable NN portion **at any time** in training.

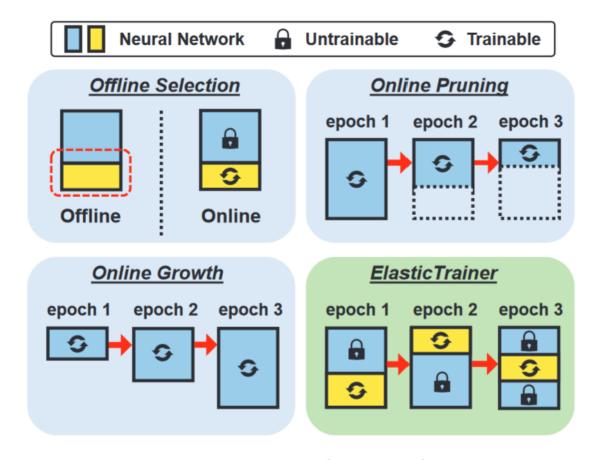


Figure 1: Existing work vs. ElasticTrainer

- Granularity of Selection
  - Weight-level
  - Tensor-level
  - Layer-level

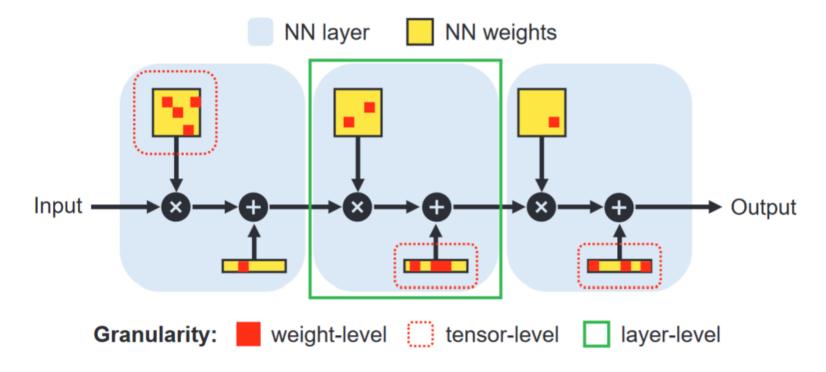
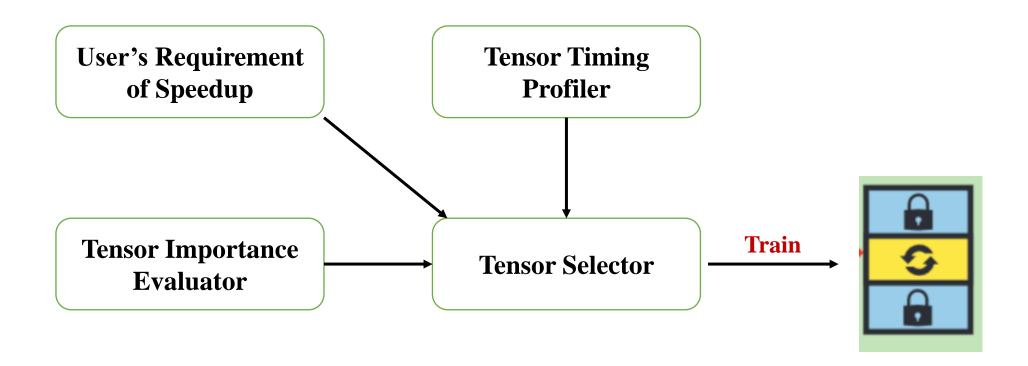


