

Convergence of a distributed asynchronous learning vector quantization algorithm.

ENS ULM, NOVEMBER 2010

Outline.

- 1 Introduction.
- 2 Vector quantization, convergence of the CLVQ.
- 3 General distributed asynchronous algorithm.
- 4 Distributed Asynchronous Learning Vector Quantization (DALVQ).
- 5 Bibliography

Distributed computing.

- **Distributed algorithms** arise in a wide range of applications: including telecommunications, scientific computing...
- **Parallelization**: most promising way to allow more computing resources. Building faster **serial computers**: increasingly expensive + strikes physical limits (transmission speed, miniaturization).
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Figure: Chicago data center for Microsoft Windows Azure (Paas).

Clustering algorithms.

- Outstanding role in **datamining**: scientific data exploration, information retrieval, marketing, text mining, computational biology...
- **Clustering**: division of data into **groups** of similar objects.
- Representing data by clusters: loses certain fine details but achieves **simplification**.
- Probabilistic POV: find a **simplified representation** of the underlying **distribution** of the data.

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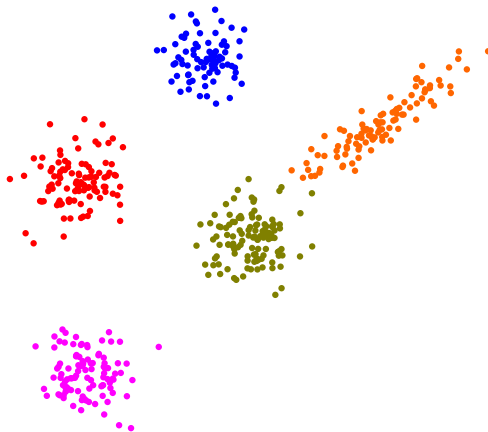


Figure: Division of data into similar (colored) groups: **clustering**.

Distortion.

- **Data** has a distribution μ : Borel probability measure on \mathbb{R}^d (with a second order moment).
- Model this distribution by κ vectors of \mathbb{R}^d : the number of **prototypes (centroids)**, $w \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa$.

Objective: minimization of the distortion C , find w° s.t.

$$w^\circ \in \underset{w \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa}{\operatorname{argmin}} C(w),$$

where, for a quantization scheme $w = (w_1, \dots, w_\kappa) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa$,

$$C(w) \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{G}} \min_{1 \leq \ell \leq \kappa} \|z - w_\ell\|^2 d\mu(z).$$

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μ is only known through n independent random variables $\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_n$.

Much attention has been devoted to the consistency of the quantization scheme provided by the empirical minimizers

$$\mathbf{w}_n^\circ = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{w} \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa} C_n(\mathbf{w})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C_n(\mathbf{w}) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{G}} \min_{1 \leq \ell \leq \kappa} \|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{w}_\ell\|^2 d\mu_n(\mathbf{z}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n \min_{1 \leq \ell \leq \kappa} \|\mathbf{z}_i - \mathbf{w}_\ell\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where

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$$C(\mathbf{w}_n^o) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{a.s.} \min_{\mathbf{w} \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa} C(\mathbf{w}).$$

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[4], Chou [5], Linder et al. [6], Bartlett et al [7], etc...

Inaba et al. [8] minimization of the empirical distortion is a computationally hard problem: complexity exponential in κ and d .

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Assumption on the distribution.

We will make the following assumption.

Assumption (Compact supported density)

μ has a bounded *density* (w.r.t. Lebesgue measure) whose support is the *compact convex* set \mathcal{G} .

This assumption is similar to the **peak power constraint** (see Chou [5] and Linder [9]).

Voronoi tessellations.

Notation:

- The set of all κ -tuples of \mathcal{G} is denoted \mathcal{G}^κ .
- $\mathcal{D}_*^\kappa = \{ \mathbf{w} \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa \mid \mathbf{w}_\ell \neq \mathbf{w}_k \text{ if and only if } \ell \neq k \}$.

$\forall \mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa,$

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Definition

Let $w \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa$, the **Voronoi tessellation** of \mathcal{G} related to w is the family of open sets $\{W_\ell(w)\}_{1 \leq \ell \leq \kappa}$ defined as follows:

- If $w \in \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa$, for all $1 \leq \ell \leq \kappa$,

$$W_\ell(w) = \left\{ v \in \mathcal{G} \mid \|w_\ell - v\| < \min_{k \neq \ell} \|w_k - v\| \right\}.$$

- If $w \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa \setminus \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa$, for all $1 \leq \ell \leq \kappa$,
 - if $\ell = \min \{k \mid w_k = w_\ell\}$,

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Voronoi tessellations 2D.

