



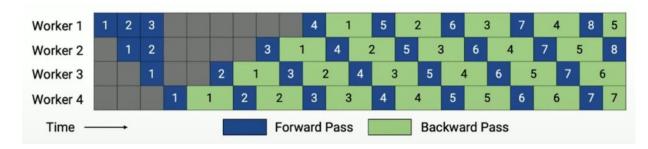
Overview of Distributed Training

Data Parallelism

data GPU 0 data GPU₁ data GPU 2

GPU 3

Pipeline Parallelism



A1

15

A2

Y1

258

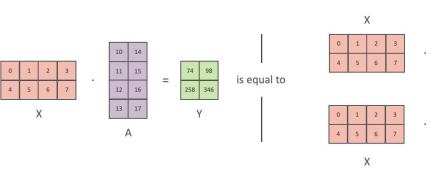
cat

346

Y1

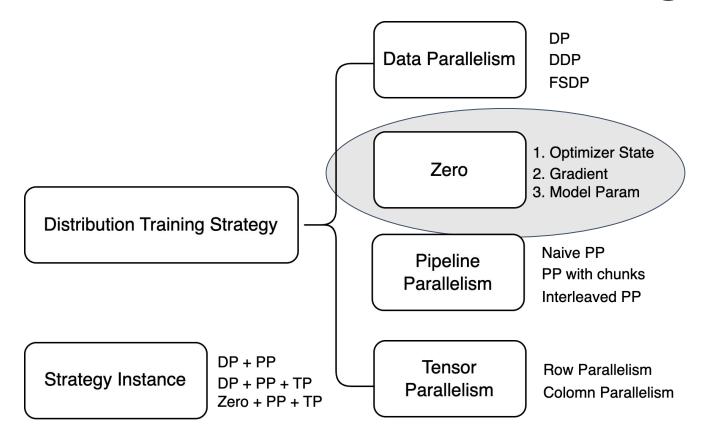
258 346

Tensor Parallelism



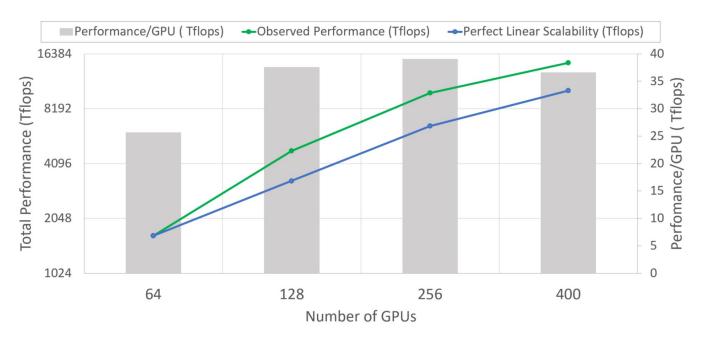


Overview of Distributed Training





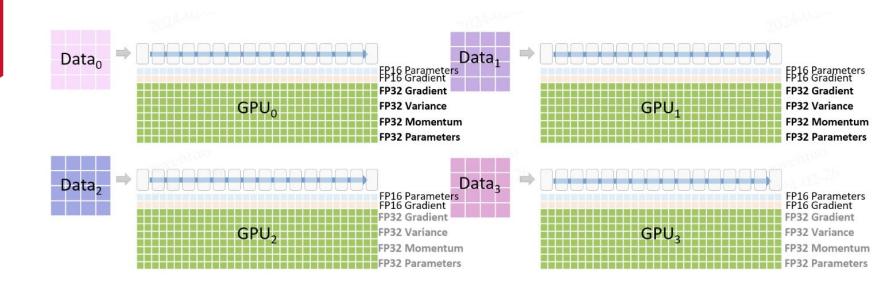
ZeRO Performance



- 1. Super linear scalability
- 2. At high complexity (400 GPUs), performance per GPU doesn't decrease much

