ABSTRACT

Traditional one-bit compressed stochastic gradient descent can not be directly employed in multi-hop all-reduce, a widely adopted distributed training paradigm in network-intensive high-performance computing systems such as public clouds. According to our theoretical findings, due to the cascading compression, the training process has considerable deterioration on the convergence performance. To overcome this limitation, we implement a sign-bit compression-based learning synchronization framework, Marsit. It prevents cascading compression via an elaborate bit-wise operation for unbiased sign aggregation and its specific global compensation mechanism for mitigating compression deviation. The proposed framework retains the same theoretical convergence rate as non-compression mechanisms. Experimental results demonstrate that Marsit reduces up to 35% training time while preserving the same accuracy as training without compression.

KEYWORDS

Distributed Machine Learning, Multi-hop All-reduce, signSGD.

1 INTRODUCTION

In an era of data explosion, there is an increasing demand for various fields to launch AI-driven applications in image classification [1], natural language processing (NLP) [2], and so forth. Behind these applications are numerous models that have been fit in huge-size datasets such as ImageNet [3]. To minimize the development cost, cloud providers, e.g., Amazon AWS, offer various training paradigms to enable fast AI/ML solution deployment.

Nowadays, multi-hop all-reduce (MAR) training paradigm, including ring all-reduce (RAR) [4, 5] and 2D-torus all-reduce (TAR) [6], substitutes classical single-hop approaches such as parameter server (PS) and gossip, and becomes the most pervasive synchronization paradigm in high-performance computing (HPC) systems. For parallel stochastic gradient descent (PSGD) [7], MAR achieves a best test accuracy by setting the stepsize in {0.03, 0.01, 0.005}.

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Table 1: Training MNIST over AlexNet. The results show the best test accuracy by setting the stepsize in [0.03, 0.01, 0.005].

| M  | Accuracy (%) | Time (min) |
|----|--------------|------------|
| 0.13 | 99.1 ± 0.13  | 20.7       |
| 0.10 | 99.2 ± 0.07  | 10.6       |

Firstly, all GPUs involve in both the training and synchronization in MAR, while GPUs in PS architecture are categorized into two groups separately performing these two functionalities. Secondly, MAR prevents the network congestion at a single node because each client is not required to simultaneously process tremendous transmission requests. As a paradigm that workers are solely permitted to communicate with their neighbors, gossip has made great success in recent years [8, 9]. However, the performance of gossip in terms of convergence rate is much slower than MAR, especially under sparse connections such as ring topology [10].

In network-intensive HPC systems such as public clouds, it is challenging to transfer a non-compressed gradient among nodes due to overwhelming bandwidth consumption. With the increasing size of a deep learning model, e.g., 60.2M weights on ResNet-152 [11] and 100T on GPT-4 [12], the problem becomes severe because data transmission takes a significant amount of time. As a promising communication compression approach, signSGD [13–16] solely uses an element’s sign to represent itself, where the number of encoding bits for each real number is dramatically deducted, i.e., from single float precision (32 bits) to 1 bit.

Existing signSGD algorithms, albeit well-performed under PS, have limited performance under MAR, especially when the model is sufficiently large. Without a centralized coordinator to which each node independently sends its data, information asymmetry occurs when MAR leverages a sign matrix that includes all clients’ gradients through cascading compression. Each client inevitably performs decompression and then compression operation for transmission, accumulating errors. Although cascading compression can converge at the end for a small-scale environment, empirical studies in Table 1 manifest its poor performance in comparison with the non-compressed algorithms. Also, more workers achieve better performance in non-compressed PSGD, whereas leading to divergence in the cascading compression scheme.

To alleviate information asymmetry, we propose a framework for multi-hop all-reduce using sign-bit, named as Marsit. The core idea is to achieve unbiased sign aggregation by means of an elaborate bit-wise operation: The sign of an element remains unchanged if and only if it has the same sign in both vectors, while it follows a predefined probability distribution if it has different binary values.
Such an operation supports the reception and compression processes can take place in parallel. Furthermore, we introduce a global compensation mechanism to bridge the gap of compression error. The design is to equalize the clients’ contribution towards final gradient because data on the cloud can be shuffled and formed an identical distribution among workers. To get rid of excess error accumulation, we periodically operate a full-precision transmission.