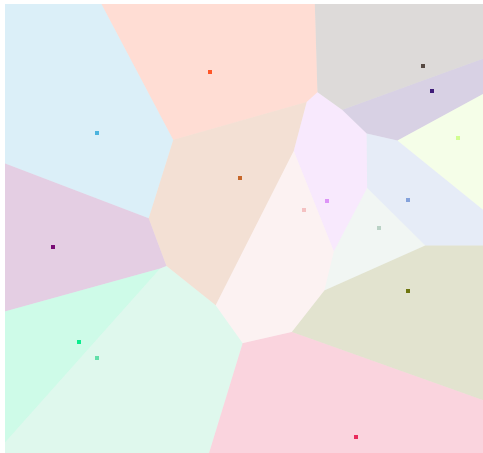


Figure: Voronoi tessellations of a vector of $(\mathbb{R}^2)^{15}$.

CLVQ

Competitive Learning Vector Quantization (CLVQ).

- Data arrive over time while the execution of the algorithm and their characteristics are unknown until their arrival times.
- On-line algorithm: uses **each item** of the training sequence at each update.

Data stream $\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \dots$

Initialization with κ -prototypes $w(0) = (w_1(0), \dots, w_\kappa(0))$.

For each $t = 0, \dots$

ℓ_0 s.t. $w_{\ell_0}(t)$ nearest prototype of \mathbf{z}_{t+1} among $(w_1(t), \dots, w_\kappa(t))$

$$w_{\ell_0}(t+1) = w_{\ell_0}(t) + \varepsilon_{t+1}(\mathbf{z}_{t+1} - w_{\ell_0}(t)),$$

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Video (short).

No movie available in this version.

Video (long).

No movie available in this version.

Regularity of the distortion.

Theorem (Pagès [1].)

C is continuously differentiable at every $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_\kappa) \in \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa$.

$\forall 1 \leq \ell \leq \kappa,$

$$\nabla_\ell C(\mathbf{w}) = \int_{w_\ell(\mathbf{w})} (w_\ell - \mathbf{z}) d\mu(\mathbf{z}).$$

Local observation of the gradient.

Definition

For any $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa$, define function H by its ℓ -th component,

$$H_\ell(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{w}_\ell & \text{if } \mathbf{z} \in W_\ell(\mathbf{w}) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

If random variable $\mathbf{z} \sim \mu$, the next equality holds for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa$,

$$\mathbb{E} \{H(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})\} = \nabla C(\mathbf{w}).$$

Thus, we extend the definition, for all $\mathbf{w} \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa$,

$$h(\mathbf{w}) \triangleq \mathbb{E} \{H(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})\}.$$

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Stochastic gradient optimization.

Minimize C : gradient descent procedure $w := w - \varepsilon \nabla C(w)$.

$\nabla C(w)$ is unknown, use $H(z, w)$ instead.

$$w(t+1) = w(t) - \varepsilon_{t+1} H(z_{t+1}, w(t)) \quad (\text{CLVQ}),$$

$w(0) \in \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{G}}^{\kappa} \cap \mathcal{D}_*^{\kappa}$ and z_1, z_2, \dots are independent observations distributed according to the probability measure μ .

Usual constraints on the decreasing speed of the sequence of steps

$$\{\varepsilon_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty} \in (0, 1),$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon_t = \infty.$$

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Troubles.

On the distortion:

- C is not a convex function.
- $\|C(\mathbf{w})\| \not\rightarrow \infty$ as $\|\mathbf{w}\| \rightarrow \infty$.

On its gradient:

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What can be expected?

$$w(t) \xrightarrow{a.s.} w^\circ = \underset{w \in \mathcal{G}^\kappa}{\operatorname{argmin}} C(w), \quad \text{almost surely (a.s.).}$$

Proposition (Pagès [1].)

$$\underset{w \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa}{\operatorname{argmin}} C(w) \subset \underset{w \in \mathcal{G}^\kappa}{\operatorname{argminloc}} C(w) \subset \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{G}}^\kappa \cap \{\nabla C = 0\} \cap \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa.$$

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Theorem (G-Lemma, Fort and Pagès [2].)

