



# Federated Composite Optimization

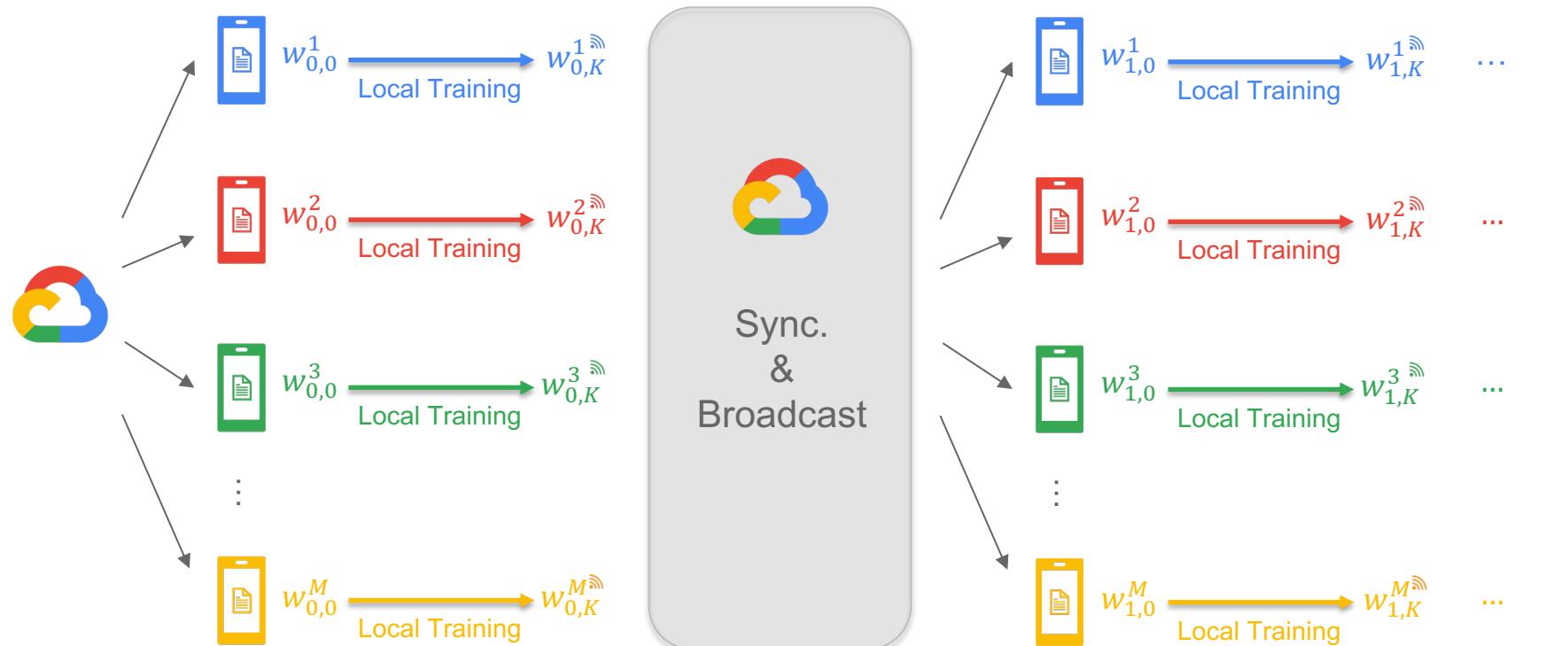
(arXiv: 2011.08474)

Honglin Yuan, Manzil Zaheer, Sashank Reddi

**Thanks to:** Zachary Charles, Zheng Xu, Andrew Hard, Ehsan Amid, Amr Ahmed, Aranyak Mehta, TensorFlow Federated team

# Federated Learning

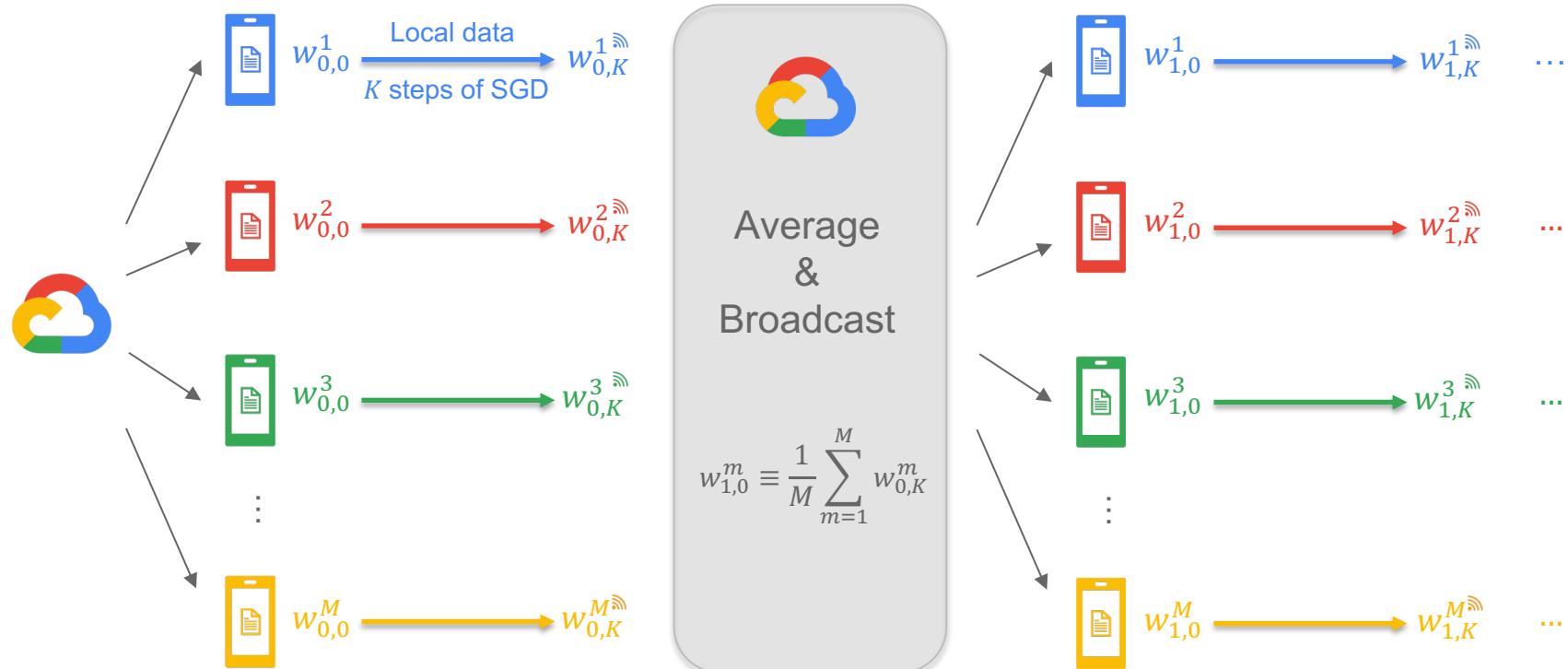
[Konečný et al., '15]



# FEDAVG: the *de facto* standard of FL

[Konečný et al., '15]

Notation:  $w_{r,k}^m$  →  $m^{\text{th}}$  client  
→  $r^{\text{th}}$  round,  
 $k^{\text{th}}$  local iteration



# FEDAVG: Generalized Formulation

[Karimireddy et al., ICML'20, Reddi et al., '20, etc]

Notation:  $w_{r,k}^m$  →  $m^{\text{th}}$  client  
→  $r^{\text{th}}$  round,  
 $k^{\text{th}}$  local iteration

## Algorithm 1 Federated Averaging (FEDAVG)

```
1: procedure FEDAVG( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
3:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$  Client sampling
4:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
5:       client initialization  $w_{r,0}^m \leftarrow w_r$ 
6:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do Client update
7:          $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
8:          $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow w_{r,k}^m - \eta_c \cdot g_{r,k}^m$ 
9:        $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (w_{r,K}^m - w_{r,0}^m)$  Average client deltas (as pseudo anti-gradient)
10:       $w_{r+1} \leftarrow w_r + \eta_s \cdot \Delta_r$  Server update with server learning rate  $\eta_s$ 
```

# Introducing Federated Composite Optimization (FCO)

- FedAvg (and other existing FL algorithms) solves **unconstrained** (smooth) problem only

