VAFL a Method of Vertical Asynchronous Federated Learning

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0. Abstract

- Horizontal Federated learning (HFL): 多个client data之间共享相同的特征
- vertical FL: 从不同的clients之间联合所有的features (两个数据集共享相同样本空间,但是特征空间不同)

VAFL: 每个client 在不需要于其他clients协商的情况下, 运行随机梯度下降

new technique: Perturbed local embedding 来保护数据隐私和提高通信效率。

- 理论分析: strongly convex, nonconvex, nonsmooth objectives
- 实验验证: 应用于各类图像和健康数据集

Result:比较了中心化方法centralized 以及同步 synchronous FL方法

1. Introduction

Federated Learning: 一个central server和多个clients协同训练一个机器学习模型

与已经存在的分布式机器学习范式相比,FL增加了同步clients、数据模型隐私保护的困难性

大多数已经存在的FL方法考虑的场景是HFL,即clients有一个不同的数据集,他们共享相同的特征

Horizontal FL: 可以协同训练从feature space 到 label space

相同的samples,每个client有独一无二的features

应用场景: 电子商务、金融、健康医疗等

(电子商务公司从多个金融机构使用用户的交易来预测用户的信用)

(医疗机构使用一个病人在不同医院的临床诊疗数据来评估病人的健康水平)

场景中,数据拥有者有相同用户的不同的records。通过联合他们的特征,可以建立一个更加准确的模型——这就是feature-partitioned or vertical FL

- HFL: 全局模型在一个server处完成对local model的聚合, local model是被每个client在本地使用 local data更新完的
- VFL: global model是local models的 concatenation,这是与loss function成对出现的。因此,更新一个client的local model是需要其他的clients的信息的。

这种强的模型依赖性,导致了在隐私保护以及通信效率方面的挑战。

1.1 Prior part

Federated Learning

HFL: large data 中划分给all clients, share the same feature space communication efficiency是一大问题:

- 1) 减少number of bits per communication round
- 2) 节省number of communication rounds

Privacy-preserving learning

不同于在HFL中聚合梯度,在VFL中的 local gradients可能会involve raw data of other clients
Differentiable privacy:

- 1) 是一种可量化的隐私措施
- 2) 许多已经存在的学习算法通过简单调整可以实现DP

但是并不是为VFL而设计的

Asynchronous and parallel optimization

asynchronous 和 parallel优化方法是通常被用来解决**asynchrony**和**delay**的问题 对于feature-partitioned vertical FL,尤其与Block Coordinate Descent (BCD)方法有关 异步的BCD和随机变量已经应用于bounded delay 最新算法可以考虑unbounded delay在blockwise或者stochastic update的情况

最新的异步方法不能保证:

- 1) loss function在nonsmooth情况下的收敛性
- 2) local update的privacy

1.2 This work

1. A general optimization formulation

VFL包括一个global model和对于每个client的一个local embedding model local embedding model(linear, nonlinear, nonsmooth) 可以将raw data 映射为紧凑的特征,从而减少与global model 通信的次数

2. Flexible federated learning algorithms

client间歇性的参与, 非协同训练, 以及DP、MPC

3. Rigorous convergence analysis

建立性能的下界和隐私的保护水平

2. Vertical federated learning

2.1 Problem statement

M个clients, N个samples, 每个client与一个unique set的features相关

 $x_{n,m}$

是第n个sample vector的第m个block

 y_n

是第n个sample对应的label,存储在server中

每个client上的特征集是不同的,在第m个client上保存的特征 $x_{n,m}\in R^{pm}$,Pm表示第m个client上数据的维度

每个client在本地learns 一个 local (linear or nonlinear) embedding function h_m , 把较高维度的 x_n , m映射到一个低维度,即数据维度pm映射到公共维度 $\overline{p}m$

$$h_{n,m} := h_m(\theta_m; x_{n,m}), \quad m = 1, \dots, M$$

目标函数:

$$F(\theta_0, \boldsymbol{\theta}) := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \ell(\theta_0, h_{n,1}, \dots, h_{n,M}; y_n) + \sum_{m=1}^{M} r(\theta_m)$$

 $heta_0$ 是server的global model的参数,heta是local clients参数的串联 l是loss function,<math>r是正则项

client m的本地信息是embedding vector h_n, m

 θ_{M-1}

 θ_M

Figure 1. A diagram for VAFL. The local model at client m is denoted as θ_m which generates the local embedding $h_{n,m}$.

