

# Decentralized Online Learning: Take Benefits from Others' Data without Sharing Your Own to Track Global Dynamics

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## Abstract

Decentralized Online Learning (online learning in decentralized networks) attracts more and more attention, since it is believed that Decentralized Online Learning can help the data providers cooperatively better solve their online problems without sharing their private data to a third party or other providers. Typically, the cooperation is achieved by letting the data providers exchange their models between neighbors, e.g., recommendation model. However, the best regret bound for a decentralized online learning algorithm is  $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{T})$ , where  $n$  is the number of nodes (or users) and  $T$  is the number of iterations. This is clearly insignificant since this bound can be achieved *without* any communication in the networks. This reminds us to ask a fundamental question: *Can people really get benefit from the decentralized online learning by exchanging information?* In this paper, we studied when and why the communication can help the decentralized online learning to reduce the regret. Specifically, each loss function is characterized by two components: the adversarial component and the stochastic component. Under this characterization, we show that decentralized online gradient (DOG) enjoys a regret bound  $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{T}G + \sqrt{nT}\sigma)$ , where  $G$  measures the magnitude of the adversarial component in the private data (or equivalently the local loss function) and  $\sigma$  measures the randomness within the private data. This regret suggests that people can get benefits from the randomness in the private data by exchanging private information. Another important contribution of this paper is to consider the dynamic regret – a more practical regret to track users' interest dynamics. Empirical studies are also conducted to validate our analysis.

## 1 Introduction

Decentralized Online Learning (or, online learning in decentralized networks) receives extensive attentions in recent years [Shahrampour and Jadbabaie, 2018, Kamp et al., 2014, Koppel et al., 2018, Zhang et al., 2018a, 2017b, Xu et al., 2015, Akbari et al., 2017, Lee et al., 2016, Nedi et al., 2015, Lee et al., 2018, Benczúr et al., 2018, Yan et al., 2013]. It assumes that computational nodes in a network can communicate between neighbors to minimize an overall cumulative regret. Each computational node, which could be a user in practice, will receive a stream of online losses that are usually determined by a sequence of examples that arrive sequentially. Formally, we can denote  $f_{i,t}$  as the loss received by the  $i$ -th computational node among the networks at the  $t$ -th iteration. The goal of decentralized online learning usually is to minimize its static regret, which is defined as the difference between the cumulative loss (the sum of all the online loss over all

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the nodes and steps ) suffered by the learning algorithm and that of the best model which can observe all the loss functions beforehand.

Decentralized online learning attracts more and more attentions recently, mainly because it is believed by the community that it enjoys the following advantages for real-world large-scale applications:

- **(Utilize all computational resource)** It can utilize the computational resource (of edging devices) by avoiding collecting all the loss functions (or equivalently data) to one central node and putting all computational burden on a single node.
- **(Protect data privacy)** It can help many data providers collaborate to better minimize their cumulative loss, while at the same time protecting the data privacy as much as possible.

However, the current theoretical study does not explain why people need to use decentralized online learning, since the currently best regret result for decentralized online learning ( $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{T})$ ) for convex loss functions [Hosseini et al., 2013, Yan et al., 2013] is equal to the overall regret if each node (user) only runs local online gradient without any communication with others<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, this reminds us to ask a fundamental question:

*Can people really get benefit with respect to the regret from the decentralized online learning by exchanging information?*

In this paper, we mainly study when can the communication really help decentralized online learning to minimize its regret. Specifically, we distinguish two components in the loss function  $f_{i,t}$ : the adversary component and the stochastic component. Then we prove that decentralized online gradient can achieve a static regret bound of  $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{T} + \sqrt{nT}\sigma)$  ( $\sigma$  measures the randomness of the private data), where the first component of the bound is due to the adversary loss while the second component is due to the stochastic loss. Moreover, if a dynamic sequence of models with a budget  $M$  is used as the reference points, the dynamic regret of the decentralized online gradient is  $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{TM} + \sqrt{nTM}\sigma)$ . The dynamic regret is a more suitable performance metric for real-world applications where the optimal model changes over time, such as people's favorite style of pop musics usually change along with time as the global environment. This shows the communication can help to minimize the stochastic losses, rather than the adversary losses. This result is further verified empirically by extensive experiments on several real datasets.

**Notations and definitions** In the paper, we make the following notations.

- For any  $i \in [n]$  and  $t \in [T]$ , the random variable  $\xi_{i,t}$  is subject to a distribution  $D_{i,t}$ , that is,  $\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}$ . Besides, a set of random variables  $\Xi_{n,T}$  and the corresponding set of distributions are defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\Xi_{n,T} &= \{\xi_{i,t}\}_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq t \leq T}, \\ \mathcal{D}_{n,T} &= \{D_{i,t}\}_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq t \leq T},\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

respectively. For math brevity, we use the notation  $\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}$  to represent that  $\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}$  holds for any  $i \in [n]$  and  $t \in [T]$ .  $\mathbb{E}$  represents mathematical expectation.

- For a decentralized network, we use  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  to represent its confusion matrix. It is a symmetric doubly stochastic matrix, which implies that every element of  $\mathbf{W}$  is non-negative,  $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$ , and  $\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{1}^T$ . We use  $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^n$  with  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$  to represent its eigenvalues. Note that  $\lambda_1 = 1$ .
- $\nabla$  represents gradient operator.  $\|\cdot\|$  represents the  $\ell_2$  norm in default.
- $\lesssim$  represents “less than equal up to a constant factor”.
- $\mathcal{A}$  represents the set of all online algorithms.
- $\mathbf{1}$  and  $\mathbf{0}$  represent all the elements of a vector is 1 and 0, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> $n$  is the number of nodes or users and  $T$  is the total number of iterations. The regret of an online algorithm is  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{T})$  for convex loss functions [Hazan, 2016, Shalev-Shwartz, 2012]. Therefore, the overall regret is  $n\sqrt{T}$  if all users do not communicate.

## 2 Related work

Online learning has been studied for decades of years. The static regret of a sequential online convex optimization method can achieve  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{T})$  and  $\mathcal{O}(\log T)$  bounds for convex and strongly convex loss functions, respectively [Hazan, 2016, Shalev-Shwartz, 2012, Bubeck, 2011]. Recently, both the decentralized online learning and the dynamic regret have drawn much attention due to their wide existence in the practical big data scenarios.

### 2.1 Decentralized online learning

Online learning in a decentralized network has been studied in [Shahrampour and Jadbabaie, 2018, Kamp et al., 2014, Koppel et al., 2018, Zhang et al., 2018a, 2017b, Xu et al., 2015, Akbari et al., 2017, Lee et al., 2016, Nedi et al., 2015, Lee et al., 2018, Benczúr et al., 2018, Yan et al., 2013]. Shahrampour and Jadbabaie [2018] provides a dynamic regret (defined in Eq. (3)) bound of  $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{nTM})$  for decentralized online mirror descent, where  $n$ ,  $T$ , and  $M$  represent the number of nodes in the network, the number of iterations, and the budget of dynamics, respectively. When the Bregman divergence in the decentralized online mirror descent is chosen appropriately, the decentralized online mirror descent becomes identical to the decentralized online gradient descent. In this paper, we achieve a better dynamic regret bound of  $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{TM})$  for a decentralized online gradient descent method, which mainly benefits from a better bound of network error (see Lemma 5). Moreover, Kamp et al. [2014] presents a static regret of  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{nT})$  for decentralized online prediction. However, it assumes that all the loss functions are generated from an unknown identical distribution, this assumption is too strong to be practical in the dynamic environment and be applied for a general online learning task. Additionally, many decentralized online optimization methods are proposed, for example, decentralized online multi-task learning [Zhang et al., 2018a], decentralized online ADMM [Xu et al., 2015], decentralized online gradient descent [Akbari et al., 2017], decentralized continuous-time online saddle-point method [Lee et al., 2016], decentralized online Nesterov’s primal-dual method [Nedi et al., 2015, Lee et al., 2018], and online distributed dual averaging [Hosseini et al., 2013]. However, these previous work only studied the static regret bounds ( $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{T})$ ) of the decentralized online learning algorithms, while they did not provide any theoretical analysis for dynamic environments. Besides, Yan et al. [2013] provides necessary and sufficient conditions to preserve privacy for decentralized online learning methods, which be studied to extend our method in our future work.