- $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M F_m(w)$ , where  $F_m(w) := \mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim \mathcal{D}_m} [f(w; \xi)]$  [e.g., Woodworth et al., NeurIPS'20]  


Data distribution of the  $m^{\text{th}}$  client

- We propose Federated **composite** optimization (FCO)

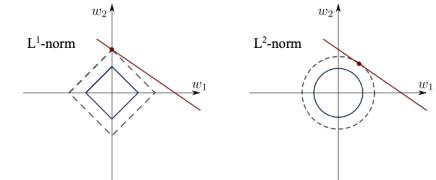
- $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \Phi(w) := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M [F_m(w) + \psi_m(w)]$ , where  $\psi_m$  is convex composite functions

# Example of $\psi_m$ : FL with Regularization

- Let  $\psi_m(w)$  be regularizers
- Federated Lasso for sparsity representations

$$\min_w \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}_m} \|x^T w - y\|_2^2 + \lambda \|w\|_1$$

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M [F_m(w) + \psi_m(w)]$$



Potential application: cross-silo distributed biomedical data

- Federated matrix completion for recommendation system

$$\min_W \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M F_m(W) + \lambda \|W\|_* \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Matrix nuclear norm promotes low-rank}}$$

-1				
			1	
1	1	-1	1	-1
1	1	-1	1	-1
1	1	-1	1	-1
1	1	-1	1	-1
		-1		

# Example of $\psi_m$ : FL with (Personalized) Constraints

- Let  $\psi_m(w)$  be convex indicator 
$$\begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } w \in \mathcal{C}_m \\ +\infty & \text{if } w \notin \mathcal{C}_m \end{cases}$$
- Problem becomes
$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_w & \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M F_m(w) \\ \text{s.t.} & w \in \bigcap_{m=1}^M \mathcal{C}_m \end{array}$$
 → Fulfill all constraints
- Budgeting, each customer has a budget constraint
- FL with monotonic constraints → Improve interpretability
- Inputs welcome!

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M [F_m(w) + \psi_m(w)]$$

# Mix & Match of Setups

- **Homogeneous vs heterogeneous objective**  $F_m$ : standard “heterogeneity” in FL  
*[e.g., Li et al., MLSys'20, Karimireddy et al., ICML'20, Woodworth et al., NeurIPS'20]*
- **Homogeneous vs heterogeneous composite**  $\psi_m$
- **Client and/or server** access to composite oracle  $\psi_m$ 
  - Client-side oracle: better convergence? Privacy for personalized constraints?
  - Server-side oracle: computationally light
- **In this work, we focus on homogeneous**  $\psi_m \equiv \psi$  **but allowing for heterogeneous**  $F_m$

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \Phi(w) := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M F_m(w) + \psi(w)$$

# Composite 101: Proximal Gradient Descent



- Consider sequential  $\min F(w) + \psi(w)$ , where  $F$  smooth,  $\psi$  “simple” and convex
- Proximal Gradient Descent (PGD)

$$w_{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{prox}_{\eta\psi}(w_t - \eta \nabla F(w_t))$$
$$:= \operatorname{argmin}_w \left\{ F(w_t) + \langle \nabla F(w_t), w - w_t \rangle + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|w - w_t\|_2^2 + \psi(w) \right\}$$

*First-order Taylor expansion of  $F$*       *Smoothness estimation*      *Proximal additive*

- **prox** operator can often be computed analytically

$$\psi(w) = \chi_C(w) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } w \in C \\ +\infty & \text{if } w \notin C \end{cases} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Projected GD}}$$

$$\psi(w) = \frac{1}{2}\lambda\|w\|_2^2 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Weight decay (variant)}}$$

$$\psi(w) = \lambda\|w\|_1 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Soft-thresholding}}$$

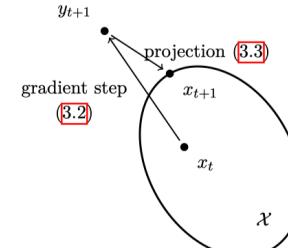


Image source: [Bubeck, 2015]

# First Attempt: FEDAVG + Proximal Gradient Descent




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## Algorithm 1 Federated Averaging (FEDAVG)

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```

1: procedure FEDAVG( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
3:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$ 
4:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
5:       client initialization  $w_{r,0}^m \leftarrow w_r$ 
6:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do
7:          $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
8:          $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow w_{r,k}^m - \eta_c \cdot g_{r,k}^m$ 
9:        $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (w_{r,K}^m - w_{r,0}^m)$ 
10:       $w_{r+1} \leftarrow w_r + \eta_s \cdot \Delta_r$ 

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## Algorithm 2 Federated PGD

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```

1: procedure FEDPGD( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
3:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$ 
4:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
5:       client initialization  $w_{r,0}^m \leftarrow w_r$ 
6:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do
7:          $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
8:          $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow \text{prox}_{\eta_c \psi}(w_{r,k}^m - \eta_c g_{r,k}^m)$ 
9:        $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (w_{r,K}^m - w_{r,0}^m)$ 
10:       $w_{r+1} \leftarrow \text{prox}_{\eta_s \eta_c K \psi}(w_r + \eta_s \Delta_r)$ 

```

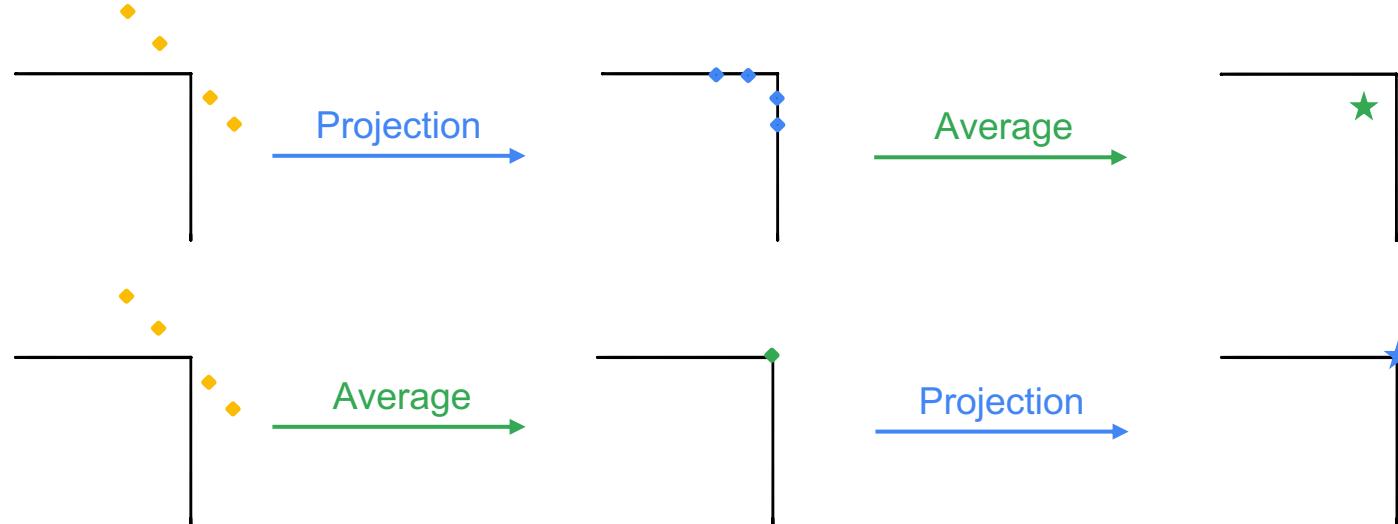
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$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \Phi(w) := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M F_m(w) + \psi(w)$$

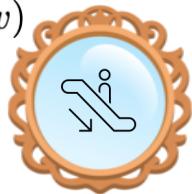
# First Attempt: FEDAvg + Proximal Gradient Descent



- Challenge: Averaging and proximal operations discord
  - Averaging and (nonlinear) proximal operators **do not commute**
  - Intuition: Averaging on post-projected points “blunt” the sharpness of projection



$$\min F(w) + \psi(w)$$



# Composite 201: (composite) Mirror Descent

[Nemirovski et al., '83, Duchi et al., COLT'10]

$$\text{PGD : } w_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \left\{ F(w_t) + \langle \nabla F(w_t), w - w_t \rangle + \psi(w) + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|w - w_t\|_2^2 \right\}$$

Arbitrary distance-generating  $h$

$$\text{MD : } w_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_w \left\{ F(w_t) + \langle \nabla F(w_t), w - w_t \rangle + \psi(w) + \frac{1}{\eta} D_h(w, w_t) \right\}$$

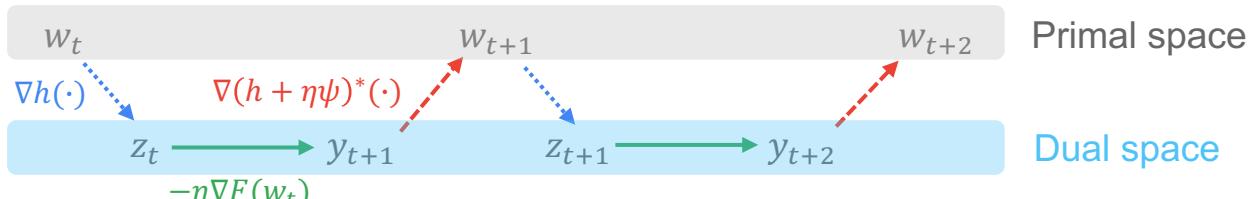
$$D_h(w, w_t) := h(w) - h(w_t) - \langle \nabla h(w_t), w - w_t \rangle$$

(reduces to PGD if  $h(w) = \frac{1}{2}\|w\|^2$ )

Primal-dual interpretation of MD

- $z_t = \nabla h(w_t)$  Forward mirror (Primal  $\rightarrow$  Dual)
- $y_{t+1} = z_t - \eta \cdot \nabla F(w_t)$  Gradient step (in dual space)
- $w_{t+1} = \nabla(h + \eta\psi)^*(y_{t+1})$  Backward mirror (Dual  $\rightarrow$  Primal)

\* indicates convex conjugate



# Federated Mirror Descent (FEDMiD)

- Federated Mirror Descent (FEDMiD) generalizes Federated PGD

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**Algorithm 2** Federated PGD

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```
1: procedure FEDPGD( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
3:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$ 
4:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
5:       client initialization  $w_{r,0}^m \leftarrow w_r$ 
6:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do
7:          $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
8:          $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow \text{prox}_{\eta_c \psi}(\nabla h(w_{r,k}^m) - \eta_c g_{r,k}^m)$ 
9:        $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (w_{r,K}^m - w_{r,0}^m)$ 
10:       $w_{r+1} \leftarrow \text{prox}_{\eta_s \eta_c K \psi}(\nabla h(w_r) + \eta_s \Delta_r)$ 
```