2.2 Asynchronous client updates

 θ_1

Client

Algorithm 1 Vertical asynchronous federated learning

- 1: **initialize:** θ_0 , $\{\theta_m\}$, datum index n, client index m
- 2: while not convergent do
- 3: **when** a **Client** m is activated, **do**:
- 4: † select private datum (or data mini-batch) $x_{n,m}$
- 5: † **upload** secure information $h_{n,m} = h_m(\theta_m; x_{n,m})$
- 6: **query** $\nabla_{h_{n,m}} \ell(\theta_0, h_{n,1}, \dots, h_{n,M}; y_n)$ from Server
- 7: update local model θ_m
- 8: when Server receives $h_{n,m}$ from Client m, do:
- 9: compute $\nabla_{\theta_0} \ell(\theta_0, h_{n,1}, \dots, h_{n,M}; y_n)$
- 10: update server's local model θ_0
- 11: **when Server** receives a query from Client m, **do**:
- 12: compute $\nabla_{h_{n,m}}\ell(\theta_0, h_{n,1}, \dots, h_{n,M}; y_n)$
- 13: **send** it to Client m
- 14: end while

[†]We can let Step 5 also send $h_{n,m}$ for those n not selected in Step 4. We can re-order Steps 4–7 as 6, 7, then 4, and 5. They reduce information delay, yet analysis is unchanged.

- 1) a query: 关于loss function的 gradient
- 2) a new **embedding vector** h_n, m : 使用更新的local model的参数来计算

对于query 1) , server 使用当前的 {h_n,m} 为client m计算gradient

对于query 2),server计算新的梯度,使用当前收到的clients的updates,来更新global model的参数 $heta_0$

一次interaction:

client: active client m 随机选择data x_n, m ,并向server query对应的梯度,之后上传更新后的 embedding vector h_n, m ,然后更新本地的参数 θ_m

server: 收到embedding vector h_n, m ,计算gradient,更新server的参数 $heta_0$

k代表global counter or iteration

在第k个sample上随机梯度的 loss值:

1) server model

$$\hat{g}_0^k := \nabla_{\theta_0} \ell \left(\theta_0^k, h_{n_k, 1}^{k - \tau_{n_k, 1}^k}, \dots, h_{n_k, M}^{k - \tau_{n_k, M}^k}; y_{n_k} \right)$$
 (2a)

2) local model

$$\hat{g}_{m}^{k} := \nabla_{\theta_{m}} \ell \left(\theta_{0}^{k}, h_{n_{k}, 1}^{k - \tau_{n_{k}, 1}^{k}}, \dots, h_{n_{k}, M}^{k - \tau_{n_{k}, M}^{k}}; y_{n_{k}} \right)$$

$$= \nabla_{\theta_{m}} h_{n_{k}, m}^{k} \nabla_{h_{n_{k}, m}} \ell \left(\theta_{0}^{k}, h_{n_{k}, 1}^{k - \tau_{n_{k}, 1}^{k}}, \dots, h_{n_{k}, M}^{k - \tau_{n_{k}, M}^{k}}; y_{n_{k}} \right).$$
(2b)

delay的定义:

$$\tau_{n,m}^{k+1} = \begin{cases} 1, & m = m^k, n = n^k, \\ \tau_{n,m}^k + 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
 (3)

• server端的更新:

$$\theta_0^{k+1} = \theta_0^k - \eta_0^k \hat{g}_0^k$$

• activate local client端的更新:

$$\theta_{m_k}^{k+1} = \theta_{m_k}^k - \eta_{m_k}^k \hat{g}_{m_k}^k - \eta_{m_k}^k \nabla r(\theta_{m_k}^k), \tag{4a}$$

• other clients的更新:

$$\theta_m^{k+1} = \theta_m^k, \tag{4b}$$

2.3 Types of flexible update rules

延迟delay是存在的,来自于异步通信和随机sampling

Algorithm 2 Vertical t-synchronous federated learning

- 1: **Initialize:** θ_0 , $\{\theta_m\}$, datum index n, client index m, integer $1 \le t \le M$
- 2: **while** not convergent **do** Algorithm 1, Lines 3–7
- 8: **when Server** receives $h_{n,m}$'s from t Clients, **do**: Algorithm 1, Lines 9 and 10
- 11: **when Server** receives queries from t Clients, **do**: Algorithm 1, Lines 12 and 13 for each of t clients
- 14: end while

为了确保收敛,对于灵活更新协议上的设置:

1. Uniformly bounded delay D.

在训练过程中,delay如果超过了D,server就会立刻重新query fresh的 h_n, m

2. Stochastic unbounded delay.

每个client的activation是一个随机的过程,delay取决于随机过程的hitting times
因此,如果activation服从一个独立的Poison processes,delay就会服geometrically distributed

3. t-synchronous update, t > 0.