source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1910.02054

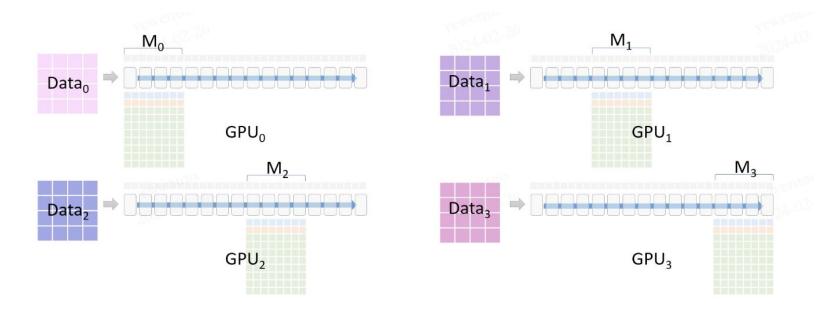




Example with 4 GPUs

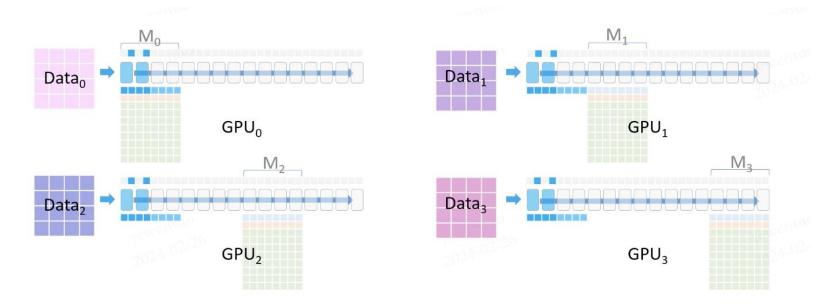
Model size is represented by the colored squares





Parameters, **Gradients** and **Optimizer State** split across GPUs Data is split across GPUs



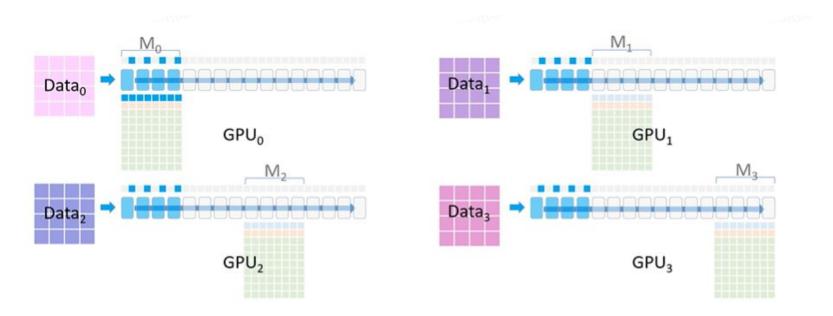


Params broadcasted from GPU 0

Each GPU calculates on its own Data

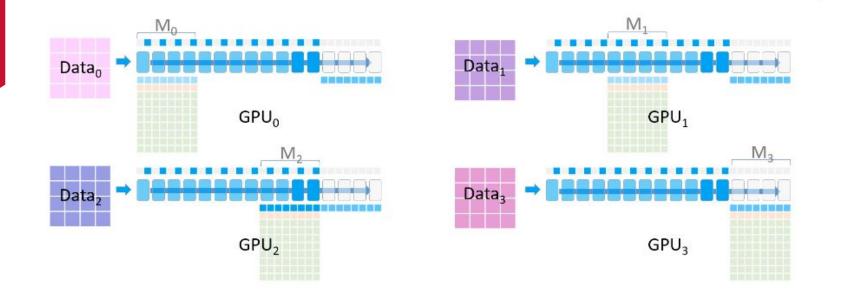
A subset of activations are saved for checkpointing





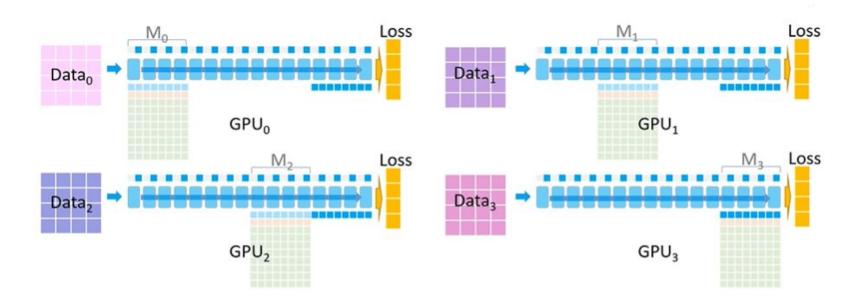
Once complete, other GPUs delete the parameters