Figure 4: Granularities of selection

# System Overview



# System Overview

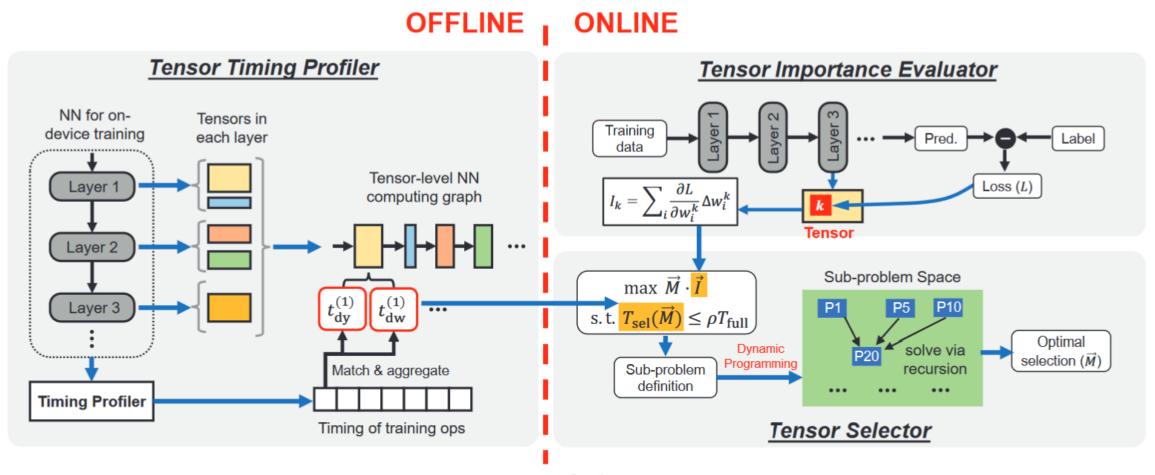


Figure 5: Overview of ElasticTrainer Design

- Tensor Timing Profiler
  - Forward pass
  - Backward pass

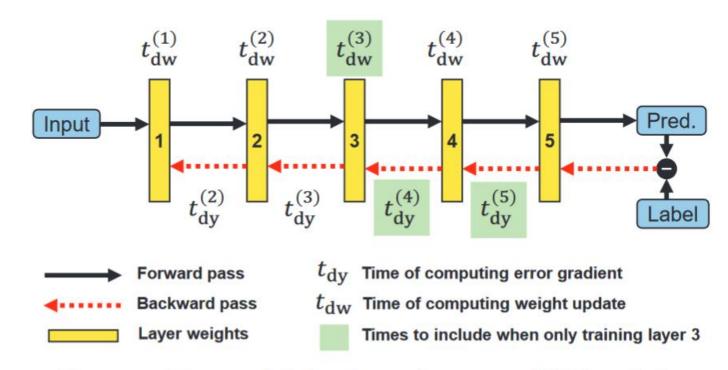


Figure 3: Forward & backward passes of NN training

- Tensor Timing Profiler
  - Convolutional Layer & Dense Layer

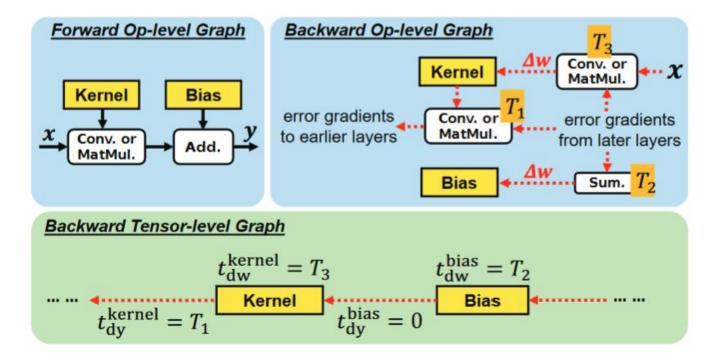


Figure 8: Timing of tensor training in convolutional and dense layers

- Tensor Timing Profiler
  - Batch Normalization Layer

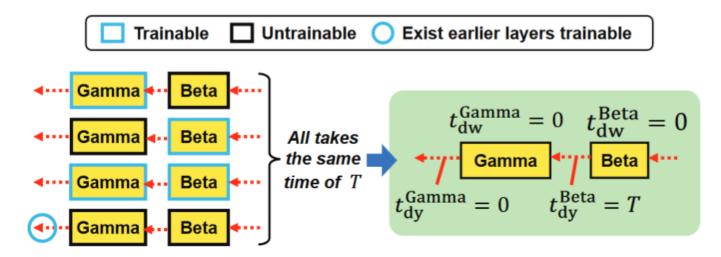


Figure 9: Timing of tensor training in batch normalization layers

- Tensor Timing Profiler
  - Non-trainable Layer

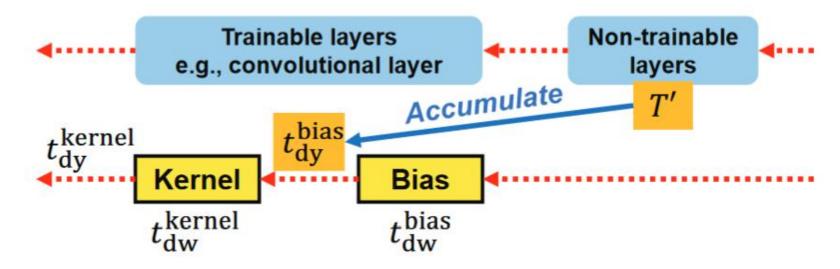


Figure 10: Including timings of non-trainable layers

• Tensor Importance Evaluator(Based on XAI)

$$I_k = \sum_{i} \frac{\partial L}{\partial w_i^k} \Delta w_i^k,$$

$$\Delta L = L(w) - L(w + \Delta w), \tag{4}$$

$$\vec{c} \quad \text{Continuous undo operation}$$