Assume that:

- 1 $\{\mathbf{w}(t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ and $\{h(\mathbf{w}(t))\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ are bounded with probability 1.
- 2 The series $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon_{t+1} (H(\mathbf{z}_{t+1}, \mathbf{w}(t)) - h(\mathbf{w}(t)))$ converge a.s. in $(\mathbb{R}^d)^{\kappa}$.
- 3 There exists a l.s.c. nonnegative function $G : (\mathbb{R}^d)^{\kappa} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ s.t.

$$\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon_{s+1} G(\mathbf{w}(s)) < \infty \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Then there exists a connected component Ξ of $\{G = 0\}$ s.t.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{dist}(\mathbf{w}(t), \Xi) = 0 \quad \text{a.s.}$$

A suitable G :

For every $w \in \mathcal{G}^K$,

$$\widehat{G}(w) \triangleq \liminf_{v \in \mathcal{G}^K \cap \mathcal{D}_*^K, v \rightarrow w} \|\nabla C(v)\|^2.$$

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Under assumption [Compact supported density], on the event

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Remarks:

- Asymptotically parted component.
- No satisfactory convergence result is provided without this assumption.
- However, some studies have been carried out by Pagès [1].

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- We introduce a model that brings together the CLVQ and the comprehensive theory of **asynchronous parallel linear algorithms** (Tsitsiklis [3]).
- Resulting model will be called **Distributed Asynchronous Learning Vector Quantization (DALVQ)**.
- **DALVQ** parallelizes several executions of **CLVQ** **concurrently** at different processors while the results of these latter algorithms are **broadcasted** through the distributed framework in **efficient way**.
- Our parallel **DALVQ** algorithm is able to process, for a given time span, **much more data** than a (single processor) execution of the CLVQ procedure.

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- Our parallel DALVQ algorithm is able to process, for a given time span, much more data than a (single processor) execution of the CLVQ procedure.

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Distributed framework.

- We dispose of a distributed architecture with M computing entities called **processors/workers**.
- Each processor is labeled by a natural number $i \in \{1, \dots, M\}$.
- Each processor i has a **buffer** (local memory) where the current **version** of the iteration is kept: $\{w^i(t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$, $(\mathbb{R}^d)^{\kappa}$ -valued sequence.

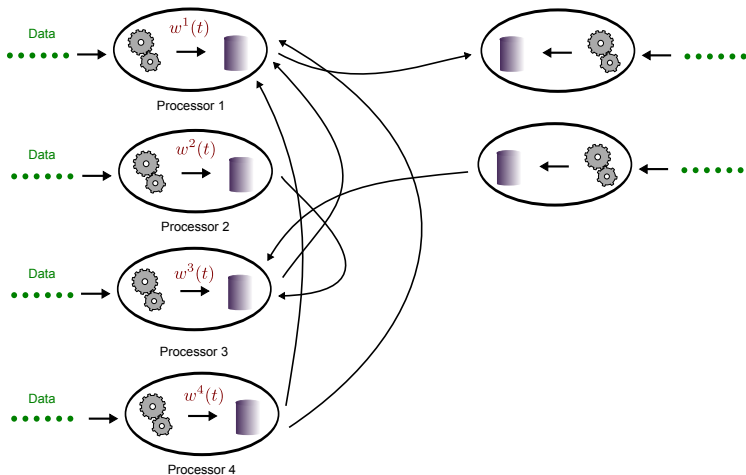
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Distributed framework.



Independent.

No movie available in this version.

A generic descent term:

$$w(t+1) = w(t) + \underbrace{-\varepsilon_t H(\mathbf{z}_{t+1}, w(t))}_{\triangleq s(t)}.$$

Parallelization.

Basic parallelization.

For all $1 \leq i \leq M$, where M is the number of processors.

$$w^i(t+1) = \sum_{j=1}^M a^{i,j}(t) w^j(t) + s^i(t).$$

Where the $\{a^{i,j}(t)\}_{j=1}^M$ are some weights (convex combination).