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**Algorithm 2** Federated Mirror Descent (FEDMiD)

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```
1: procedure FEDMiD( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
3:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$ 
4:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
5:       client initialization  $w_{r,0}^m \leftarrow w_r$ 
6:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do
7:          $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
8:          $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow \nabla(h + \eta_c \psi)^*(\nabla h(w_{r,k}^m) - \eta_c g_{r,k}^m)$ 
9:        $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (w_{r,K}^m - w_{r,0}^m)$ 
10:       $w_{r+1} \leftarrow \nabla(h + \eta_s \eta_c K \psi)^*(\nabla h(w_r) + \eta_s \Delta_r)$ 
```

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$$\min F(w) + \psi(w)$$



# Composite 202: Dual Averaging

[Nesterov et al., '09, Xiao et al., '10, Flammarion et al., COLT'17]

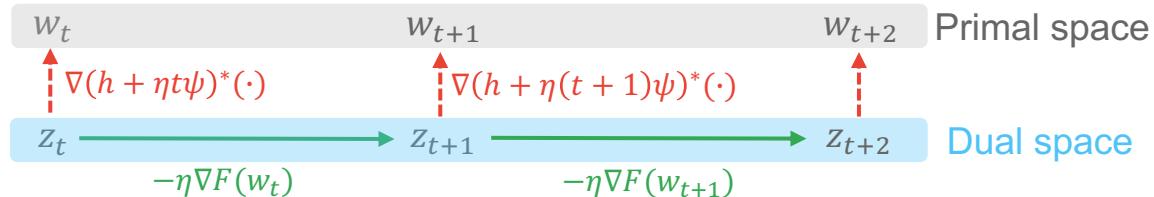
Dual Averaging (a.k.a. Lazy Mirror Descent)

$$\begin{aligned} w_t &= \nabla(h + \eta t \psi)^*(z_t) \\ &= \arg \min_w \{ \langle -z_t, w \rangle + \eta t \psi(w) + h(w) \} \end{aligned}$$

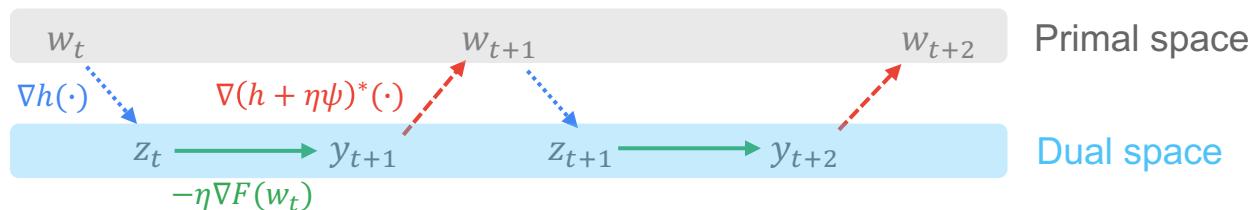
$$z_{t+1} = z_t - \eta \cdot \nabla F(w_t)$$

Backward mirror (Dual  $\rightarrow$  Primal) – retrieve primal

Gradient step (in dual space)



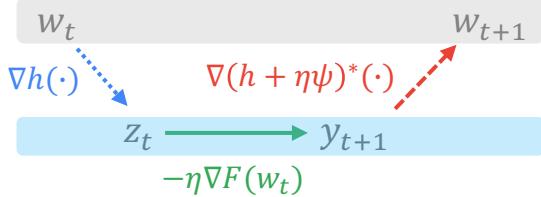
Recall MD:



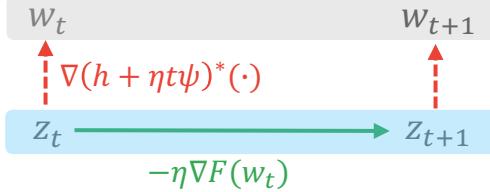
# Mirror Descent vs Dual Averaging



Mirror Descent



Dual Averaging

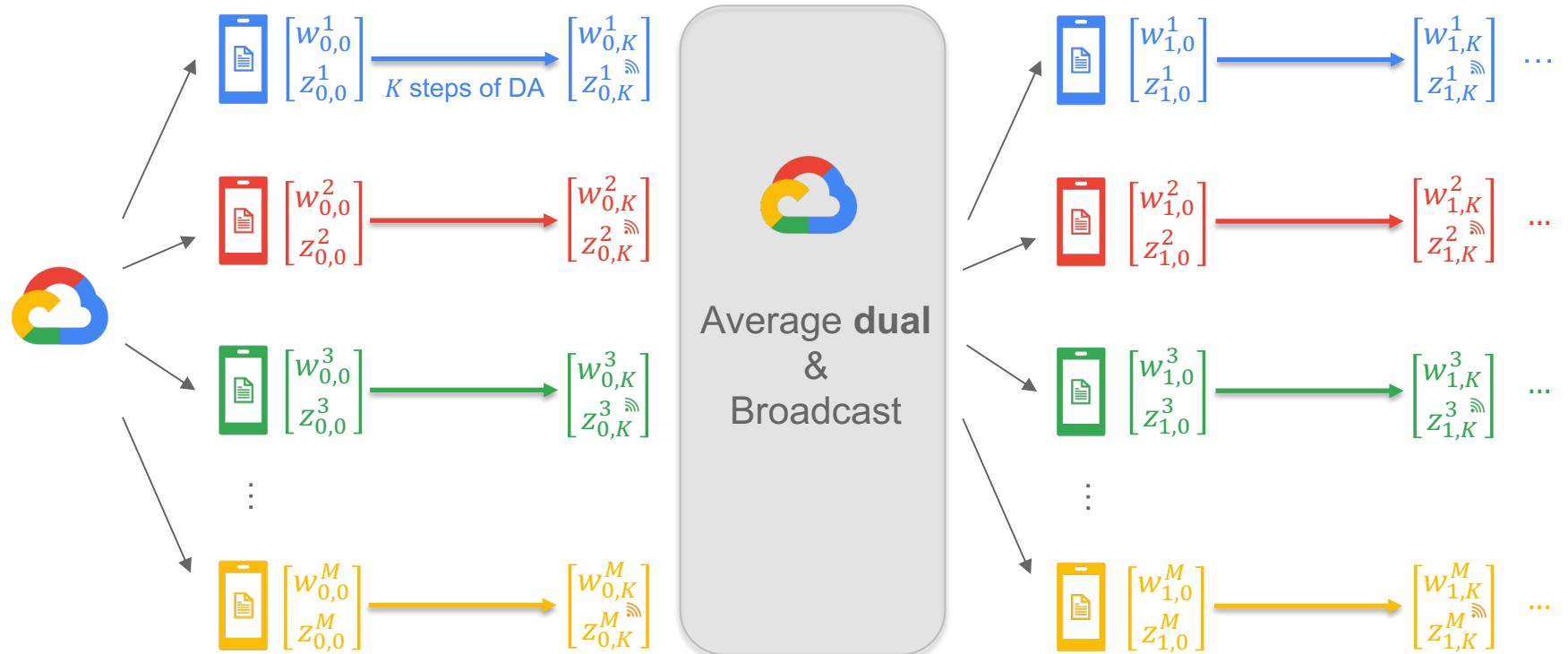


- Forward **and** backward mirror
- Persistent **primal** states

- Backward mirror **only**
- Persistent **dual** states

# Federated Dual Averaging (FEDDUALAVG)

Notation:  $w_{r,k}^m$  →  $m^{\text{th}}$  client  
→  $r^{\text{th}}$  round,  
 $k^{\text{th}}$  local iteration



# Federated Dual Averaging (FEDDUALAVG)

Notation:  $w_{r,k}^m$

$m^{\text{th}}$  client  
 $r^{\text{th}}$  round,  
 $k^{\text{th}}$  local iteration

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### Algorithm 3 Federated Dual Averaging

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```

1: procedure FEDDUALAVG( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   server initialization  $z_0 \leftarrow \nabla h(w_0)$ 
3:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
4:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$ 
5:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
6:       client initialization  $z_{r,0}^m \leftarrow z_r$ 
7:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do
8:          $\tilde{\eta}_{r,k} \leftarrow \eta_s \eta_c rK + \eta_c k$ 
9:          $w_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla(h + \tilde{\eta}_{r,k} \psi)^*(z_{r,k}^m)$ 
10:         $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
11:         $z_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow z_{r,k}^m - \eta_c g_{r,k}^m$ 
12:         $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (z_{r,K}^m - z_{r,0}^m)$ 
13:         $z_{r+1} \leftarrow z_r + \eta_s \Delta_r$ 
14:         $w_{r+1} \leftarrow \nabla(h + \eta_s \eta_c (r+1) K \psi)^*(z_{r+1})$ 