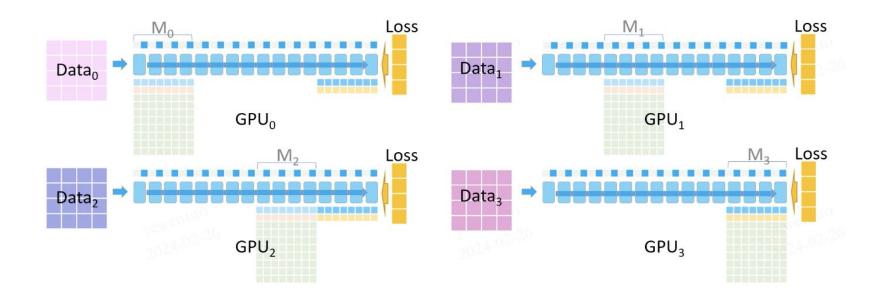
Continue until all GPUs are complete





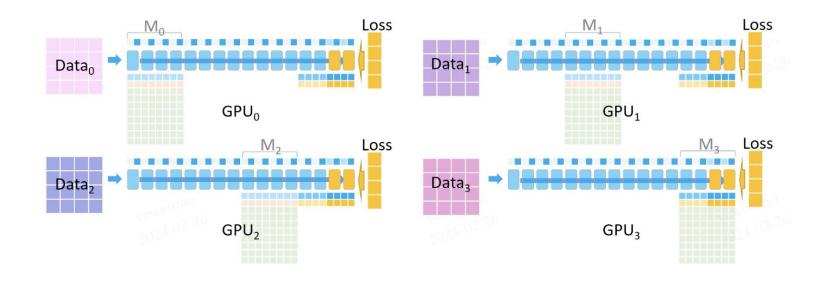
All GPUs calculate the loss





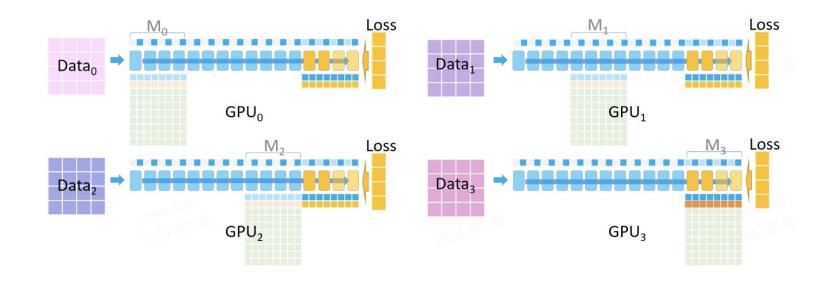
Start backward (Parameters of M3 reused)





Params + checkpointing activations -> recompute the activations

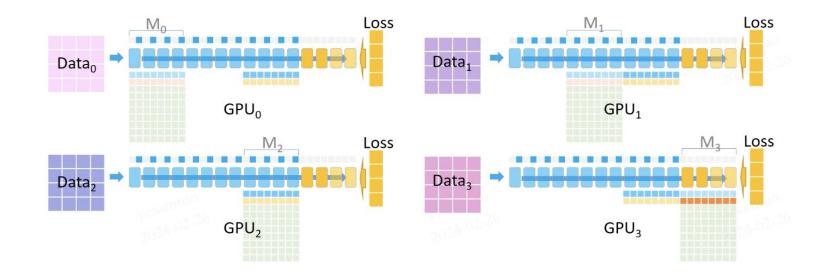




Gradients reduced to GPU3

Note: This communication is overlapped with calculation as well

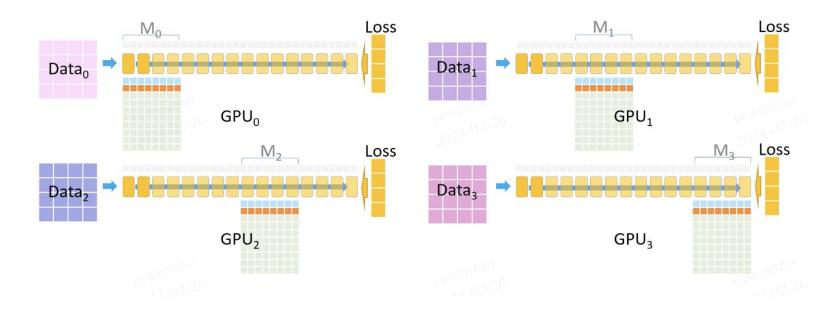




Backward pass to the next layer

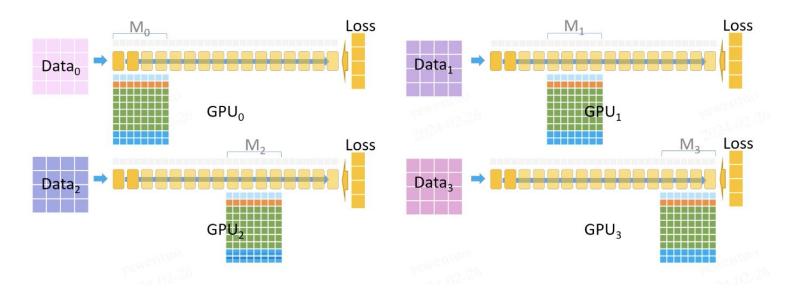
Note: This computation is overlapped with reduced communication