For many $t \geq 0$,

$$a^{i,j}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

For such values: local iterations

$$w^i(t+1) = w^i(t) + s^i(t)$$

Synchronization effects:

- **Synchronizations** required in this model.
- We should take into account **communication** delays and design an **asynchronous** algorithm.
- Local algorithms do not have to wait at preset points for some messages to become available.
- Processors compute **faster** and **execute more** iterations than others. Communication delays are allowed to be **substantial** and **unpredictable**.
- Messages can be delivered out of order (a different order than the one in which they were transmitted).

Advantages

- Reduction of the **synchronization penalty**: speed advantage over a synchronous execution.
- For a potential **industrialization**, asynchronism has a greater implementation flexibility.

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The Tsitsikils's asynchronous model.

General Distributed Asynchronous System (GDAS), Tsitsklis [3, 4]:

$$w^i(t+1) = \sum_{j=1}^M a^{i,j}(t) w^j(\tau^{i,j}(t)) + s^i(t).$$

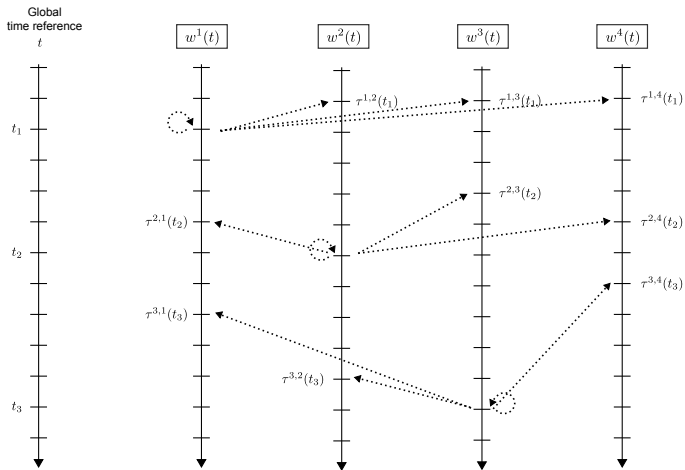
- $0 \leq \tau^{i,j}(t) \leq t$: deterministic (but unknown) time instant.
- $t - \tau^{i,j}(t)$: communication delays.
- $\tau^{i,i}(t) = t$.

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Model agreement.

Agreement algorithm.

$$x^i(t+1) = \sum_{j=1}^M a^{i,j}(t) x^j(\tau^{i,j}(t)),$$

$x^i(0) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^\kappa$, for all i .

Remark:

Similar to (GDAS) but with $s^j(t) = 0$ for all t, i .

Is there (or at least what are the conditions to ensure) an asymptotical consensus between the processors/workers?

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Assumptions 1.

Assumption (Bounded communication delays)

There exists a positive integer B_1 s.t.

$$t - B_1 < \tau^{i,j}(t) \leq t,$$

for all $(i, j) \in \{1, \dots, M\}^2$ and all $t \geq 0$.

Assumption (Convex combination and threshold)

There exists $\alpha > 0$ s.t. the following three properties hold:

- ① $a^{i,i}(t) \geq \alpha$, $i \in \{1, \dots, M\}$ and $t \geq 0$,
- ② $a^{i,j}(t) \in \{0\} \cup [\alpha, 1]$, $(i, j) \in \{1, \dots, M\}^2$ and $t \geq 0$,
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Assumption 2.

Definition (Communication graph)

Let us fix $t \geq 0$, the communication graph $(\mathcal{V}, E(t))$ is defined by

- the set of **vertices** \mathcal{V} is formed by the set of processors,
 $\mathcal{V} = \{1, \dots, M\}$,
- the set of **edges** $E(t)$ is defined via the relationship

$$(j, i) \in E(t) \text{ if and only if } a^{ij}(t) > 0.$$

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The graph $(\mathcal{V}, \cup_{s \geq t} E(s))$ is strongly connected for all $t \geq 0$.

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Assumption 3 and Assumption 4.

Assumption (Bounded communication intervals)

If i communicates with j an infinite number of times, then there is a positive integer B_2 such that, for all $t \geq 0$, $(i, j) \in E(t) \cup E(t+1) \cup \dots \cup E(t+B_2-1)$.

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There exists some $B_3 > 0$ such that, whenever $(i, j) \in E(t)$, there exists some τ that satisfies $|t - \tau| < B_3$ and $(j, i) \in E(\tau)$.