```

→ Compute primal point

→ Client dual update

→ Average client dual deltas

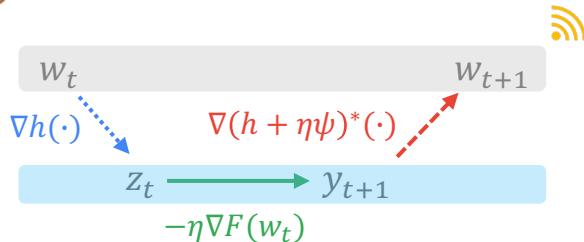
→ Server dual update

→ (Optional) primal output

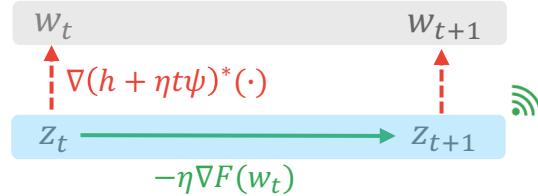
# FEDMiD (a.k.a. FEDPGD) vs FEDDUALAVG



Mirror Descent



Dual Averaging



- Forward **and** backward mirror
- Persistent **primal** updates
- **FEDMiD**: average the **primal**
- theoretically challenging due to the **nonlinearity of mirror map**.
- Backward mirror **only**
- Persistent **dual** updates
- **FEDDUALAVG**: average the **dual**
- Enjoys nice theoretical interpretation via **dual shadow sequence**.
- outperforms **FEDMiD** empirically.

# Theory: Blanket Assumptions

$$\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \Phi(w) := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M F_m(w) + \psi(w)$$

$$\text{where } F_m(w) := \mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim \mathcal{D}_m}[f(w; \xi)]$$

**Assumption 1.** Let  $\|\cdot\|$  be an arbitrary norm and  $\|\cdot\|_*$  be its dual norm.

(a)  $\psi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is a closed convex function with closed  $\text{dom } \psi$ . Assume  $\Phi(w) = F(w) + \psi(w)$  attains a finite optimum at  $\theta^* \in \text{dom } \psi$ .

(b)  $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is a Legendre function that is 1-strongly convex with respect to  $\|\cdot\|$ . Assume  $\text{dom } h \supset \text{dom } \psi$ .

(c)  $f(\cdot, \xi) : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a closed convex function that is differentiable on  $\text{dom } \psi$  for any fixed  $\xi$ . In addition,  $f(\cdot, \xi)$  is  $L$ -smooth on  $\text{dom } \psi$ , namely for any  $u, w \in \text{dom } \psi$ ,

$$f(u; \xi) \leq f(w; \xi) + \langle \nabla f(w; \xi), u - w \rangle + \frac{1}{2}L\|u - w\|^2.$$

(d)  $\nabla f$  has  $\sigma^2$ -bounded variance under  $\|\cdot\|_*$  norm within  $\text{dom } \psi$ , namely for any  $w \in \text{dom } \psi$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\xi \sim \mathcal{D}_m} \|\nabla f(w, \xi) - \nabla F_m(w)\|_*^2 \leq \sigma^2.$$

(e) Assume all the  $M$  clients participate in client updates for every round, namely  $\mathcal{S}_r = [M]$ .

(a) & (b): standard regularity assumptions for composite setup

(c): smoothness of  $f$

(d): additive bounded variance

(e): full participation (for simplicity of exposition)

# Theorem 1: Small Client Learning Rate $\eta_c$ Regime

In small  $\eta_c$  regime, both FEDMiD and FEDDUALAvg can match minibatch rate

**Theorem 1.** Assuming A1, for **sufficiently small**  $\eta_c$ , and appropriate  $\eta_s$ , both FEDMiD and FEDDUALAvg can output  $\hat{w}$  such that

$$\mathbb{E} [\Phi(\hat{w})] - \Phi(w^*) \lesssim \frac{LB}{R} + \frac{\sigma B^{\frac{1}{2}}}{M^{\frac{1}{2}} K^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{1}{2}}},$$

where  $B := D_h(w^*, w_0)$  is the Bregman divergence distance between optimum  $w^*$  and initial  $w_0$

$L$ : smoothness  
 $\sigma$ : variance bound  
 $M$ : # of clients  
 $K$ : # of local steps  
 $R$ : # of rounds

# Stronger Guarantee for FEDDUALAVG (bounded gradient)

We establish (possibly) stronger guarantee for FEDDUALAVG with larger  $\eta_c$  and unit  $\eta_s = 1$

**Theorem 2.** Assuming A1, and in addition assume  $\sup_{w \in \text{dom} \psi} \|\nabla f(w, \xi)\|_* \leq G$ , then for  $\eta_s = 1$  and  $\eta_c \leq \frac{1}{4L}$ , FEDDUALAVG can output  $\hat{w}$  such that

$$\mathbb{E} [\Phi(\hat{w})] - \Phi(w^*) \lesssim \frac{B}{\eta_c K R} + \frac{\eta_c \sigma^2}{M} + \eta_c^2 L K^2 G^2$$

Moreover for appropriate  $\eta_c$

faster convergence  
(usefulness of client step)

Overhead for infrequent  
communication

$$\mathbb{E} [\Phi(\hat{w})] - \Phi(w^*) \lesssim \frac{LB}{KR} + \frac{\sigma B^{\frac{1}{2}}}{M^{\frac{1}{2}} K^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{1}{2}}} + \frac{L^{\frac{1}{3}} B^{\frac{2}{3}} G^{\frac{2}{3}}}{R^{\frac{2}{3}}}.$$

matches [Stich ICLR'19] bound on  
smooth unconstrained FEDAvg

$B := D_h(w^*, w_0)$

$L$ : smoothness

$\sigma$ : variance bound

$M$ : # of clients

$K$ : # of local steps

$R$ : # of rounds

# Stronger Guarantee for FEDDUALAVG (quadratic $F$ )

We can relax the bounded gradient assumption if  $F$  is quadratic, and heterogeneity is bounded.