### 2.2 Dynamic regret

The dynamic regret of online learning algorithms has been widely studied for decades [Zinkevich, 2003, Hall and Willett, 2015, 2013, Jadbabaie et al., 2015, Yang et al., 2016, Bedi et al., 2018, Zhang et al., 2017a, Mokhtari et al., 2016, Zhang et al., 2018b, György and Szepesvári, 2016, Wei et al., 2016, Zhao et al., 2018]. The first dynamic regret is defined as  $\sum_{t=1}^T (f_t(\mathbf{x}_t) - f_t(\mathbf{x}_t^*))$  subject to  $\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \mathbf{x}_t^*\| \leq M$  where  $M$  is a budget for the change over the reference points [Zinkevich, 2003]. For this definition, the online gradient descent can achieve a dynamic regret of  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{TM} + \sqrt{T})$ , by selecting an appropriate learning rate. Later, other types of dynamic regrets are also introduced, by using different types of reference points. For example, Hall and Willett [2015, 2013] choose the reference points  $\{\mathbf{x}_t^*\}_{t=1}^T$  satisfying  $\sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \Phi(\mathbf{x}_t^*)\| \leq M$ , where  $\Phi(\mathbf{x}_t^*)$  is the predictive optimal model. When the function  $\Phi$  predicts accurately, the budget  $M$  can decrease significantly so that the dynamic regret effectively decreases. Jadbabaie et al. [2015], Yang et al. [2016], Bedi et al. [2018], Zhang et al. [2017a], Mokhtari et al. [2016], Zhang et al. [2018b] chooses the reference points  $\{\mathbf{y}_t^*\}_{t=1}^T$  with  $\mathbf{y}_t^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X}} f_t(\mathbf{z})$ , where  $f_t$  is the loss function at the  $t$ -th iteration.

György and Szepesvári [2016] provides a new analysis framework, which achieves  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{TM})$  dynamic regret<sup>2</sup> for all the above reference points. Recently, Zhao et al. [2018] proves that the lower bound of the dynamic regret is  $\Omega(\sqrt{TM})$ , which indicates that the above algorithms are optimal in terms of dynamic regret. In this paper, we propose a new definition of dynamic regret, which covers all the previous ones as special cases. In addition, our regret bound degenerates to the dynamic regret of online gradient descent when  $n = 1$  and  $\sigma = 0$ , which is  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{TM})$ .

In some literatures, the regret in a dynamic environment is measured by the number of changes of the reference points over time, which is usually termed as shifting regret or tracking regret [Herbster and Warmuth, 1998, György et al., 2005, Gyorgy et al., 2012, György and Szepesvári, 2016, Mourtada and Maillard, 2017, Adamskiy et al., 2016, Wei et al., 2016, Cesa-Bianchi et al., 2012, Mohri and Yang, 2018, Jun et al., 2017]. Both the shifting regret and the tracking regret are usually studied in the setting of “learning with expert advice” while the dynamic regret is more often studied in the general setting of online learning.

### 3 Problem formulation

In decentralized online learning, the topological structure of the network can be represented by an undirected graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\text{nodes}: [n], \text{edges}: E)$  with vertex set  $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$  and edge set  $E \subset [n] \times [n]$ . In real applications, each node  $i \in [n]$  is associated with a separate learner, for example an mobile device of one user, which maintains a local predictive model. Users would like to cooperatively better minimize their regret without sharing their private data, so they typically share their private models to their neighbors (or friends), which are all the directly adjacent nodes in  $\mathcal{G}$  for each node.

Let  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$  denote the local model for user  $i$  at iteration  $t$ . In iteration  $t$  user  $i$  predicts the local model  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$  for an unknown loss, and then receives the loss  $f_{i,t}(\cdot; \xi_{i,t})$ . As a result, the decentralized online learning algorithm suffered a instantaneous loss  $f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})$ .  $\xi_{i,t}$ ’s are independent to each other in terms of  $i$  and  $t$ , charactering the *stochastic* component in the function  $f_{i,t}(\cdot; \xi_{i,t})$ , while the subscripts  $i$  and  $t$  of  $f$  indicate the *adversarial* component, for example, the user’s profile, location, local time, and etc. The stochastic component in the function is usually caused by the potential relation among local models. For example, users’ preference to music may be impacted by a popular trend in the Internet at the same time.

To measure the efficacy of a decentralized online learning algorithm  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , a commonly used performance measure is the *static* regret which is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_T^A & \\ := \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T (f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}^*; \xi_{i,t})) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}; \xi_{i,t})$ .

The static regret essentially assumes that the optimal model would not change over time. However, in many practical online learning application scenarios, the optimal model may evolve over time. For example, when we want to conduct music recommendation to a user, user’s preference to music may change over time as his/her situation. Thus, the optimal model  $\mathbf{x}^*$  should change over time. It leads to the dynamics of the optimal recommendation model. Therefore, for any online algorithm  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , we choose to use the *dynamic* regret as the metric:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_T^A &:= \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right] \\ &\quad - \min_{\{\mathbf{x}_t^*\}_{t=1}^T \in \mathcal{L}_M^T} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_t^*; \xi_{i,t}) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

<sup>2</sup>György and Szepesvári [2016] uses the notation of “shifting regret” instead of “dynamic regret”. In the paper, we keep using “dynamic regret” as used in most previous literatures.

where  $\mathcal{L}_M^T$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{L}_M^T = \left\{ \{\mathbf{z}_t\}_{t=1}^T : \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \|\mathbf{z}_{t+1} - \mathbf{z}_t\| \leq M \right\}.$$

$\mathcal{L}_M^T$  restricts how much the optimal model may change over time. Obviously, when  $M = 0$ , the dynamic regret degenerates to the static regret.

## 4 Decentralized Online Gradient (DOG) algorithm

In the section, we introduce the DOG algorithm, followed by the analysis for the dynamic regret.

### 4.1 Algorithm description

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**Algorithm 1** DOG: Decentralized Online Gradient method.

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**Require:** Learning rate  $\eta$ , number of iterations  $T$ , and the confusion matrix  $\mathbf{W}$ .

- 1: Initialize  $\mathbf{x}_{i,1} = \mathbf{0}$  for all  $i \in [n]$ ;
- 2: **for**  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$  **do**
- 3:     // For all users (say the  $i$ -th node  $i \in [n]$ )
- 4:         Query the neighbors' local models  $\{\mathbf{x}_{j,t}\}_{j \in \text{user } i\text{'s neighbor set}}$ ;
- 5:         Observe the loss function  $f_{i,t}$ , and suffer loss  $f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})$ ;
- 6:         Query the gradient  $\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})$ ;
- 7:         Update the local model by

$$\mathbf{x}_{i,t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{W}_{i,j} \mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \eta \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t});$$


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In the DOG algorithm, users exchange their local models periodically. In each iteration, each user runs the following steps:

- **(Query)** Query the local models from his/her all neighbors;
- **(Gradient)** Apply the local model to  $f_{i,t}(\cdot; \xi_{i,t})$  and obtain the gradient;
- **(Update)** Update the local model by taking average with neighbors' models followed by a gradient step.

The detailed description of the DOG algorithm can be found in Algorithm 1.  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is the confusion matrix of the graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\text{nodes}: [n], \text{edges}: E)$ . It is generated by the following steps.

1. For any node  $i$  with  $i \in [n]$ , if there is an edge  $e_{ij} \in E$  between node  $i$  and one of its neighbour  $j$ , then  $\mathbf{W}_{i,j} = 1$ .
2.  $\mathbf{W}$  is symmetric, that is, if  $\mathbf{W}_{i,j} = 1$ , then  $\mathbf{W}_{j,i} = 1$ . Every diagonal element of  $\mathbf{W}$  is 1.
3. Normalize every row of  $\mathbf{W}$ , and make sure the sum of elements for every row is 1, that is  $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$ . Since  $\mathbf{W}$  is symmetric, the sum of elements for every column is 1 as well, that is,  $\mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{1}^T$ .

Generally,  $\mathbf{W}$  is usually denoted by the *doubly stochastic* matrix in previous literatures [Wu et al., 2018, Zeng and Yin, 2018, Yuan et al., 2016]. Specifically, denote

$$\mathbf{X}_t := [\mathbf{x}_{1,t}, \mathbf{x}_{2,t}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{n,t}] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n},$$

$$\mathbf{G}_t := [\nabla f_{1,t}(\mathbf{x}_{1,t}; \xi_{1,t}), \dots, \nabla f_{n,t}(\mathbf{x}_{n,t}; \xi_{n,t})] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}.$$

From the global view of point, the updating rule of DOG can be cast into the following form

$$\mathbf{X}_{t+1} = \mathbf{X}_t \mathbf{W} - \eta \mathbf{G}_t.$$

Denote  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ . We can verify that

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}).$$

Proof is presented in Lemma 2. It shows that the average of local models, i.e.,  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t$  is trained by using the style of gradient descent in a centralized network.