All gradients calculated





Using the gradients (fp16 casted to fp32) to update the params (fp32)

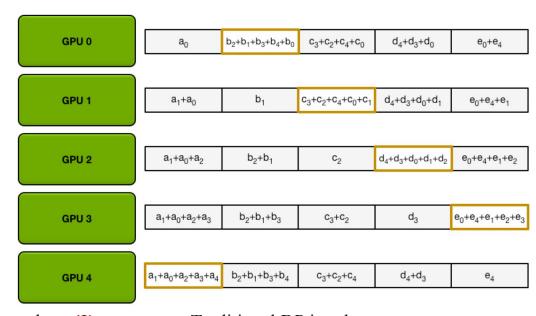




REDUCE-SCATTER

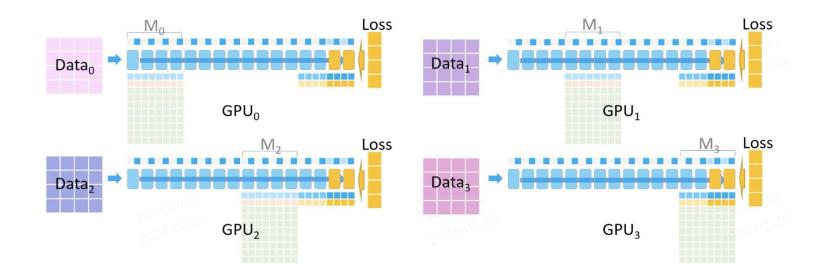
→ now each GPU has one finalized chunk, in which the complete sum is computed

Ring-Allreduce



Assume we have Ψ parameters, Traditional DP involves a all-reduce for gradients, $2 * (N-1) * \Psi / N \approx 2 \Psi$



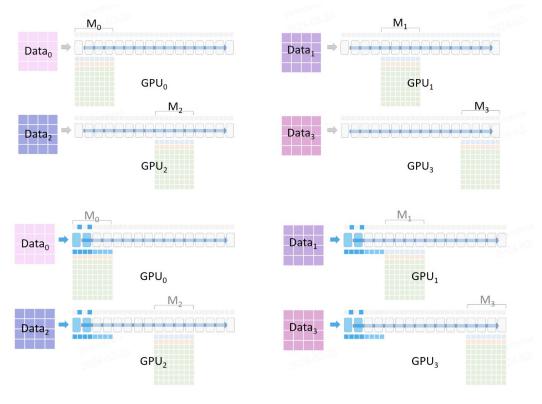


Assume we have Ψ parameters, N GPUs

Hint1: param broadcasted?

Hint2: gradients reduced?