**Theorem 3.** Assuming A1, and in addition assume  $\sup_{w \in \text{dom} \psi} \|\nabla F_m(w) - \nabla F(w)\|_* \leq \zeta^2$

and  $F$  is quadratic, then FEDDUALAVG can output  $\hat{w}$  such that

$$\mathbb{E} [\Phi(\hat{w})] - \Phi(w^*) \lesssim \frac{B}{\eta_c K R} + \frac{\eta_c \sigma^2}{M} + \eta_c^2 L K \sigma^2 + \eta_c^2 L K^2 \zeta^2,$$

moreover for appropriate  $\eta_c$

$$\mathbb{E} [\Phi(\hat{w})] - \Phi(w^*) \lesssim \frac{LB}{KR} + \frac{\sigma B^{\frac{1}{2}}}{M^{\frac{1}{2}} K^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{1}{2}}} + \frac{L^{\frac{1}{3}} B^{\frac{2}{3}} \sigma^{\frac{2}{3}}}{K^{\frac{1}{3}} R^{\frac{2}{3}}} + \frac{L^{\frac{1}{3}} B^{\frac{2}{3}} \zeta^{\frac{2}{3}}}{R^{\frac{2}{3}}}.$$

faster convergence  
(usefulness of client step)

Overhead for infrequent communication

matches best known bound on  
smooth unconstrained FEDAvg  
[Khaled AISTATS'20,  
Woodworth NeurIPS'20 etc]

$B := D_h(w^*, w_0)$   
 $L$ : smoothness  
 $\sigma$ : variance bound  
 $M$ : # of clients  
 $K$ : # of local steps  
 $R$ : # of rounds

# Summary of Theoretical Results

- FEDMiD & FEDDUALAVG, small  $\eta_c$ : 
$$\frac{LB}{R} + \frac{\sigma B^{\frac{1}{2}}}{M^{\frac{1}{2}} K^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$
- FEDDUALAVG, larger  $\eta_c$ :  
$$\frac{LB}{KR} + \frac{\sigma B^{\frac{1}{2}}}{M^{\frac{1}{2}} K^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{1}{2}}} + \frac{L^{\frac{1}{3}} B^{\frac{2}{3}} G^{\frac{2}{3}}}{R^{\frac{2}{3}}}$$
  
$$\frac{LB}{KR} + \frac{\sigma B^{\frac{1}{2}}}{M^{\frac{1}{2}} K^{\frac{1}{2}} R^{\frac{1}{2}}} + \frac{L^{\frac{1}{3}} B^{\frac{2}{3}} \sigma^{\frac{2}{3}}}{K^{\frac{1}{3}} R^{\frac{2}{3}}} + \frac{L^{\frac{1}{3}} B^{\frac{2}{3}} \zeta^{\frac{2}{3}}}{R^{\frac{2}{3}}}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} B := D_h(w^*, w_0) & K: \# \text{ of local steps} \\ L: \text{smoothness} & R: \# \text{ of rounds} \\ \sigma: \text{variance bound} & G: \text{gradient bound} \\ M: \# \text{ of clients} & \zeta: \text{heterogeneity bound} \end{array}$$

# Proof Sketch -- FEDDUALAVG

**Main observation:** the averaged dual  $\overline{z_{r,k}} := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M z_{r,k}^m$  “almost” does **centralized dual averaging**

$$\overline{z_{r,k+1}} = \overline{z_{r,k}} - \eta_c \cdot \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$$

Variance-reduced but biased  
stochastic gradient oracle

**Step 1:** convergence of the averaged dual (a.k.a. perturbed iterate analysis)

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \Phi \left( \frac{1}{KR} \sum_{r=0}^{R-1} \sum_{k=1}^K \nabla (h + \tilde{\eta}_{r,k} \psi)^* (\overline{z_{r,k}}) \right) \right] - \Phi(w^*) \leq \underbrace{\frac{B}{\eta_c KR} + \frac{\eta_c \sigma^2}{M}}_{\text{Rate if synchronize every iterations}} + \underbrace{\frac{L}{MKR} \left[ \sum_{r=0}^{R-1} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbb{E} \|\overline{z_{r,k}} - z_{r,k}^m\|_*^2 \right]}_{\text{Discrepancy overhead}}$$

**Step 2:** bound  $\mathbb{E} \|\overline{z_{r,k}} - z_{r,k}^m\|_*^2$  by stability analysis

# Experiments

- Platform setup: *TensorFlow/Federated* & *google-research/federated*
- We evaluate the following 4 algorithms:
  1. Federated Dual Averaging (`FEDDUALAVG`)
  2. Federated Mirror Descent (`FEDMID`)
  3. `FEDDUALAVG-OSP` (only-server-proximal)
  4. `FEDMID-OSP` (only-server-proximal)

*potential light computation  
but less principled  
- for ablation study purpose*

# FEDMiD vs FEDMiD-OSP

---

**Algorithm 2** Federated Mirror Descent (FEDMiD)

---

```

1: procedure FEDMiD( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
3:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$ 
4:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
5:       client initialization  $w_{r,0}^m \leftarrow w_r$ 
6:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do
7:          $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
8:          $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow \nabla(h + \eta_c \psi)^*(\nabla h(w_{r,k}^m) - \eta_c g_{r,k}^m)$ 
9:          $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (w_{r,K}^m - w_{r,0}^m)$ 
10:         $w_{r+1} \leftarrow \nabla(h + \eta_s \eta_c K \psi)^*(\nabla h(w_r) + \eta_s \Delta_r)$ 

```

---



---

**Algorithm 4** Federated Mirror Descent Only Server

---

```

1: procedure FEDMiD-OSP( $w_0, \eta_c, \eta_s$ )
2:   for  $r = 0, \dots, R - 1$  do
3:     sample a subset of clients  $\mathcal{S}_r \subseteq [M]$ 
4:     on client  $m \in \mathcal{S}_r$  in parallel do
5:       client initialization  $w_{r,0}^m \leftarrow w_r$ 
6:       for  $k = 0, \dots, K - 1$  do
7:          $g_{r,k}^m \leftarrow \nabla f(w_{r,k}^m; \xi_{r,k}^m)$ 
8:          $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow \nabla h^*(\nabla h(w_{r,k}^m) - \eta_c g_{r,k}^m)$  ▷
9:          $\Delta_r = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}_r|} \sum_{m \in \mathcal{S}_r} (w_{r,K}^m - w_{r,0}^m)$ 
10:         $w_{r+1} \leftarrow \nabla(h + \eta_s \eta_c K \psi)^*(\nabla h(w_r) + \eta_s \Delta_r)$ 

```

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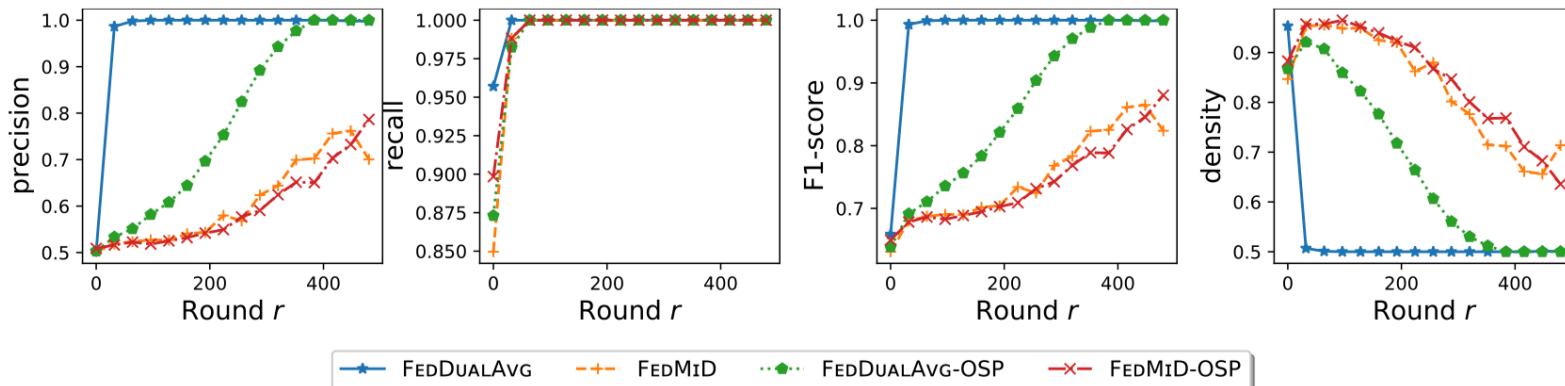