## 4.2 Dynamic regret of DOG

Next we show the dynamic regret of DOG in the following. Before that, we first make some common assumption used in our analysis. Denote the function  $F_{i,t}$  by

$$F_{i,t}(\cdot) := \mathbb{E}_{\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}} f_{i,t}(\cdot; \xi_{i,t}).$$

**Assumption 1.** *We make following assumptions throughout this paper:*

- For any  $i \in [n]$ ,  $t \in [T]$ , and  $\mathbf{x}$ , there exist constants  $G$  and  $\sigma$  such that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}} \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}; \xi_{i,t})\|^2 \leq G^2,$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}_{\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}} \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x})\|^2 \leq \sigma^2.$$

- For given vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$ , we assume  $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \leq R$ .
- For any  $i \in [n]$  and  $t \in [T]$ , we assume the function  $f_{i,t}$  is convex, and has  $L$ -Lipschitz gradient.
- The confusion matrix  $\mathbf{W}$  is symmetric and doubly stochastic. Let  $\rho$  be  $\rho := \max\{|\lambda_2(\mathbf{W})|, |\lambda_n(\mathbf{W})|\}$  and assume  $\rho < 1$ .

$G$  essentially gives the upper bound for the adversarial component in  $f_{i,t}(\cdot; \xi_{i,t})$ . The stochastic component is bounded by  $\sigma^2$ . Note that if there is no stochastic component,  $G$  is nothing but the upper bound of the gradient like the setting in many online learning literature. It is important for our analysis to split these two components, which will be clear very soon.

The last assumption about  $\mathbf{W}$  is an essential assumption for the decentralized setting. The largest eigenvalue for a doubly stochastic matrix is 1.  $1 - \rho$  is the spectral gap, measuring how fast the information can propagate within the network (the larger the faster).

Now we are ready present the dynamic regret for DOG.

**Theorem 1.** *Let the constant  $C$  be*

$$C := \frac{L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta}{(1 - \rho)^2} + 2L.$$

*Choosing  $\eta > 0$  in Algorithm 1, under Assumption 1 we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_t^*; \xi_{i,t}) \\ & \leq 20\eta T n G^2 + \eta T \sigma^2 + C n T \eta^2 G^2 + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R). \end{aligned}$$

By choosing an approximate learning rate  $\eta$ , we obtain sublinear regret as follows.

**Corollary 1.** *Choosing*

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{(1-\rho)(nM\sqrt{R} + nR)}{nTG^2 + T\sigma^2}}$$

in Algorithm 1, under Assumption 1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_T^{\text{DOG}} \\ \lesssim \frac{n(M + \sqrt{R})}{1-\rho} + \sqrt{\frac{T(M + \sqrt{R})(n^2G^2 + n\sigma^2)}{1-\rho}}. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

For simpler discussion, let us treat  $R$ ,  $G$ , and  $1-\rho$  as constants. The dynamic regret can be simplified into  $O(n\sqrt{MTG} + \sqrt{nMT}\sigma)$ . If  $M = 0$ , the dynamic regret degenerates to the static regret  $O(n\sqrt{TG} + \sqrt{nT}\sigma)$ . The discussion for the dynamic regret is conducted in the following aspects.

- **(Tightness.)** To see the tightness, we consider a few special cases:
  - ( $\sigma = 0$  and  $n = 1$ .) It degenerates to the vanilla online learning setting but with dynamic regret. The implied static regret  $O(\sqrt{TM})$  is consistent with the dynamic regret result in Zhao et al. [2018], which is proven to be optimum.
  - ( $G = 0$  and  $M = 0$ .) It degenerates to the decentralized optimization scenario Tang et al. [2018]. The static regret  $O(\sqrt{nT}\sigma)$  implies the convergence rate  $\sigma/\sqrt{nT}$ , which is consistent with the result in Tang et al. [2018].
- **(Insight.)** Consider the baseline that all users do not communicate but only run local online gradient. It is not hard to verify that the static regret for this baseline approach is  $O(n\sqrt{TG} + n\sqrt{T}\sigma)$ . Comparing to the static regret ( $O(n\sqrt{TG} + \sqrt{nT}\sigma)$ ) with iterative communication, the improvement is only on the stochastic component. Denote that  $G$  measures the magnitude of the adversarial component and  $\sigma$  measures the stochastic component. This result reveals an important observation that *the communication does not really help improve the adversarial component, only the stochastic component can benefit from the communication*. This observation makes quite sense, since if the users' private data are totally arbitrary, there is no reason they can benefit to each other by exchanging anything.
- **(Improve existing dynamic regret in decentralized setting.)** Shahrampour and Jadbabaie [2018] only considers the adversary loss, and provides  $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{\frac{3}{2}}\sqrt{\frac{MT}{1-\rho}}\right)$  regret for DOG. Compared with the result in Shahrampour and Jadbabaie [2018], our regret enjoys the state-of-the-art dependence on  $T$  and  $M$ , and meanwhile improves the dependence on  $n$ . The improvement is caused by a better bound of the difference between the local model  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$  and its average  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t$  at time  $t$  (see Lemma 5).
- **(Improve existing static regret in the decentralized setting.)** When using the dynamic regret defined in (5), but choosing local model  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ , instead of  $\mathbf{x}_{j,t}$ , to feed the local loss function  $f_{i,t}$ , Zhang et al. [2017b] provides  $\mathcal{O}\left(nT^{\frac{3}{4}}\right)$  static regret for the decentralized online conditional gradient method.

Our analysis shows that the regret can be improved to  $\mathcal{O}\left(n\sqrt{TG} + \sqrt{nT}\sigma\right)$  by using DOG.

Next we discuss how close all local models  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ 's are to their average at each time. The following result suggests that  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ 's are getting closer and closer over iterations.

**Theorem 2.** Denote  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ . Choosing

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{(1-\rho)(nM\sqrt{R} + nR)}{nTG^2 + T\sigma^2}}$$

in Algorithm 1, under Assumption 1 we have

$$\frac{1}{nT} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \right] \lesssim \frac{M + \sqrt{R}}{(1-\rho)T}.$$

The result suggests that  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$  approaches to  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t$  roughly in the rate  $O(1/T)$  (treat  $M$  and  $\rho$  as constants.), which is faster than the convergence of the averaged regret  $O(1/\sqrt{T})$  from Corollary 1.

### 4.3 Dynamic regret under different definition

For any online algorithm  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ , the existing research Zhang et al. [2017b] defines the regret by using any local model, e.g.,  $\mathbf{x}_{j,t}$ , instead of  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$  on the  $i$ -th node. It is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^A(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}) \\ &:= \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right] \\ & \quad - \min_{\{\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*\}_{t=1}^T \in \mathcal{L}_M^T} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*; \xi_{i,t}) \right], \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_{j,t}$  is any local model for the  $j$ -th node with  $j \in [n]$  at the time  $t$ . Inspired by Theorem 1 and Theorem 2, we find that the existing regret  $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^{\text{DOG}}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t})$  can be bounded by the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.** Denote constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  by

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &:= \frac{40 + \sqrt{n}}{2\sqrt{n}} + \frac{1+n}{n(1-\rho)^2}, \\ C_2 &:= \frac{L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta}{(1-\rho)^2} + 2L, \end{aligned}$$

Choosing  $\eta > 0$  in Algorithm 1, under Assumption 1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^{\text{DOG}}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}) &\lesssim C_1 \eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2 + \eta T \sigma^2 + C_2 n T \eta^2 G^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R). \end{aligned}$$

Choosing an appropriate learning rate  $\eta$ , we can bound the regret  $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^{\text{DOG}}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t})$  as follows.