全异步的update是most flexible,但是t-synchronous update也是通常采用的 sever直到收到t个client的 h_n ,m才计算gradient,然后去更新server的model 实验表面,t-synchronous具有更加稳定的性能。

3. Convergence analysis

在nonconvex 和 strongly convex情况下展现收敛性情况

如下展示 fully synchronous version of VAFL 的收敛率

首先,是对sampling 和 smoothness的一些假设:

Assumption 1

- (1) Sample index {n_k}是 i.i.d
- (2) gradient的variance服从如下:

$$E[||g_m^k -
abla heta_m F(heta_0^k, heta^k)||^2] \leq \sigma_m^2, \quad g_m^k$$
是在没有 $delay$ 下的 $\hat{g_m^k}$

$$g_m^k := \nabla_{\theta_m} \ell\left(\theta_0^k, h_{n_k, 1}^k, \dots, h_{n_k, M}^k; y_{n_k}\right).$$

Assumption 2

optimal loss 是 有下界的

$$F^* > -\infty$$
, ∇F 是 $L - Lipschitz$ continuous

Assumption 2 在 nonsmooth local embedding 函数下通常是无法满足的 (neural networks)

对此,使用 perturbed local embedding 可以增加smoothness

Assumption 3

activation of all clients满足 independent Poisson process

3.1 Convergence under bounded delay

Assumption 4 (Uniformly bounded delay)

在第k个iteration, delay是有界的

$$\tau_{n,m}^k \leq D.$$

The convergence for the nonconvex case

Theorem 1

学习率满足

$$\min\{\frac{1}{4(1+D)L}, \frac{c_{\eta}}{\sqrt{K}}\}$$

则有

$$\frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathbb{E}[\|\nabla F(\theta_0^k, \boldsymbol{\theta}^k)\|^2] = \mathcal{O}\left(1/\sqrt{K}\right). \tag{5}$$

在强convexity 的情况下,convergence rate得到提升

Theorem 2

额外的假设 F 是 u-strongly convex, 第k轮的学习率满足:

$$\frac{4}{\mu \min_{m} \sqrt{q_m}(k+K_0)}$$

则有:

$$\mathbb{E}F\left(\theta_0^K, \boldsymbol{\theta}^K\right) - F^* = \mathcal{O}\left(1/K\right). \tag{6}$$

3.2 Convergence under stochastic unbounded delay

Assumption 5 (Stochastic unbounded delay)

对于每个client m, delay是随机的无界的

Theorem 3

学习率满足

$$\min\left\{\frac{1}{4(1+\min_m\sqrt{c_m})L},\frac{c_\eta}{\sqrt{K}}\right\}$$

则有

$$\frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} \mathbb{E}[\|\nabla F(\theta_0^k, \boldsymbol{\theta}^k)\|^2] = \mathcal{O}\left(1/\sqrt{K}\right). \tag{7}$$

Theorem 4

假设 F 是 u-strongly convex, 学习率满足:

$$\eta_0^k = \eta_m^k = \frac{2}{\nu(k+K_0)}$$

则有

$$\mathbb{E}F(\theta_0^K, \boldsymbol{\theta}^K) - F^* = \mathcal{O}[(1/K)]. \tag{8}$$

在有界和无界假设的情况下,但随机延迟的假设下,算法都能达到收敛

4. Perturbed local embedding: Enforcing differential privacy and smoothness

介绍一个 local perturbation technique,促进DP和smooth

4.1 Local Perturbation

 h_m 是一个linear embedding时,可以看作:

$$h_m(\theta_m; x_{n,m}) = x_{n,m}^{\top} \theta_m$$

 h_m 是一个 ${f nonlinear\ embedding}$ 时,例如 ${f neural\ networks}$,可以看作:

$$u_0 = x_{n,m} \tag{9a}$$

$$u_l = \sigma_l(w_l u_{l-1} + b_l), \quad l = 1, \dots, L$$
 (9b)

$$h_{n,m} = u_L \tag{9c}$$

perturbe 过程:

在每个layer,加入一个random neuron的output Z_l 来perturb local embedding function

$$u_l = \sigma_l(w_l u_{l-1} + b_l + Z_l), \quad l = 1, \dots, L$$
 (10)

perturbation distribution满足:

$$Z_L \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, c^2\right)$$
 (11a)

$$Z_l \sim \mathcal{U}[-\sqrt{3}c_l, \sqrt{3}c_l], \quad l = 1, \dots, L - 1$$
 (11b)

11a 是均值为0,方差为c 方的Gaussian distribution

11b 是uniform distribution

4.2 Enforcing smoothness

受到randomized smoothing启发,因此对random neuron的期望值,可以smooth objective function 通过适当的方式卷积,可以提高function的smoothness