Proximal  $\psi$  skipped

Reduces to  $w_{r,k+1}^m \leftarrow w_{r,k}^m - \eta_c g_{r,k}^m$  if  $h = \frac{1}{2} \|\cdot\|^2$

# Experiment 1: Federated Lasso on Synthetic Dataset

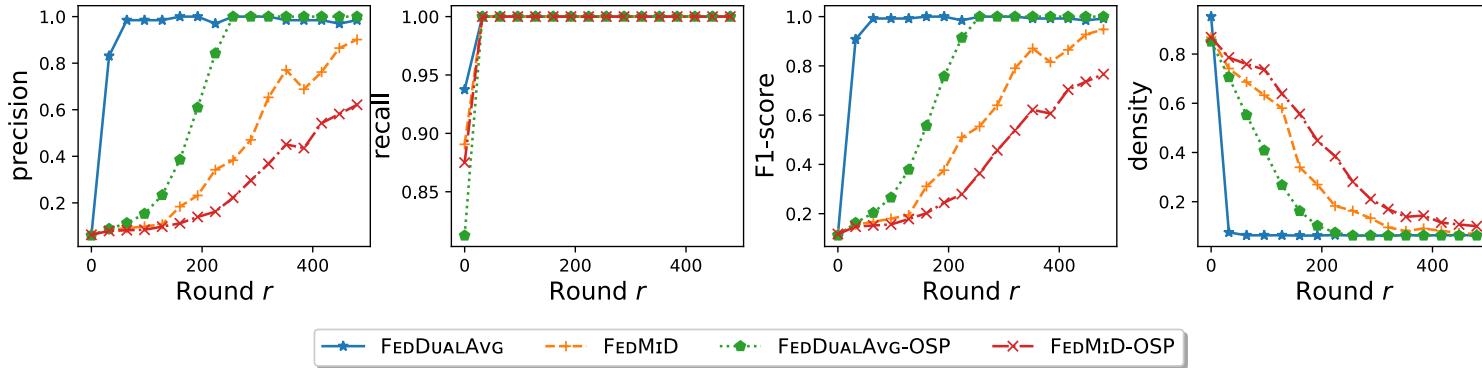
- **Synthetic dataset:**  $y = x^T w^* + b^* + \varepsilon$ ; known sparse ground truth  $w^*$   
*(64 clients, 128 samples per client, ground truth density 512/1024)*
- **Problem:**  $\min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d, b \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim \mathcal{D}_m} (x^T w + b - y)_2^2 + \lambda \|w\|_1$
- **Metric:** F1-score of the estimated sparsity, precision, recall, density



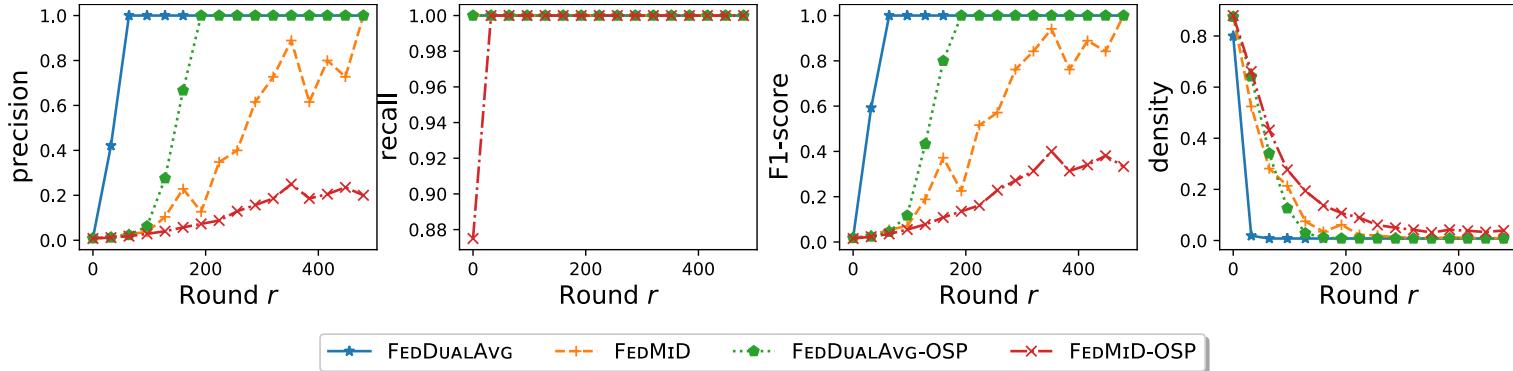
For all algorithms, we tune only  $\eta_s$  and  $\eta_c$  to attain the best F1-score

# Experiment 1: Sparser Ground Truth

- **Sparser dataset:** (64 clients, 128 samples per client, ground truth density **64/1024**)

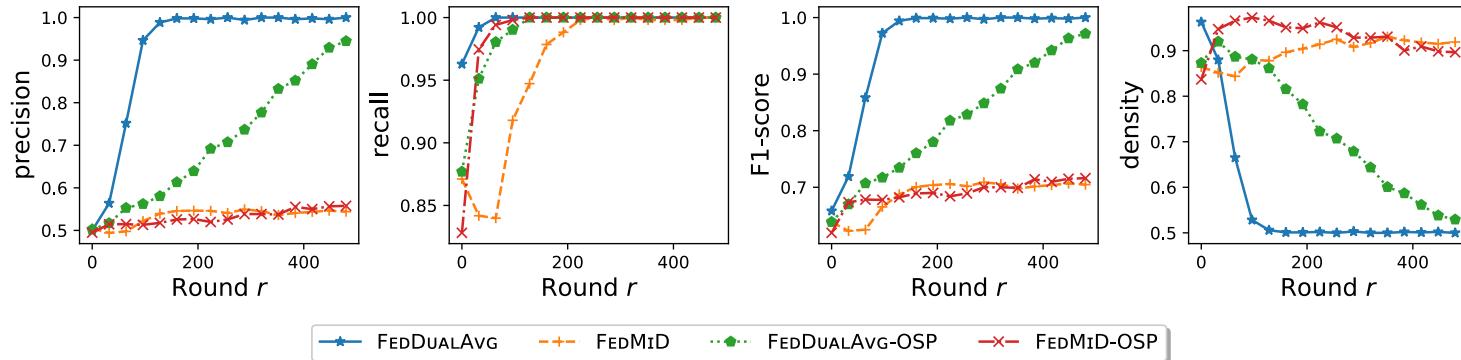


- **Even sparser dataset:** (64 clients, 128 samples per client, ground truth density **8/1024**)



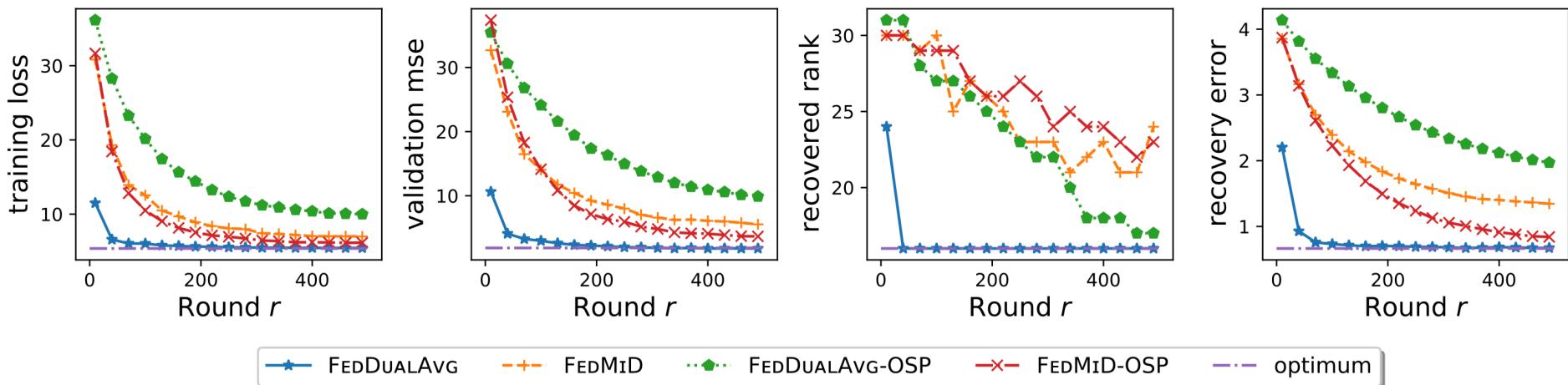
# Experiment 1: More Distributed Data

- Even more distributed: (256 clients, 32 samples per client, ground truth density 512/1024)