$$\frac{\partial L(\vec{w} + \vec{c} \odot \Delta \vec{w})}{\partial \vec{c}} = \Delta \vec{w} \odot \frac{\partial L(\vec{u})}{\partial \vec{u}} \bigg|_{\vec{u} = \vec{w} + \vec{c} \odot \Delta \vec{w}}, \tag{5}$$

$$Approximation$$

$$L(\vec{w} + \Delta \vec{w}) = L(\vec{w}) + \frac{\partial L(w_1)}{\partial w_1} \Delta w_1 + \frac{\partial L(w_2)}{\partial w_2} \Delta w_2 + \dots \tag{6}$$

• Tensor Importance Evaluator

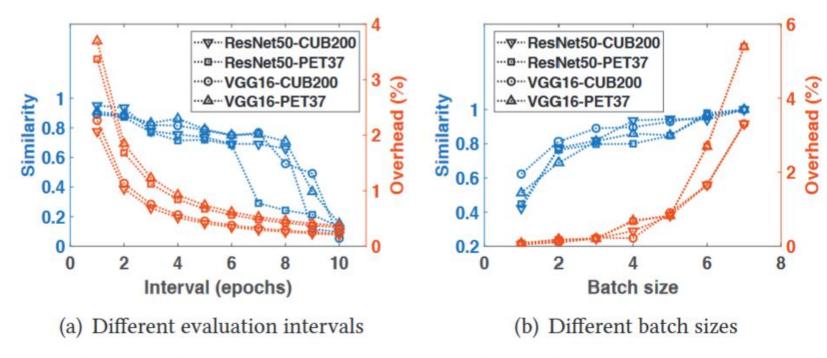


Figure 7: The impact of evaluation interval and batch size on tensor importance evaluation

• Tensor Selector

$$\max \vec{M} \cdot \vec{I} \quad \text{s.t. } T_{forward} + \vec{M} \cdot t_{dw}^{\vec{I}} + f(\vec{M}) \cdot t_{dy}^{\vec{I}} \leq \rho T_{full},$$
 (3) 
$$\vec{M} \quad [0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0]$$
 
$$f(\vec{M}) \quad [0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1]$$
 Forward pass 
$$t_{dy}^{(1)} \quad t_{dw}^{(2)} \quad t_{dy}^{(3)} \quad t_{dy}^{(4)} \quad t_{dy}^{(5)} \quad t_{dy}^{(5)}$$
 Time of computing error gradient 
$$t_{dw} \quad t_{dw}^{(4)} \quad t_{dy}^{(5)} \quad$$

• solve it in pseudo-polynomial time by dynamic programming (DP).