通过增加random neuron Z_I, σ_l 将会被smoothed

通过进一步诱导,可以证明loss function 对local embedding vector h_m的平滑性

Theorem 5

$$L_{b_L}^h = L_{\sigma}^0 d/\epsilon$$

local model 的 smoothness constants满足:

$$L_{b_{l}}^{h} = L_{b_{l+1}}^{h} \|w_{l+1}\| (L_{\sigma}^{0})^{2} + |L_{\sigma}^{0}\| w_{L}\| \cdots L_{\sigma}^{0} \|w_{l+1}\| L_{\overline{\sigma}}(c_{l})$$

$$L_{w_{l}}^{h} = \mathbb{E}[\|u_{l-1}\|] L_{b_{l}}^{h}$$

$$L_{\theta_m}^{F_c} = L_{h_m}^{\ell} (L_{h_m}^0)^2 + L_{\ell}^0 \sum_{l=1}^{L} (L_{w_l}^h + L_{b_l}^h) + \underline{L_{\theta_m}^r}$$
 (13)

 $L^{F_c}_{ heta m}$ 是正则项的smoothness constant L^h_{bl} 和 $L_w l^h$ 是perturbed local embeddingh noothness constant

$$L_{\bar{\sigma}}(c_l) := 2\sqrt{d}L_{\sigma}^0/c_l$$

是均匀扰动下的第I层neuron的smoothness constant

对于local model来说, perturbed loss 是smooth, 大的扰动 (更大的c) 会导致更小的平滑常数

4.3. Enforcing differential privacy

将perturbed local embedding technique与private information exchange联系

a trade-off between privacy and accuracy

Gaussian differential privacy (GDP)

u-GDP: 两个neighboring 数据集 S和 S'满足:

$$T(\mathcal{M}(S), \mathcal{M}(S')) \ge T(\mathcal{N}(0, 1), \mathcal{N}(\mu, 1)) \tag{14}$$

u越小, privacy loss越少

Theorem 6

设置在第L层的Gaussian random neuron的variance为:

$$c = \mathcal{O}\left(N_m\sqrt{K}/(\mu N)\right) \tag{15}$$

VAFL对于client m满足 u-GDP

为了提高privacy,可以decrease u,增加 random neurons 的 variance

但是在增大 variance of random neurons的同时,stochastic gradient也是在增加,可能会导致收敛效果变差

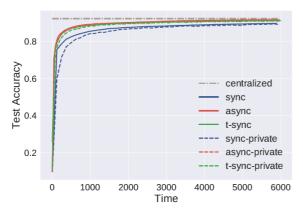
5. Numerical tests and remarks

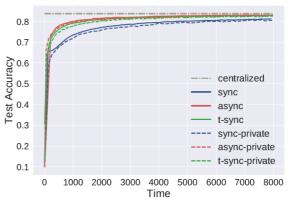
测试

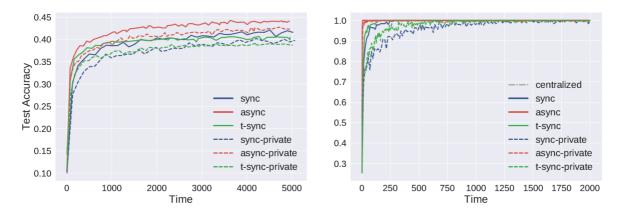
- (1) fully asynchronous version VAFL (async)
- (2) t-synchronous version VAFL (t-sync)
- (3) **private version** via perturbed local embedding technique

5.1 VAFL for federated logistic regression

在MNIST、Fashion-MNIST、CIFAR 10 以及 Parkinson disease datasets上进行logistic regression 下面的图片依次是在这四个数据集上的ACC







5.2 VAFL for federated deep learning

neural network是从MVCNN修改得到

client: 使用7-layer CNN作为local embedding function

server: 使用fully connected network来聚合local embedding vectors

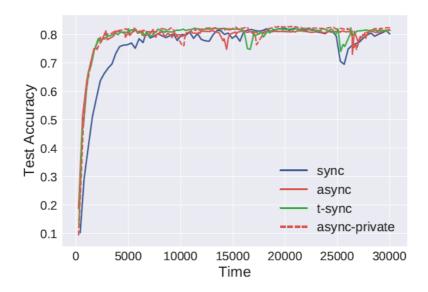


Figure 3. Testing accuracy of VAFL with nonlinear local embedding on *ModelNet40* dataset.

测试在MIMIC-III数据集上VAFL的准确性 (死亡率预测)

每个client使用LSTM作为embedding function

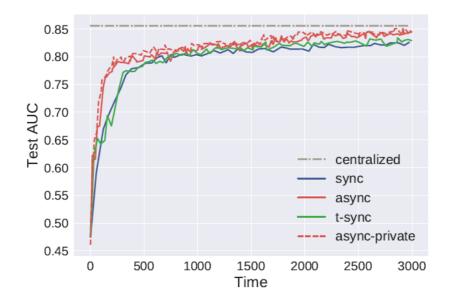


Figure 4. AUC curve of VAFL with local LSTM embedding on MIMIC-III clinical care dataset.