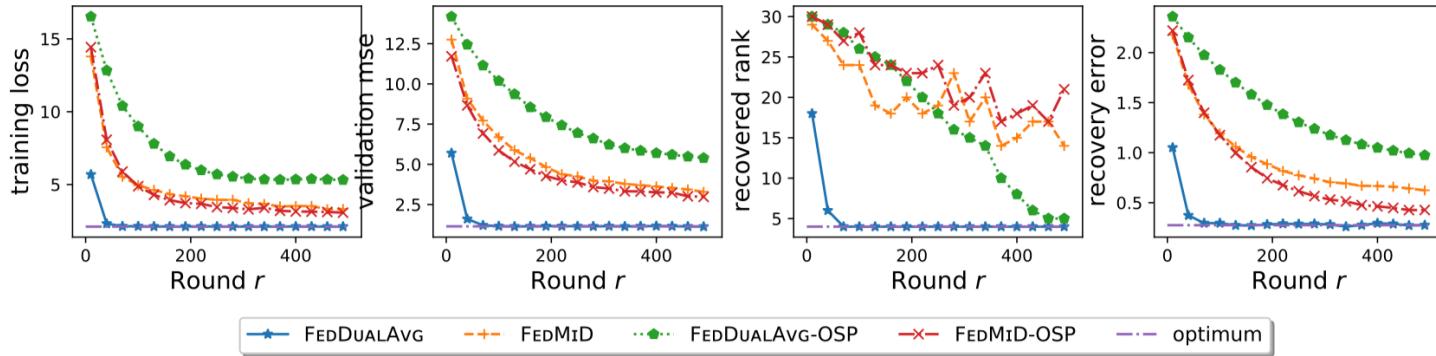
# Experiment 2: Low-Rank Matrix Estimation

- **Synthetic dataset:**  $y = \langle X, W^* \rangle + b^* + \varepsilon$ ; known **low-rank** ground truth  $W^*$   
*(64 clients, 128 samples per client, ground truth rank **16/32**)*
- **Problem:**  $\min_{W \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1 \times d_2}, b \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbb{E}_{(X,y) \sim \mathcal{D}_m} (\langle X, W \rangle + b - y)^2 + \lambda \|W\|_{\text{nuc}}$
- **Metric:** training loss, validation mse, recovered rank, recovered error (in Frobenius norm)

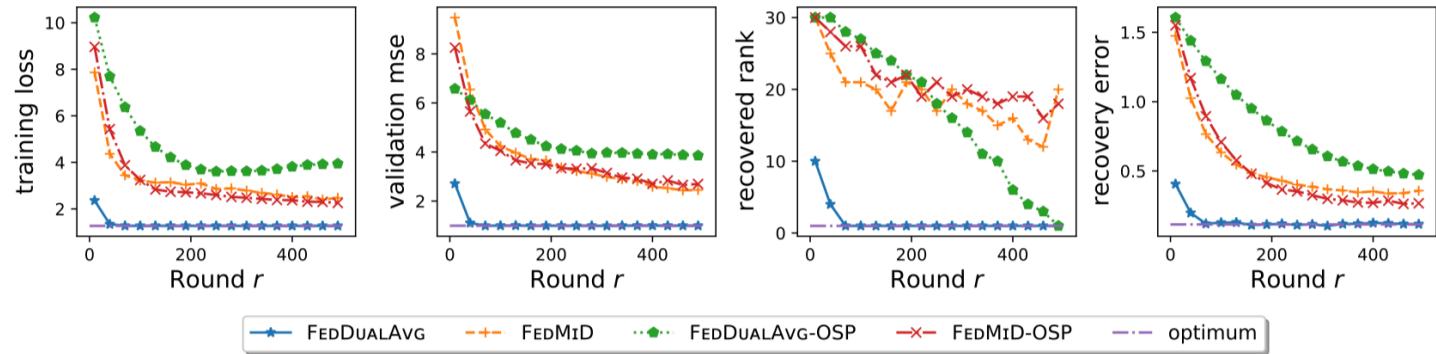


# Experiment 2: Sparser Ground Truth

- **Lower rank dataset:** (64 clients, 128 samples per client, ground truth rank 4/32)

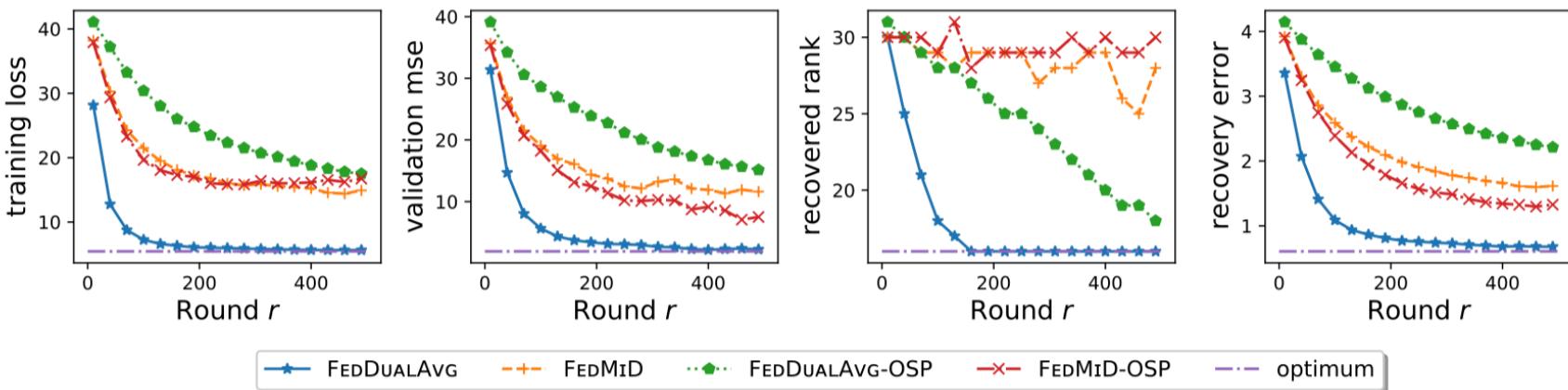


- **Even lower rank dataset:** (64 clients, 128 samples per client, ground truth rank 1/32)



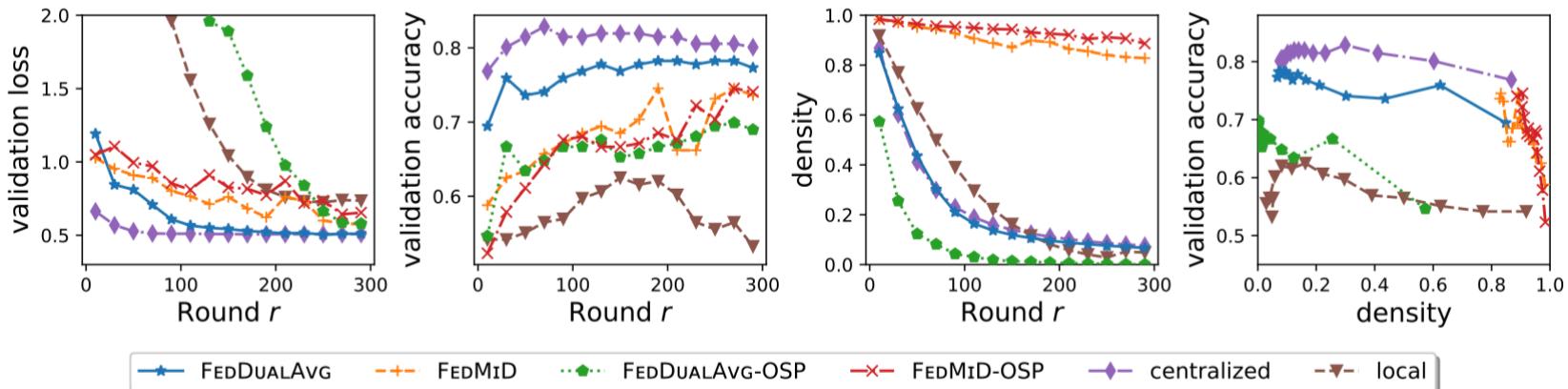
# Experiment 2: More Distributed Data

- More distributed: (256 clients, 32 samples per client, ground truth density 512/1024)