**Corollary 2.** Choosing

$$\eta = \sqrt{\frac{(1-\rho)^2 n (M\sqrt{R} + R)}{n^{\frac{3}{2}} T G^2 + T \sigma^2}}$$

in Algorithm 1, under Assumption 1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^{\text{DOG}}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}) \\ &\lesssim \sqrt{n} (M + \sqrt{R}) + \frac{\sqrt{T (M + \sqrt{R}) (n^{\frac{5}{2}} G^2 + n \sigma^2)}}{1-\rho}. \end{aligned}$$



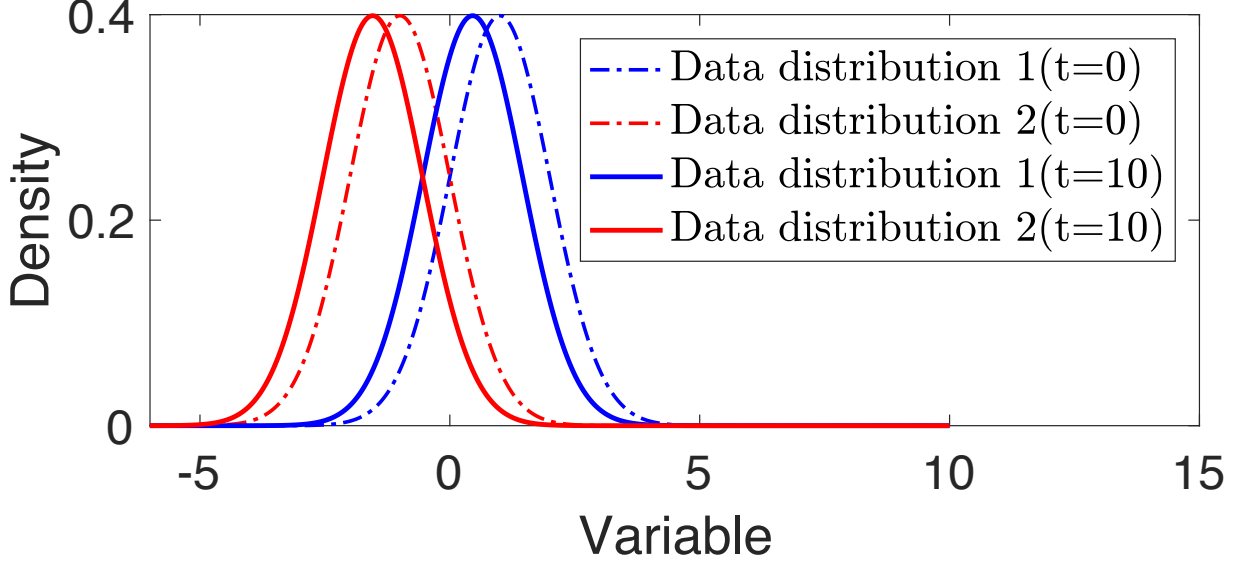


Figure 1: An illustration of the dynamics caused by the time-varying distributions of data. Data distributions 1 and 2 satisfy  $N(1 + \sin(t), 1)$  and  $N(-1 + \sin(t), 1)$ , respectively. Suppose we want to conduct classification between data drawn from distributions 1 and 2, respectively. The optimal classification model should change over time.

As illustrated in Corollary 2, we obtain  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{TM}n^{2.5}G + \sqrt{nTM}\sigma)$  dynamic regret for DOG. Using the notation  $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^A(\mathbf{x}_{j,t})$ , [Zhang et al., 2017b] presents  $\mathcal{O}(nT^{\frac{3}{4}}G)$  static regret (the case of  $M = 0$ ), for decentralized online conditional gradient method. Comparing with it, our analysis extends the regret  $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^A(\mathbf{x}_{j,t})$  to the dynamic setting, and shows that the dependence on  $T$  can be improved by using DOG.

## 5 Empirical studies

For simplicity, in the experiments we only consider online logistic regression with squared  $\ell_2$  norm regularization. The objective function is,

$$f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}; \xi_{i,t}) = \log(1 + \exp(-\mathbf{y}_{i,t} \mathbf{A}_{i,t}^T \mathbf{x})) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x}\|^2,$$

where  $\gamma = 10^{-3}$  is a given hyper-parameter.  $\xi_{i,t}$  is the randomness of the function  $f_{i,t}$ , which is caused by the randomness of data in the experiment. Under this setting, we compare the performance of the proposed Decentralized Online Gradient method (DOG) and that of the Centralized Online Gradient method (COG).

The dynamic budget  $M$  is fixed as 10 to determine the space of reference points. The learning rate  $\eta$  is tuned to be optimal for each dataset separately. We evaluate the learning performance by measuring the *average loss*:

$$\frac{1}{nT} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}),$$

instead of using the dynamic regret  $\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T (f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_t^*))$  directly, since the optimal reference point  $\{\mathbf{x}_t^*\}_{t=1}^T$  is the same for both DOG and COG.

## 5.1 Datasets

To test the proposed algorithm, we utilized a toy dataset and three real-world datasets, whose details are presented as follows.

**Synthetic Data** For the  $i$ -th node, a data matrix  $\mathbf{A}_i \in R^{10 \times T}$  is generated, s.t.  $\mathbf{A}_i = 0.1\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_i + 0.9\hat{\mathbf{A}}_i$ , where  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_i$  represents the adversary part of data, and  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_i$  represents the stochastic part of data. Specifically, elements of  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_i$  is uniformly sampled from the interval  $[-0.5 + \sin(i), 0.5 + \sin(i)]$ . Note that  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_i$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_j$  with  $i \neq j$  are drawn from different distributions.  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{i,t}$  is generated according to  $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} \in \{1, -1\}$  which is generated uniformly. When  $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = 1$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{i,t}$  is generated by sampling from a time-varying distribution  $N((1 + 0.5 \sin(t)) \cdot \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{I})$ . When  $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = -1$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{i,t}$  is generated by sampling from another time-varying distribution  $N((-1 + 0.5 \sin(t)) \cdot \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{I})$ . Due to this correlation,  $\mathbf{y}_{i,t}$  can be considered as the label of the instance  $\hat{\mathbf{A}}_{i,t}$ . The above dynamics of time-varying distributions are illustrated in Figure 1, which shows the change of the optimal learning model over time and the importance of studying the dynamic regret.

**Real Data** Three real public datasets are *room-occupancy*<sup>3</sup>, *usenet2*<sup>4</sup>, and *spam*<sup>5</sup>. *room-occupancy* is a time-series dataset, which is from a natural dynamic environment. Both *usenet2* and *spam* are “concept drift” [Katakis et al., 2010] datasets, for which the optimal model changes over time. For all dataset, all values of every feature have been normalized to be zero mean and one variance.

## 5.2 Results

First, DOG yields comparable performance with COG. Figure 2 summarizes the performance of DOG compared with COG on all the datasets. For the synthetic dataset, we simulated a decentralized network consisting of 10000 nodes, where every node is randomly connected with other 15 nodes. For the three real datasets, we simulated a network consisting of 5 nodes. In these networks, the nodes are connected by a ring topology. Under these settings, we can observe that both DOG and COG are effective for the online learning tasks on all the datasets, while DOG achieves slightly worse performance.

Second, the performance of DOG is not sensitive to the network size, but sensitive to the variance of the stochastic data. Figure 3 summarizes the effect of the network size on the performance of DOG. We change the number of nodes from 5000 to 10000 on the synthetic dataset, and from 5 to 20 on the real datasets. The synthetic dataset is tested by using the random topology, and those real datasets are tested by using the ring topology. Figure 3 draws the curves of average loss over time steps. We observe that the average loss curves are mostly overlapped with different nodes. It shows that DOG is robust to the network size (or number of users), which validates our theory, that is, the average regret does not increase with the number of nodes. Furthermore, we observe that the average loss becomes large with the increase of the variance of stochastic data, which validates our theoretical result nicely.

Third, the performance DOG is improved in a well-connected network. Figure 4 shows the effect of the topology of the network on the performance of DOG, where five different topologies are used. Besides, the ring topology, the *Disconnected* topology means there are no edges in the network, and every node does not share its local model to others. The *Fully connected* topology means all nodes are connected, where DOG de-generates to be COG. The topology *WattsStrogatz* represents a Watts-Strogatz small-world graph, for which we can use a parameter to control the number of stochastic edges (set as 0.5 and 1 in this paper). The result shows *Fully connected* enjoys the best performance, because that  $\rho = 0$  for it while  $\rho > 0$  for other topologies. Specifically,  $\rho$  in those topologies is presented in Table 1. A small  $\rho$  leads to a good performance of DOG, which validates our theoretical result nicely.