#### System - Online

• Tensor Selector

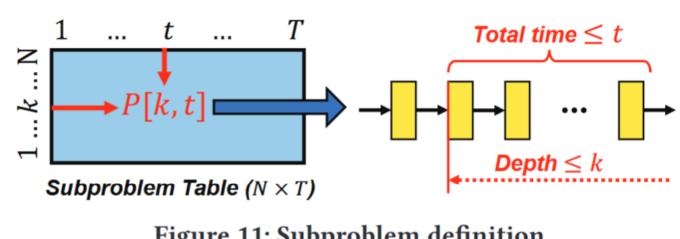
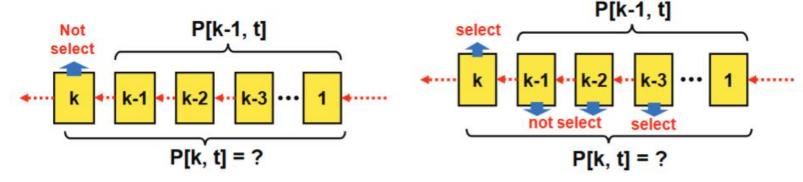


Figure 11: Subproblem definition



(a) Bottom tensor *k* is not selected

(b) Bottom tensor *k* is selected

Figure 12: Finding recursion relation in different cases

#### Implementation

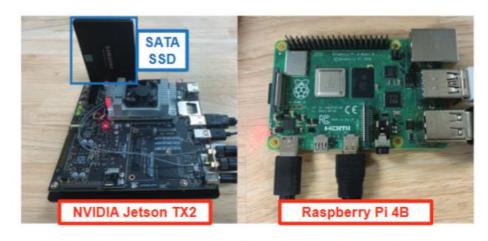


Figure 14: Devices used in our implementation

- TensorFlow 2.7
- TensorFlow Addons 0.15

#### Baseline

- Full training
- Traditional TL
- BN+Bias
- PruneTrain

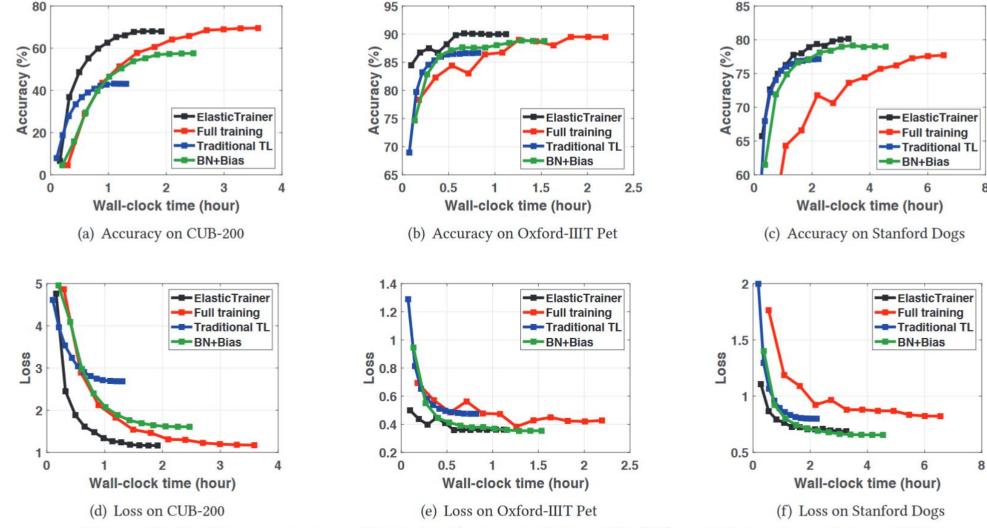


Figure 15: Testing accuracy and training loss over time with different datasets on Jetson TX2