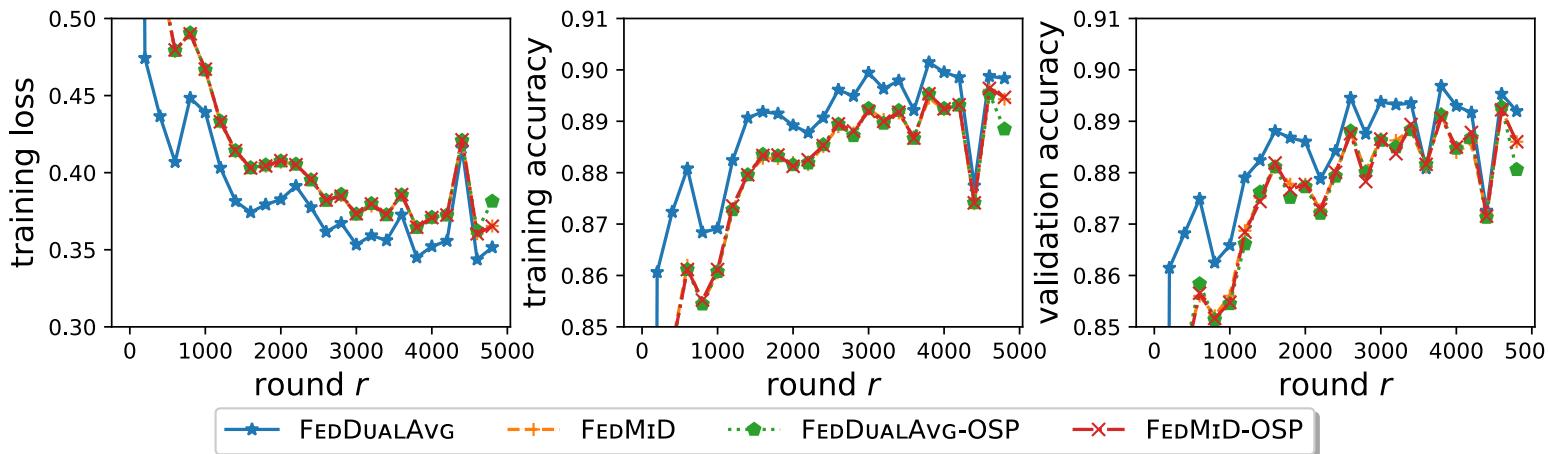
# Experiment 3: Sparse Logistic Regression for fMRI

- **Dataset:** fMRI scans on response to binary image recognition  
(6 subjects, 11-12 sessions per subject, 18 scans per session, 39,912 voxels)
- **Federated Setup:** Each client possesses the data of a **session**. (59 training clients in total)
- **Problem:** l1-regularized logistic regression
- **Metric:** density, validation accuracy



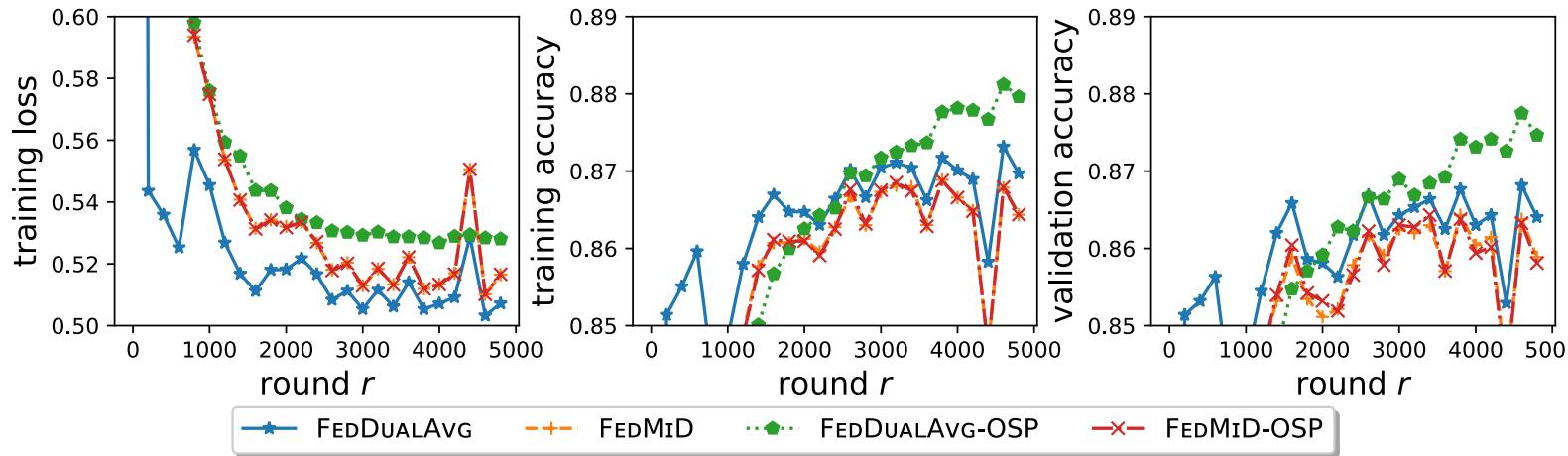
## Experiment 4: norm-ball constrained FL

- **Dataset:** Federated EMNIST (10 classes or 62 classes)
- **Metric:** Training loss, training accuracy, test accuracy
- *L1-constrained logistic regression for EMNIST-10*



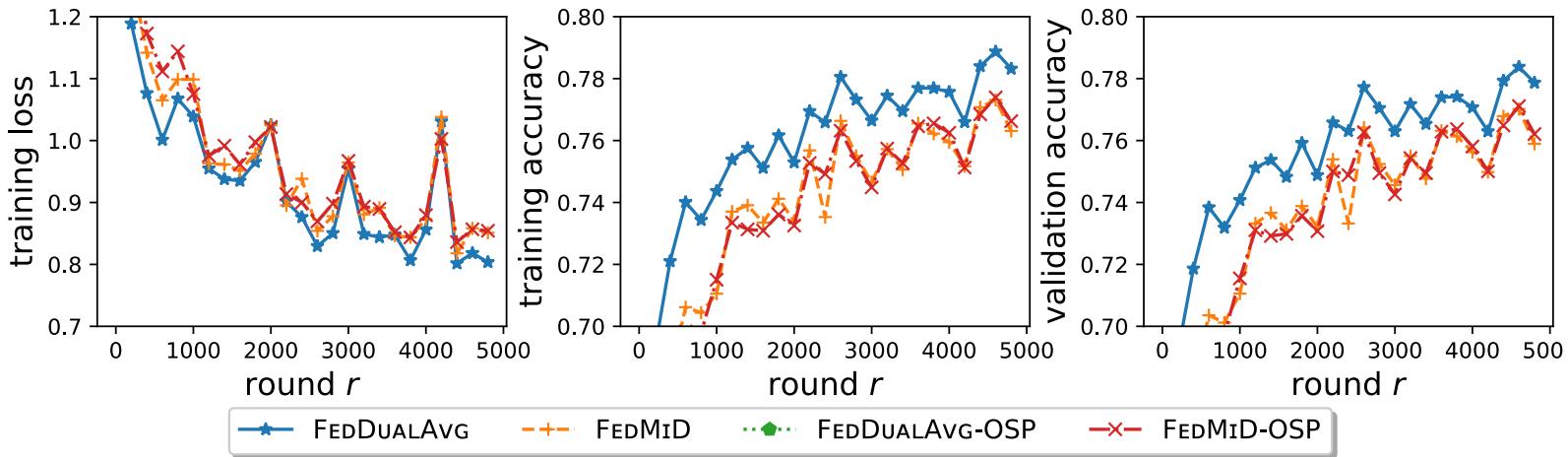
# Experiment 4: norm-ball constrained FL

- L2-constrained logistic regression for EMNIST-10



# Experiment 4: norm-ball constrained FL

- *L1-constrained 2-hidden-layer NN on EMNIST-62*



Thank you!

Paper: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.08474>

Email: [yuanhl@cs.stanford.edu](mailto:yuanhl@cs.stanford.edu)