<sup>3</sup><https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/Occupancy+Detection+>

<sup>4</sup>[http://mlkd.csd.auth.gr/concept\\_drift.html](http://mlkd.csd.auth.gr/concept_drift.html)

<sup>5</sup>[http://mlkd.csd.auth.gr/concept\\_drift.html](http://mlkd.csd.auth.gr/concept_drift.html)

$\rho$	DC	FC	Ring	WS(1)	Ws(0.5)
synthetic data	1	0	0.99	0.37	0.58
real data	1	0	0.96	0.83	0.76

Table 1:  $\rho$  in different topologies used in our experiment. A large  $1 - \rho$  represents good connectivity of the communication network. “DC” represents the *Disconnected* topology, “FC” represents the *Fully connected* topology, “Ring” represents the *ring* topology, and “WS” represents the *WattsStrogatz* topology.

## 6 Conclusion

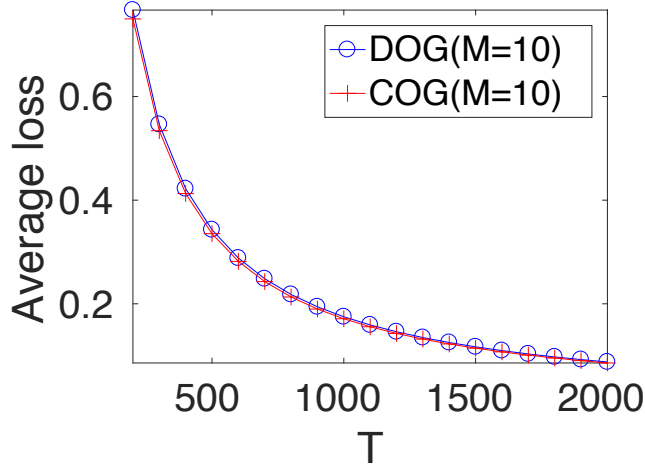
We investigate the online learning problem in a decentralized network, where the loss is incurred by both adversary and stochastic components. We define a new dynamic regret, and propose a decentralized online gradient method. By using the new analysis framework, the decentralized online gradient method achieves  $\mathcal{O}(n\sqrt{TM} + \sqrt{nT}\sigma)$  regret. It shows that the communication is only effective to decrease the regret caused by the stochastic component, and thus users can benefit from sharing their private models, instead of private data. Extensive empirical studies validates the theoretical results.

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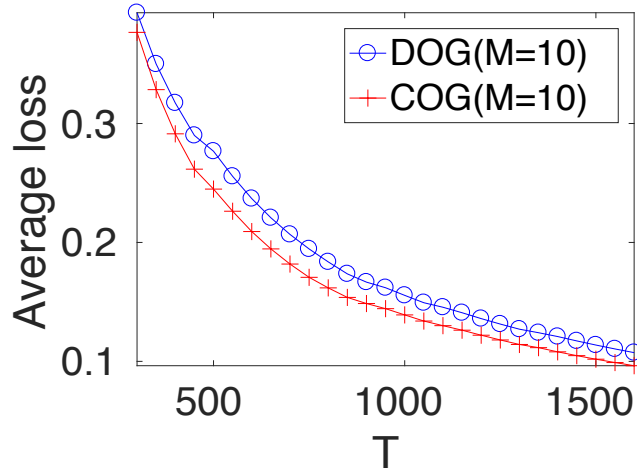
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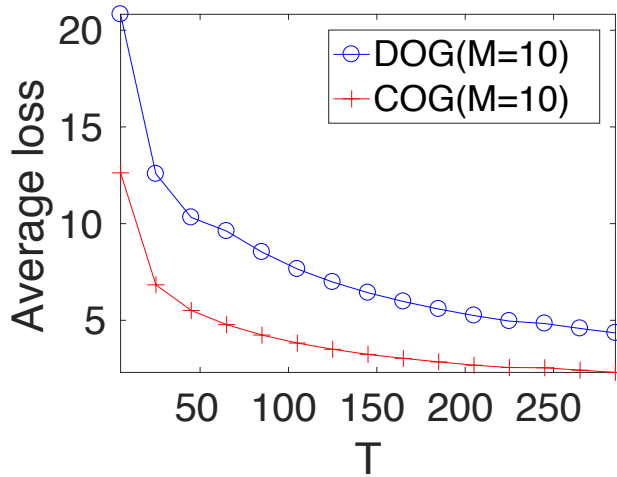
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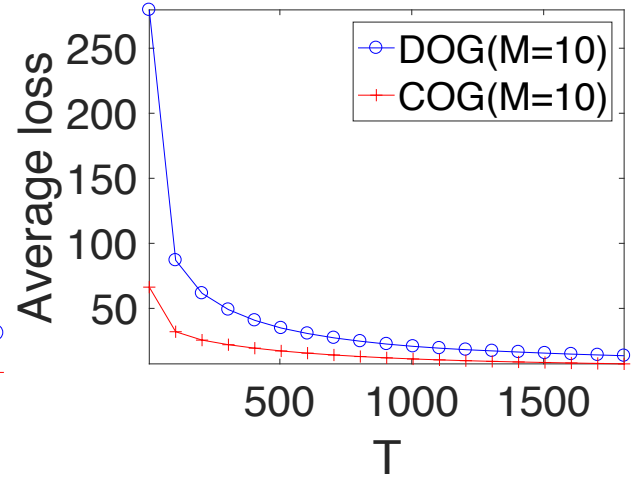
(a) *synthetic data*, 10000 nodes, random topology



(b) *room-occupancy*, 5 nodes, ring topology

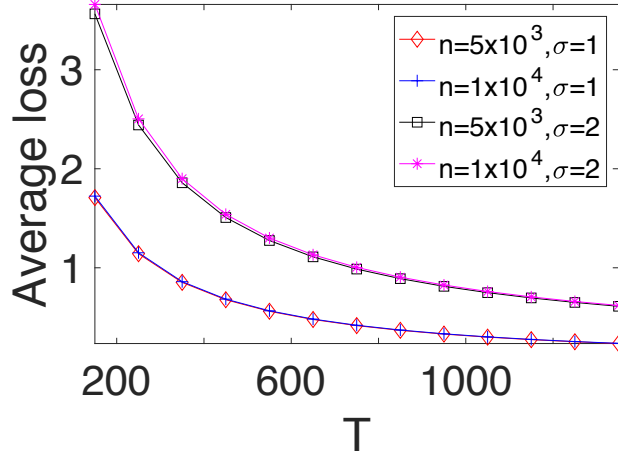


(c) *usenet2*, 5 nodes, ring topology

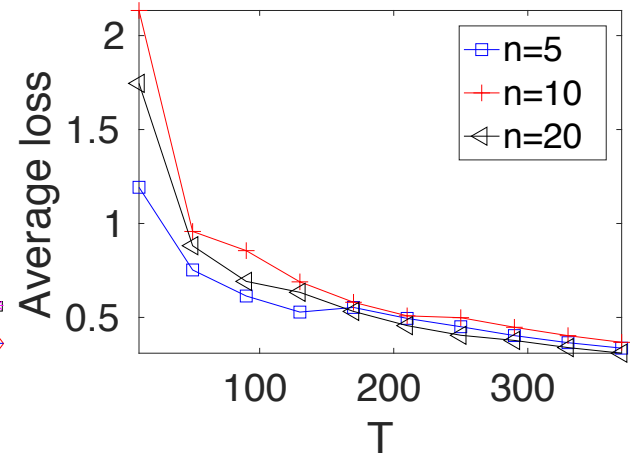


(d) *spam*, 5 nodes, ring topology

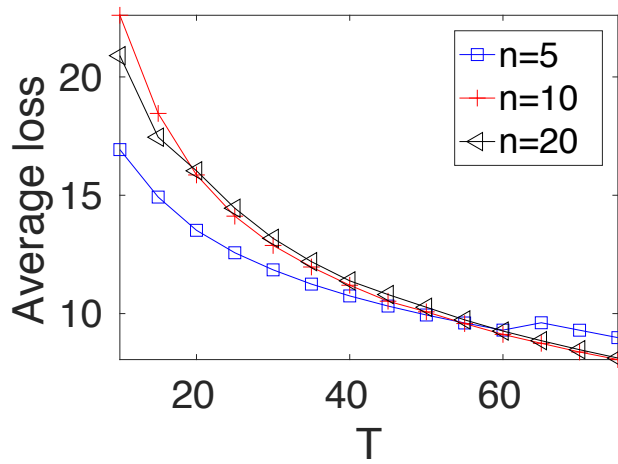
Figure 2: The average loss yielded by DOG is comparable to that yielded by COG.