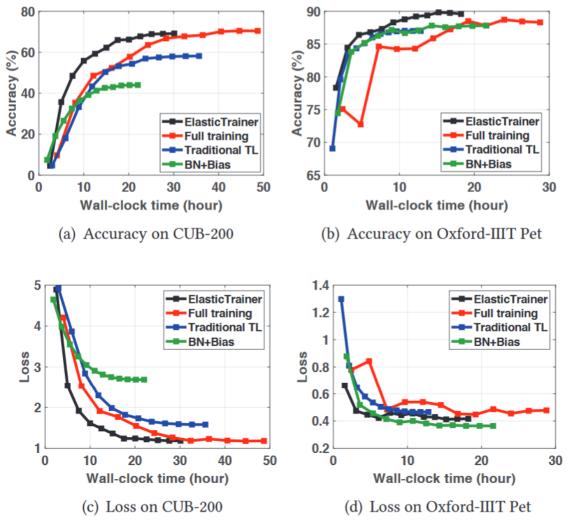


Figure 16: Testing accuracy and training loss over time with different datasets on Raspberry Pi 4B

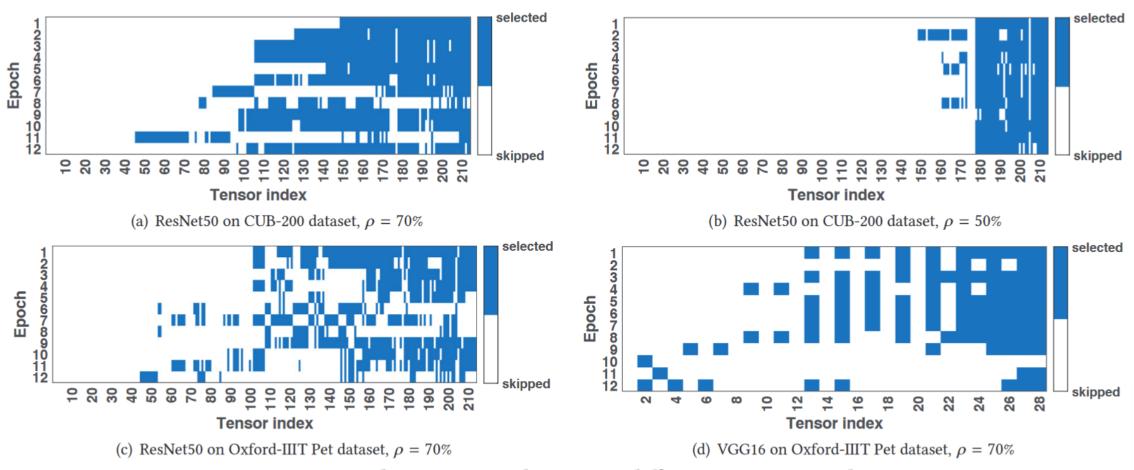


Figure 21: Elastic tensor selections in different training epochs

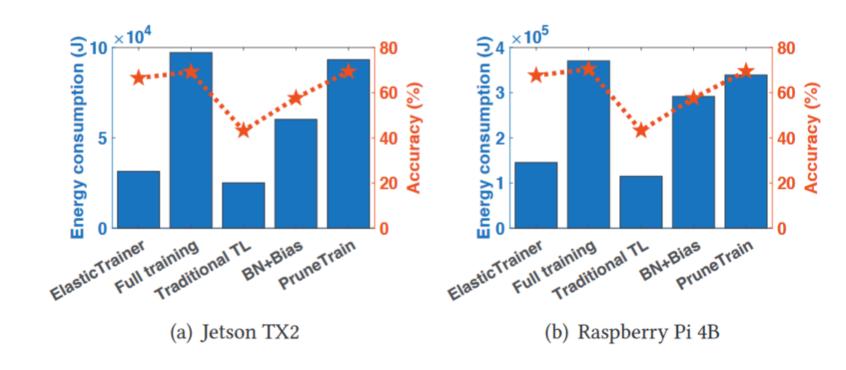


Figure 23: Energy cost on different devices

#### Conclusion

- Advantage
  - Save time and energy consumption on on-device training elastically.

- Disadvantage
  - Discrete & continuous ?