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Until the end of the presentation either $(AsY)_1$ or $(AsY)_2$ holds

$$(AsY)_1 \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Assumption [Bounded communication delays]} \\ \text{Assumption [Convex combination and threshold]} \\ \text{Assumption [Graph connectivity]} \\ \text{Assumption [Bounded communication intervals]} \end{array} \right.$$

$$(AsY)_2 \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Assumption [Bounded communication delays]} \\ \text{Assumption [Convex combination and threshold]} \\ \text{Assumption [Graph connectivity]} \\ \text{Assumption [Symmetry]} \end{array} \right.$$

Agreement theorem.

Agreement algorithm.

$$x^i(t+1) = \sum_{j=1}^M a^{ij}(t) x^j(\tau^{ij}(t)),$$

Theorem (Blondel et al. [5])

Under assumptions $(AsY)_1$ or $(AsY)_2$ there is a vector $c^* \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^{\kappa}$ (independent of i) s.t.,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x^i(t) - c^*\| = 0.$$

Even more, there exists $\rho \in [0, 1)$ and $L > 0$, s.t.,

$$\|x^i(t) - x^i(\tau)\| \leq L\rho^{t-\tau},$$

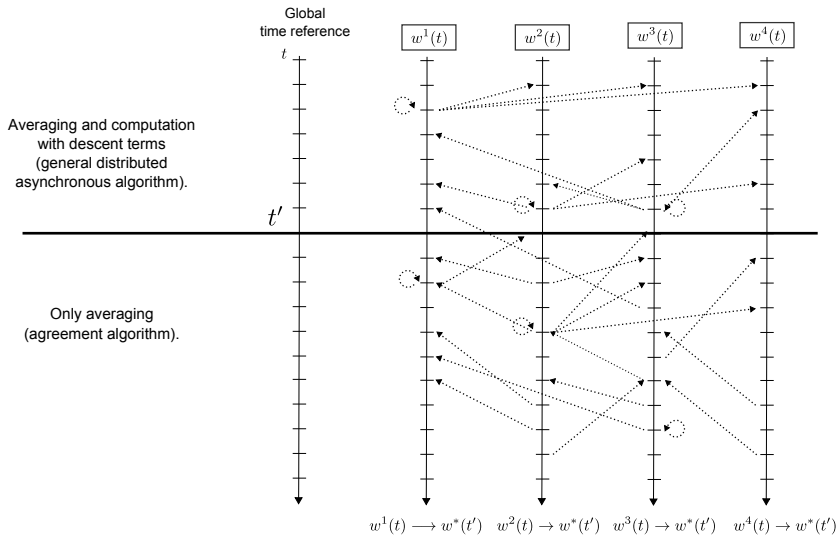
Agreement vector.

The previous theorem is useful for the study of (GDAS):

$$w^i(t+1) = \sum_{j=1}^M a^{i,j}(t) w^j(\tau^{i,j}(t)) + s^i(t).$$

For any $t' \geq 0$, if computations with descent terms **have stopped** after t' , i.e, $s^i(t) = 0$ for all $t \geq t'$ and all i .

$$w^i(t) \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} w^*(t') \quad \text{for all } i \in \{1, \dots, M\}.$$



Agreement vector sequence.

Agreement vector sequence: $\{w^*(t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$.

The true definition is more complex.

Remark:

The agreement vector w^* satisfies, for all $t \geq 0$,

$$w^*(t+1) = w^*(t) + \sum_{j=1}^M \phi^j(t) s^j(t), \quad (1)$$

$\phi^j(t) \in [0, 1]$.

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Distributed Asynchronous Learning Vector Quantization (DALVQ).

(GDAS) with the descent terms s^i ,

$$s^i(t) = \begin{cases} -\varepsilon_t^i H(\mathbf{z}_{t+1}^i, \mathbf{w}^i(t)) & \text{if } t \in T^i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Notation:

- T^i : set of time instant where the version $\{\mathbf{w}^i(t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ is updated with descent terms. T^i deterministic but do not need to be known a priori for the execution.
- $\{\mathbf{z}_t^i\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ iid sequences of r.v. of law μ .
- $\mathcal{F}_t \triangleq \sigma(\mathbf{z}_s^i, \text{ for all } s \leq t \text{ and } 1 \leq i \leq M)$.

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DALVQ.

(No movie here).

To be continued.