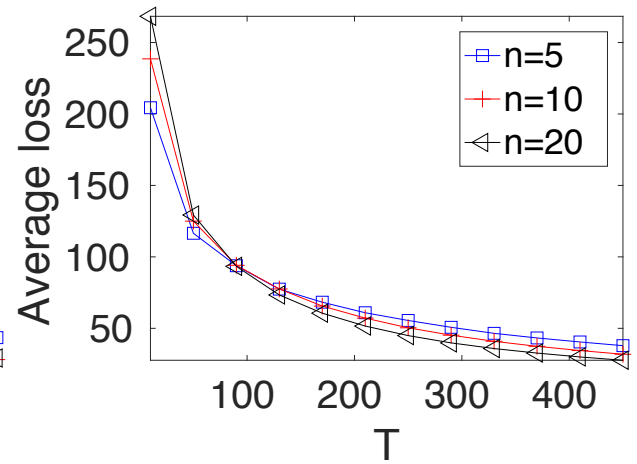
(a) *synthetic data*, random topology



(b) *room-occupancy*, ring topology

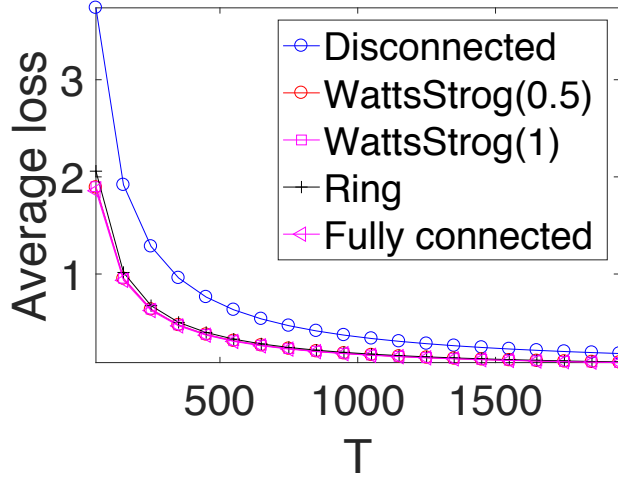


(c) *usenet2*, ring topology

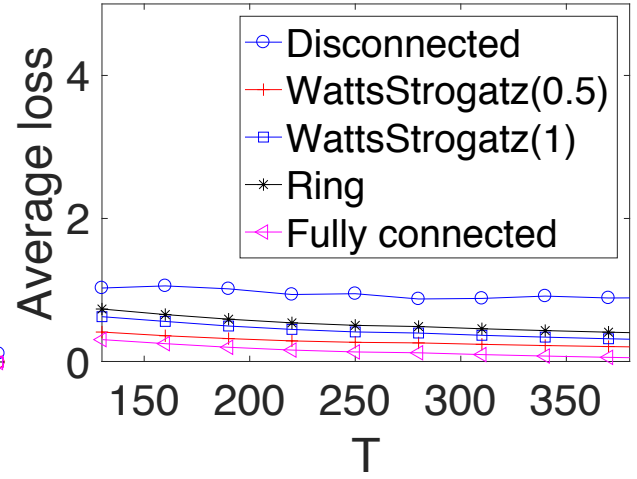


(d) *spam*, ring topology

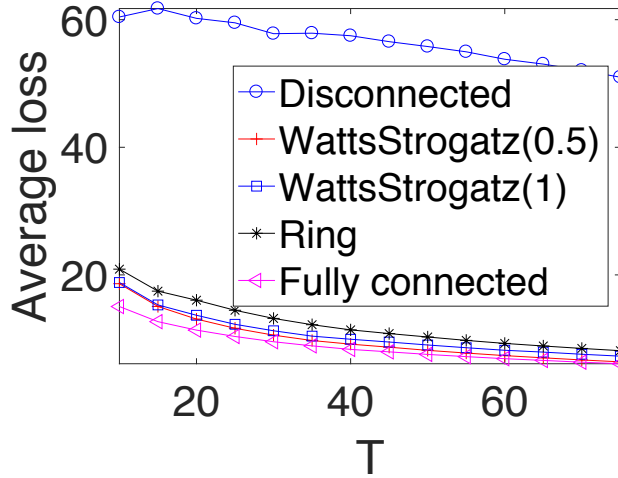
Figure 3: The average loss yielded by DOG is insensitive to the network size.



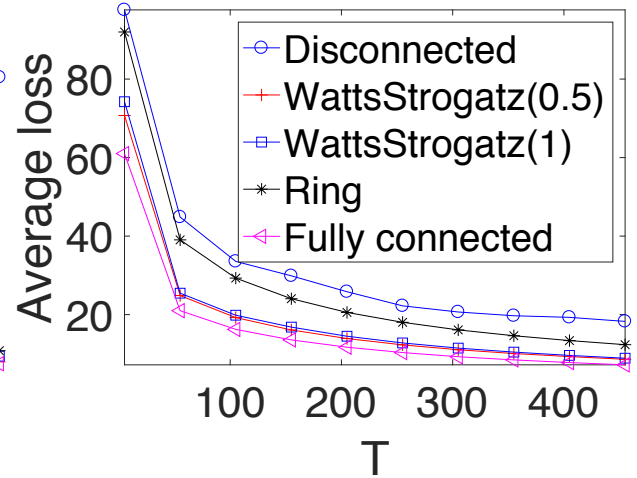
(a) *synthetic data*, 10000 nodes



(b) *room-occupancy*, 20 nodes



(c) *usenet2*, 20 nodes



(d) *spam*, 20 nodes

Figure 4: The average loss yielded by DOG is insensitive to the topology of the network.



## Appendix

### Proof to Theorem 1:

*Proof.* From the regret definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_t^*; \xi_{i,t})) \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \mathbf{x}_t^* \rangle \\
& = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\langle \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle + \langle \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} \rangle)}_{I_1(t)} \\
& \quad + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \mathbf{x}_t^* \right\rangle}_{I_2(t)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now, we begin to bound  $I_1(t)$ .

$$I_1(t) = \left( \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle}_{J_1(t)} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} \right\rangle}_{J_2(t)} \right).$$

For  $J_1(t)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& J_1(t) \\
& = \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle \\
& = \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle + \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle \\
& = \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle + \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \right\rangle \\
& \stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{\leq} \frac{L}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

① holds due to  $F_{i,t}$  has  $L$ -Lipschitz gradients, and  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ .

For  $J_2(t)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& J_2(t) \\
& = \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} \right\rangle \\
& \leq \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}) + \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t})) \right\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \\
&\leq \eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t})) \right\|^2 + \eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}) \right\|^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \\
&\stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{\leq} \frac{\eta}{n} \sigma^2 + \eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) + \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)) \right\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{\eta}{n} \sigma^2 + 2\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)) \right\|^2 \\
&\quad + 2\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{\eta}{n} \sigma^2 + \frac{2\eta}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
&\quad + 2\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \\
&\stackrel{\textcircled{2}}{\leq} \frac{\eta}{n} \sigma^2 + \frac{2\eta L^2}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 + 2\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

① holds due to

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t})) \right\|^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{n^2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}} \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t})\|^2 \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{n^2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left( 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n \left\langle \mathbb{E}_{\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}} \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}), \mathbb{E}_{\xi_{j,t} \sim D_{j,t}} \nabla f_{j,t}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}; \xi_{j,t}) - \nabla F_{j,t}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}) \right\rangle \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{n^2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{\xi_{i,t} \sim D_{i,t}} \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t})\|^2 + 0 \\
&\leq \frac{1}{n} \sigma^2.
\end{aligned}$$

② holds due to  $F_{i,t}$  has  $L$  Lipschitz gradients.