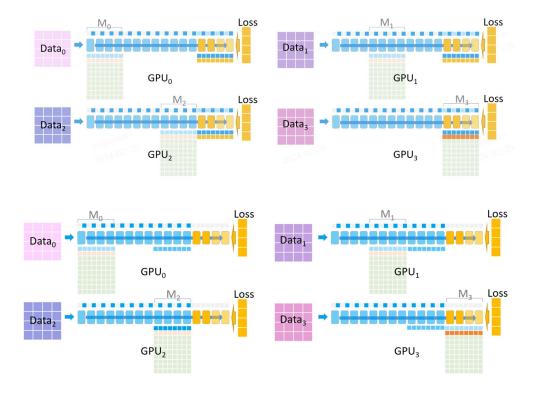




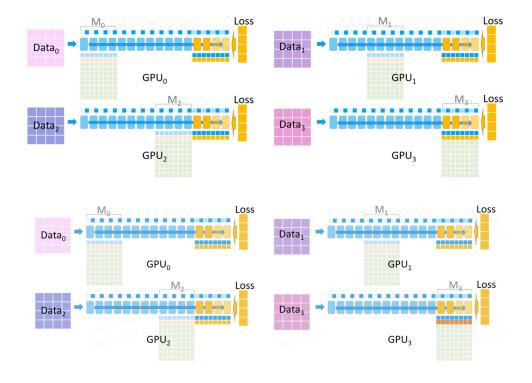
Assume we have Ψ parameters

1. Param broadcasted in forward: $\Psi/N * N = \Psi$











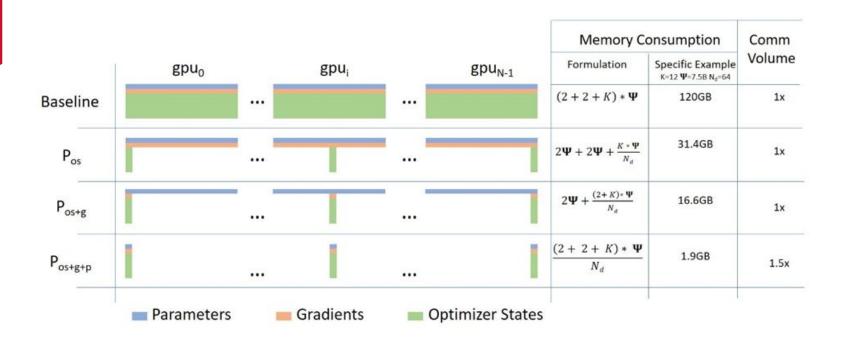
Assume we have Ψ parameters

- 1. Param broadcasted in forward: Ψ
- 2. Param broadcasted in backward: Ψ
- 3. Gradients reduced in backward: Ψ

So with stage3: Total volume: $3 * \Psi$



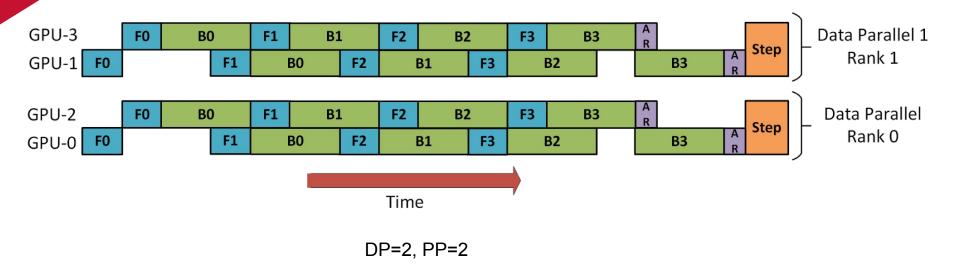
Zero Overview



source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1910.02054

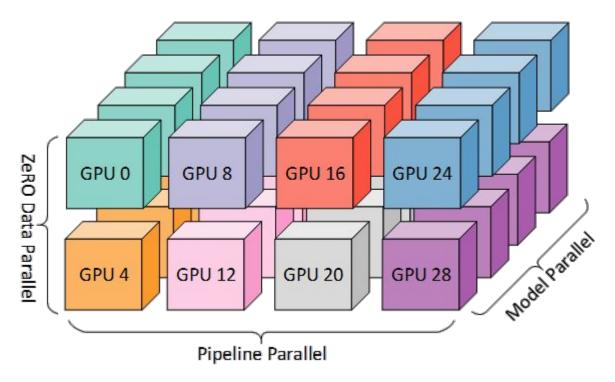


Combining All Together 2D Parallel





Combining All Together 3D Parallel



Example in industry: (MP) TP=16, PP = 8, Zero (stage1) DP= 8, 1024 NPUs to train LLama2 70B





Zero-R

1. Partitioned Activation Checkpointing

- The activation chunk is gathered only on-demand during backward pass.
- ZeRO-offload can move these partitioned activations to CPU memory.

2. CB: Constant-Size Buffers

- LLMs fuse tensors into a single massive buffer to improve all-reduce efficiency.
- ZeRO-R uses fixed-size buffer, splitting the work into chunks if necessary.

3. MD: Memory Defragmentation

ZeRO-R allocates contiguous memory regions for major tensors (long lived).



Zero-DP Performance

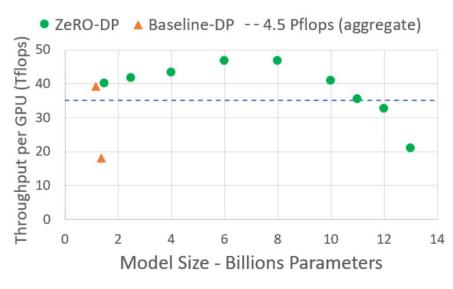


Figure 4: Max model throughput with ZeRO-DP.

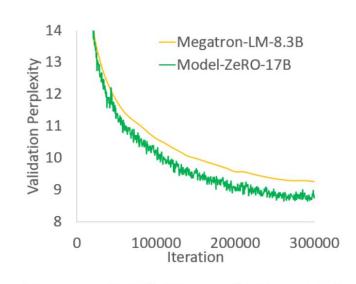


Figure 5: SOTA Turing-NLG enabled by ZeRO.

source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1910.02054



Zero-DP Performance



Figure 6: Max model size



Figure 7: Max cache allocated.

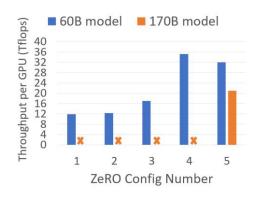


Figure 8: Throughput per GPU.

source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/1910.02054