We assume that the sequences ε_t^i satisfy the following conditions:

Assumption (Decreasing steps)

There exist two constants K_1, K_2 s.t., for all i and all $t \geq 0$,

$$\frac{K_1}{t \vee 1} \leq \varepsilon_t^i \leq \frac{K_2}{t \vee 1}.$$

Assumption (Non idle)

$$\sum_{j=1}^M \mathbb{1}_{t \in T^j} > 0$$

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The recursion formula of **agreement vector** writes,

$$\mathbf{w}^*(t+1) = \mathbf{w}^*(t) + \sum_{j=1}^M \phi^j(t) \mathbf{s}^j(t).$$

Using the function h ,

$$h(\mathbf{w}^*(t)) = \mathbb{E} \{ H(\mathbf{z}_{t+1}, \mathbf{w}^*(t)) \mid \mathcal{F}_t \}$$

and

$$h(\mathbf{w}^j(t)) = \mathbb{E} \left\{ H(\mathbf{z}_{t+1}, \mathbf{w}^j(t)) \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right\}, \quad \text{for all } j.$$

Set,

$$\varepsilon_t^* \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbb{1}_{t \in \mathcal{T}^j} \phi^j(t) \varepsilon_t^j$$

and

$$\Delta M_t^1 \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbb{1}_{t \in \mathcal{T}^j} \phi^j(t) \varepsilon_t^j \left(h(w^*(t)) - h(w^j(t)) \right),$$

and,

$$\Delta M_t^2 \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbb{1}_{t \in \mathcal{T}^j} \phi^j(t) \varepsilon_t^j \left(h(w^j(t)) - H(z_{t+1}^j, w^j(t)) \right).$$

The recursion (1) writes,

$$w^*(t+1) = w^*(t) - \varepsilon_t^* h(w^*(t)) + \Delta M_t^1 + \Delta M_t^2.$$

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Theorem (Asynchronous G-Lemma)

Assume that one has,

- ① $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon_t^* = \infty$ and $\varepsilon_t^* \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} 0$.
- ② The sequences $\{\mathbf{w}^*(t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ and $\{h(\mathbf{w}^*(t))\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ are bounded with probability 1.
- ③ The series $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \Delta M_t^{(1)}$ and $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \Delta M_t^{(2)}$ converge a.s. in $(\mathbb{R}^d)^{\kappa}$.
- ④ There exists a l.s.c. map $G : (\mathbb{R}^d)^{\kappa} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, s.t.

$$\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \varepsilon_{t+1}^* G(\mathbf{w}^*(t)) < \infty, \quad \text{a.s..}$$

Then there exists a connected component Ξ of $\{G = 0\}$ s.t.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{dist}(\mathbf{w}^*(t), \Xi) = 0, \quad \text{a.s..}$$

$$\widehat{G}(w) \triangleq \liminf_{v \in \mathcal{G}^\kappa \cap \mathcal{D}_*^\kappa, v \rightarrow w} \|\nabla C(v)\|^2.$$

Assumption (Trajectories in \mathcal{G}^κ)

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ w^j(t) \in \mathcal{G}^\kappa \right\} = 1, \quad \forall j \forall t \geq 0.$$

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Lemma

Assume that Assumptions [Decreasing steps] and [Trajectories in \mathcal{G}^κ] are satisfied. Then, for all $t \geq 0$

$$\|w^*(t) - w^i(t)\| \leq \sqrt{\kappa} M \text{diam}(\mathcal{G}) A K_2 \theta_t, \quad \text{a.s.},$$

where $\theta_t \triangleq \sum_{\tau=-1}^{t-1} \frac{1}{\tau \vee 1} \rho^{t-\tau}$.

Remark

Under assumptions [Trajectories in \mathcal{G}^κ],

- 1 $w^*(t) - w^i(t) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$,
- 2 $w^j(t) - w^i(t) \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for $i \neq j$.

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The Asynchronous Theorem.

Assumption (Parted component assumption)

- 1 $\mathbb{P} \{ w^*(t) \in \mathcal{D}_*^k \} = 1, \text{ for all } t \geq 0.$
- 2 $\mathbb{P} \{ \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \text{dist} (w^*(t), \mathcal{C}\mathcal{D}_*^k) \} = 1.$

Theorem (Asynchronous Theorem)

If assumptions [Trajectories in \mathcal{G}^k], [Parted component assumption] hold then,

$$w^*(t) \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{\text{a.s.}} \Xi_\infty,$$

and,

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