Therefore, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&I_1(t) \\
&= (J_1(t) + J_2(t)) \\
&= \left( \frac{L}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 + \frac{\eta}{n} \sigma^2 + \frac{2\eta L^2}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \right) \\
&\quad + \left( 2\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \left( \frac{L}{n} + \frac{2\eta L^2}{n} \right) \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 + 2\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{n} + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{t=1}^T I_1(t) &\leq \left( \frac{L}{n} + \frac{2\eta L^2}{n} \right) \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 + 2\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{T\eta\sigma^2}{n} + \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Now, we begin to bound  $I_2(t)$ . Denote that the update rule is

$$\mathbf{x}_{i,t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{W}_{ij} \mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \eta \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}).$$

According to Lemma 2, we have

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \eta \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right). \quad (6)$$

Denote a new auxiliary function  $\phi(\mathbf{z})$  as

$$\phi(\mathbf{z}) = \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \mathbf{z} \right\rangle + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|\mathbf{z} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2.$$

It is trivial to verify that (6) satisfies the first-order optimality condition of the optimization problem:  $\min_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \phi(\mathbf{z})$ , that is,

$$\nabla \phi(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}) = \mathbf{0}.$$

We thus have

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} &= \underset{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\operatorname{argmin}} \phi(\mathbf{z}) \\
&= \underset{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \mathbf{z} \right\rangle + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|\mathbf{z} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, denote a new auxiliary variable  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_\tau$  as

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_\tau = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} + \tau (\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}),$$

where  $0 < \tau \leq 1$ . According to the optimality of  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &\leq \phi(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_\tau) - \phi(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}) \\
&= \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_\tau - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} \right\rangle + \frac{1}{2\eta} \left( \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_\tau - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 - \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \right) \\
&= \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \tau (\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}) \right\rangle + \frac{1}{2\eta} \left( \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} + \tau (\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}) - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 - \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \tau (\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}) \right\rangle + \frac{1}{2\eta} \left( \|\tau (\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1})\|^2 + 2 \langle \tau (\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle \right).$$

Note that the above inequality holds for any  $0 < \tau \leq 1$ . Divide  $\tau$  on both sides, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_2(t) &= \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \mathbf{x}_t^* \right\rangle \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left( \lim_{\tau \rightarrow 0^+} \tau \|\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 + 2 \langle \mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \langle \mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left( \|\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 - \|\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 - \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Besides, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 - \|\mathbf{x}_t^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \\ &= \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^*\|^2 - \|\mathbf{x}_t^*\|^2 - 2 \langle \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}, -\mathbf{x}_t^* + \mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* \rangle \\ &= (\|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^*\| - \|\mathbf{x}_t^*\|) (\|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^*\| + \|\mathbf{x}_t^*\|) - 2 \langle \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}, -\mathbf{x}_t^* + \mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* \rangle \\ &\leq \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \mathbf{x}_t^*\| (\|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^*\| + \|\mathbf{x}_t^*\|) + 2 \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\| \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \mathbf{x}_t^*\| \\ &\leq 4\sqrt{R} \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \mathbf{x}_t^*\|. \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality holds due to our assumption, that is,  $\|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^*\| = \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \mathbf{0}\| \leq \sqrt{R}$ ,  $\|\mathbf{x}_t^*\| = \|\mathbf{x}_t^* - \mathbf{0}\| \leq \sqrt{R}$ , and  $\|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\| = \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \mathbf{0}\| \leq \sqrt{R}$ .

Thus, telescoping  $I_2(t)$  over  $t \in [T]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^T I_2(t) &\leq \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left( 4\sqrt{R} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^* - \mathbf{x}_t^*\| + \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_1\|^2 - \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_T^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{T+1}\|^2 \right) - \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2 \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R) - \frac{1}{2\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $M$  the budget of the dynamics.

Combining those bounds of  $I_1(t)$ , and  $I_2(t)$  together, we finally obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_t^*; \xi_{i,t}) \\ &\leq n \sum_{t=1}^T (I_1(t) + I_2(t)) \\ &\leq (L + 2\eta L^2) \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 + 2n\eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + T\eta\sigma^2 + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R) \\ &\stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{\leq} \eta T\sigma^2 + 4n \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T (F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1})) + (L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta) \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \\ &\quad + 4n \left( 4T\eta G^2 + \frac{TG^2 L\eta^2}{2} \right) + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \stackrel{\textcircled{2}}{\leq} \eta T \sigma^2 + 4n \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T (F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1})) + (L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta) \frac{nT\eta^2 G^2}{(1-\rho)^2} \\
& \quad + 4n \left( 4T\eta G^2 + \frac{TG^2 L \eta^2}{2} \right) + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R) \\
& \stackrel{\textcircled{3}}{\leq} \eta T \sigma^2 + 4nT\eta G^2 + (L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta) \frac{nT\eta^2 G^2}{(1-\rho)^2} + 4n \left( 4T\eta G^2 + \frac{TG^2 L \eta^2}{2} \right) + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R).
\end{aligned}$$

① holds due to Lemma 1. That is, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T (F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1})) + 4T\eta G^2 + \frac{L^2\eta}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 + \frac{TG^2 L \eta^2}{2}.
\end{aligned}$$

② holds due to Lemma 5

$$\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \leq \frac{nT\eta^2 G^2}{(1-\rho)^2}.$$

③ holds due to

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} (F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1})) \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} \rangle \\
& = \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), \frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\rangle \\
& \leq \eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left( \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 \right) \\
& \leq \eta \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left( \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})\|^2 \right) \\
& \leq \eta G^2.
\end{aligned}$$

Re-arranging items, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_t^*; \xi_{i,t}) \\
& \leq 20\eta T n G^2 + \eta T \sigma^2 + \left( \frac{L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta}{(1-\rho)^2} + 2L \right) nT\eta^2 G^2 + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{R}M + R).
\end{aligned}$$

It completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.** Setting  $\eta > 0$  in Algorithm 1, under Assumption 1 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T (F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1})) + 4T\eta G^2 + \frac{L^2\eta}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 + \frac{TG^2 L \eta^2}{2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

*Proof.* We have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}) \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) + \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t \rangle + \frac{L}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \\
& = \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) + \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), -\frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\rangle + \frac{L}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\| \frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 \\
& = \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) + \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), -\frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\rangle + \frac{L}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\| \frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2. \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

Besides, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), -\frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\rangle \\
& = \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( \left\| \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 - \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 - \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 \right) \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( \left\| \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) + \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t})) \right\|^2 \right) - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( 2 \left\| \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 + 2 \left\| \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}) \right\|^2 \right) \\
& \quad - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( 2 \left\| \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - \nabla F_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t})\|^2 \right) \\
& \quad - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( 2 \left\| \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 + \frac{2L^2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \right) - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( 4 \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 + 4 \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 + \frac{2L^2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \right) - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{\leq} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( 8G^2 + \frac{2L^2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \right) - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2. \tag{10}
\end{aligned}$$

① holds due to

$$\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})\|^2 \leq G^2.$$

Denote that

$$\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})\|^2 \leq G^2. \tag{11}$$

Substituting (10) and (11) into (9), and telescoping  $t \in [T]$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1}) \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) + \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \left\langle \nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t), -\frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\rangle + \frac{L}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,t}} \left\| \frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) + \left( \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \left( 8G^2 + \frac{2L^2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \right) - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \right) + \frac{G^2 L \eta^2}{2} \\
& = \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) + \left( 4\eta G^2 + \frac{L^2 \eta}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,t-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{t-1}} \frac{\eta}{2} \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \right) + \frac{G^2 L \eta^2}{2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Telescoping over  $t \in [T]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\nabla F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t)\|^2 \\
& \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T (F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t) - F_{i,t}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1})) + 4T\eta G^2 + \frac{L^2 \eta}{n} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T-1} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T-1}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 + \frac{TG^2 L \eta^2}{2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

It completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** Denote  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{i,t}$ . We have

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \eta \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right).$$

*Proof.* Denote

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{X}_t &= [\mathbf{x}_{1,t}, \mathbf{x}_{2,t}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{n,t}] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}, \\
\mathbf{G}_t &= [\nabla f_{1,t}(\mathbf{x}_{1,t}; \xi_{1,t}), \nabla f_{2,t}(\mathbf{x}_{2,t}; \xi_{2,t}), \dots, \nabla f_{n,t}(\mathbf{x}_{n,t}; \xi_{n,t})] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}.
\end{aligned}$$

Denote that

$$\mathbf{x}_{i,t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{W}_{ij} \mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \eta \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}).$$

Equivalently, we re-formulate the update rule as

$$\mathbf{X}_{t+1} = \mathbf{X}_t \mathbf{W} - \eta \mathbf{G}_t.$$

Since the confusion matrix  $\mathbf{W}$  is doubly stochastic, we have

$$\mathbf{W} \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}.$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{i,t+1} \\
&= \mathbf{X}_{t+1} \frac{\mathbf{1}}{n}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \mathbf{X}_t \mathbf{W} \frac{1}{n} - \eta \mathbf{G}_t \frac{1}{n} \\
&= \mathbf{X}_t \frac{1}{n} - \eta \mathbf{G}_t \frac{1}{n} \\
&= \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \eta \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right).
\end{aligned}$$

It completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 3** (Lemma 5 in [Tang et al., 2018]). *For any matrix  $\mathbf{X}_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ , decompose the confusion matrix  $\mathbf{W}$  as  $\mathbf{W} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i^T = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{P}^T$ , where  $\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_i$  is the normalized eigenvector of  $\lambda_i$ .  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  is a diagonal matrix, and  $\lambda_i$  be its  $i$ -th element. We have*

$$\|\mathbf{X}_t \mathbf{W}^t - \mathbf{X}_t \mathbf{v}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T\|_F^2 \leq \|\rho^t \mathbf{X}_t\|_F^2,$$

where  $\rho = \max\{|\lambda_2(\mathbf{W})|, |\lambda_n(\mathbf{W})|\}$ .

**Lemma 4** (Lemma 6 in [Tang et al., 2018]). *Given two non-negative sequences  $\{a_t\}_{t=1}^\infty$  and  $\{b_t\}_{t=1}^\infty$  that satisfying*

$$a_t = \sum_{s=1}^t \rho^{t-s} b_s,$$

with  $\rho \in [0, 1)$ , we have

$$\sum_{t=1}^k a_t^2 \leq \frac{1}{(1-\rho)^2} \sum_{s=1}^k b_s^2.$$

Shahrampour and Jadbabaie [2018] investigates the dynamic regret of DOG, and provide the following sublinear regret.

**Theorem 4** (Implied by Theorem 3 and Corollary 4 in Shahrampour and Jadbabaie [2018]). *Choose  $\eta = \sqrt{\frac{(1-\rho)M}{T}}$  in Algorithm 1. Under Assumption 1, the dynamic regret  $\mathcal{R}_T^{\text{DOG}}$  is bounded by  $\mathcal{O}\left(n^{\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{MT}{1-\rho}}\right)$ .*

As illustrated in Theorem 4, Shahrampour and Jadbabaie [2018] has provided a  $\mathcal{O}\left(n\sqrt{nTM}\right)$  regret for DOG. Comparing with the regret in Shahrampour and Jadbabaie [2018], our analysis improves the dependence on  $n$ , which benefits from the following better bound of difference between  $\mathbf{x}_{i,t}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t$ .

**Lemma 5.** *Setting  $\eta > 0$  in Algorithm 1, under Assumption 1 we have*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \leq \frac{nT\eta^2 G^2}{(1-\rho)^2}.$$

*Proof.* Denote that

$$\mathbf{x}_{i,t+1} = \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{W}_{ij} \mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \eta \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}),$$

and according to Lemma 2, we have

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \eta \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right).$$



Denote

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{X}_t &= [\mathbf{x}_{1,t}, \mathbf{x}_{2,t}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{n,t}] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}, \\ \mathbf{G}_t &= [\nabla f_{1,t}(\mathbf{x}_{1,t}; \xi_{1,t}), \nabla f_{2,t}(\mathbf{x}_{2,t}; \xi_{2,t}), \dots, \nabla f_{n,t}(\mathbf{x}_{n,t}; \xi_{n,t})] \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}.\end{aligned}$$

By letting  $\mathbf{x}_{i,1} = \mathbf{0}$  for any  $i \in [n]$ , the update rule is re-formulated as

$$\mathbf{X}_{t+1} = \mathbf{X}_t \mathbf{W} - \eta \mathbf{G}_t = - \sum_{s=1}^t \eta \mathbf{G}_s \mathbf{W}^{t-s}.$$

Similarly, denote  $\bar{\mathbf{G}}_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})$ , and we have

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_{t+1} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \eta \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right) = - \sum_{s=1}^t \eta \bar{\mathbf{G}}_s.$$

Therefore, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}& \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \\ & \stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\| \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \eta \bar{\mathbf{G}}_s - \eta \mathbf{G}_s \mathbf{W}^{t-s-1} \mathbf{e}_i \right\|^2 \\ & \stackrel{\textcircled{2}}{=} \left\| \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \eta \mathbf{G}_s \mathbf{v}_1 \mathbf{v}_1^T - \eta \mathbf{G}_s \mathbf{W}^{t-s-1} \right\|_F^2 \\ & \stackrel{\textcircled{3}}{\leq} \left( \eta \rho^{t-s-1} \left\| \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \mathbf{G}_s \right\|_F \right)^2 \\ & \leq \left( \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \eta \rho^{t-s-1} \|\mathbf{G}_s\|_F \right)^2.\end{aligned}$$

① holds due to  $\mathbf{e}_i$  is a unit basis vector, whose  $i$ -th element is 1 and other elements are 0s. ② holds due to  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \mathbf{1}$ . ③ holds due to Lemma 3.

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}& \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{i,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \\ & \leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \eta \rho^{t-s-1} \|\mathbf{G}_s\|_F \right)^2 \\ & \stackrel{\textcircled{1}}{\leq} \frac{\eta^2}{(1-\rho)^2} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{G}_t\|_F^2 \right) \\ & = \frac{\eta^2}{(1-\rho)^2} \left( \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^n \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})\|^2 \right) \\ & \leq \frac{nT\eta^2 G^2}{(1-\rho)^2}.\end{aligned}$$

① holds due to Lemma 4. □

**Proof to Theorem 2:**

*Proof.* Setting  $\eta = \sqrt{\frac{(1-\rho)(nM\sqrt{R}+nR)}{nTG^2+T\sigma^2}}$  into Lemma 5, we finally complete the proof.  $\square$

**Proof to Theorem 3:**

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}
\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_T^A(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}) &= \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \min_{\{\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*\}_{t=1}^T \in \mathcal{L}_M^T} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*; \xi_{i,t}) \right] \\
&= \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T (f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})) \right] \\
&\quad + \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \min_{\{\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*\}_{t=1}^T \in \mathcal{L}_M^T} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*; \xi_{i,t}) \right]. \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

Additionally, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T (f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}; \xi_{i,t}) - f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})) \right] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \langle \nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}), \mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \mathbf{x}_{i,t} \rangle \right] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \frac{\eta\sqrt{n}}{2} \|\nabla f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t})\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta\sqrt{n}} \|\mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \right) \right] \\
&\leq \frac{\eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2\eta\sqrt{n}} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{\eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2}{2} + \frac{1}{\eta\sqrt{n}} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \|\mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 + \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \right) \\
&\leq \frac{\eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2}{2} + \frac{1}{\eta\sqrt{n}} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 + \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{\eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2}{2} + \frac{1}{\eta\sqrt{n}} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 + \frac{\sqrt{n}}{\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\mathbf{x}_{j,t} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t\|^2 \\
&= \frac{\eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2}{2} + \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \sqrt{n}}{\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T \|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t - \mathbf{x}_{i,t}\|^2 \\
&\leq \frac{\eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2}{2} + \frac{\left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \sqrt{n} \right) n T \eta G^2}{(1-\rho)^2}. \quad (14)
\end{aligned}$$

The last inequality holds due to Lemma 5.

According to Theorem 1, we have

$$\mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}; \xi_{i,t}) \right] - \min_{\{\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*\}_{t=1}^T \in \mathcal{L}_M^T} \mathbb{E}_{\Xi_{n,T} \sim \mathcal{D}_{n,T}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^T f_{i,t}(\mathbf{x}_{i,t}^*; \xi_{i,t}) \right]$$

$$\leq 20\eta TnG^2 + \eta T\sigma^2 + \left( \frac{L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta}{(1-\rho)^2} + 2L \right) nT\eta^2 G^2 + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{RM} + R). \quad (15)$$

Substituting (14) and (15) into (13), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{\mathcal{R}}_T^A(\mathbf{x}_{j,t}) \\ &= \frac{\eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2}{2} + \frac{\left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \sqrt{n} \right) n T \eta G^2}{(1-\rho)^2} + 20\eta TnG^2 + \eta T\sigma^2 + \left( \frac{L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta}{(1-\rho)^2} + 2L \right) nT\eta^2 G^2 + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{RM} + R) \\ &= \left( \frac{40 + \sqrt{n}}{2\sqrt{n}} + \frac{1+n}{n(1-\rho)^2} \right) \eta n \sqrt{n} T G^2 + \eta T\sigma^2 + \left( \frac{L + 2\eta L^2 + 4L^2\eta}{(1-\rho)^2} + 2L \right) nT\eta^2 G^2 + \frac{n}{2\eta} (4\sqrt{RM} + R). \end{aligned}$$

It completes the proof. □