Our contributions are summarized as follows:

- Based on the designed one-bit operator and the global compensation scheme, we implement Marsit to support one-bit transmission without cascading compression under MAR.
- We prove that the convergence rate for non-convex objectives is $O(1/\sqrt{TM})$ under RAR framework, where $T$ and $M$ represent the numbers of synchronizations and workers, respectively. The theoretical result indicates that our algorithm achieves a linear speedup simultaneously with respect to the number of workers. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work that addresses information asymmetry under MAR;
- We conduct an empirical study to illustrate the effect of our proposed algorithms on RAR and TAR. It is conducted with ResNet-50 on ImageNet for image recognition. It reduces the communication cost by around 90% as compared with non-compressed methods while preserving the same convergence performance.

2 RELATED WORKS

Quantization. At the cost of the gradient precision, quantization approaches reduce the number of encoding bits for each real number [17–19]. Although GradiVeQ [20] utilizes singular value decomposition to achieve linear quantization under RAR, the process requires considerable computation consumption such that the receiving period cannot cover the time length of compression.

signSGD. As a promising approach, signSGD represents the elements of a gradient using their signs, which reduces the communication overhead by $32\times$ at every iteration [21]. It has remarkable performance under PS, including 1-bit Adam [16], SSDM [14] and majority vote [13]. However, they are not suitable for MAR since their aggregation process cannot guarantee within one bit at each transmission.

Other communication compression approaches. There are various approaches to reduce communication overhead, such as sparsefication [22, 23] and low rank [24]. However, these approaches may not have well performance for MAR under some network topologies. For instance, PowerSGD [24] requires to transmit multiple sequential vectors at a synchronization, which undermines the training efficiency under RAR.

3 MOTIVATION

Objectives. Under an $M$-worker MAR, the objective is to minimize the cumulative expected loss, which can be formulated as

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} F(x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \mathbb{E}_{\xi_m} - \mathbb{D}_m \left[ f_m(x, \xi_m) \right],$$

(1)

where $\mathbb{D}_m$ is the local data distribution on worker $m$, $f_m(x, \xi_m)$ is the empirical loss given parameter $x$ and stochastic sample $\xi_m$ from $\mathbb{D}_m$, and $F_m(\cdot)$ is an objective function. Given that the entire training locates in the cloud, we assume that all the local datasets have an equal size. Since the objective function is randomly extracted over a given data distribution, it is a common practice that the bias does not exist between the expected loss and the empirical one.

3.1 Why Bit Length Expansion Occurs?

In a non-compressed algorithm, MAR naturally requires less communication overhead than PS when synchronizing a model among all nodes. For example, given a $D$-dimension neural network, RAR requires the consumption of $2 \times (M - 1) \times D$ weights, while PS needs that of $2 \times M \times D$. In Figure 1a, non-compressed approach under RAR costs less time than the one under PS.

An operation compatible to MAR should be linear, which allows workers directly aggregate without extra decomposition-compression process [24]. SSDM [14] is one of rare signSGD approaches that satisfy the requirement of linearity, where its aggregation is to sum up all the sign bit. With the operation, workers do not fit the transmission elements into one bit under MAR synchronization, but with an upper bound of $\log_2 M$. As shown in Figure 1a, such way spends longer time than its PS solution in transmission period due to the growing size of transmission packages. Therefore, the approach is not efficient under MAR settings and we are dedicated to implementing a compression framework that restricts the transmission size by only one bit.

3.2 Why Not Cascading Compression?

For a $D$-dimension vector $g$, SSDM [14] (denote by $\mathbb{Q}$) compresses an element $g_i (i \in \{0, \ldots, D - 1\})$ consistent with its sign following the probability of $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{|g_i|}{\|g\|_2}$, where $\| \cdot \|$ means $l_2$-norm. Apparently, it is an unbiased compression method. To ensure each transmission limited in one bit, a client performs the step-by-step sequence:

- Receive aggregated gradient segment(s), including corresponding $l_2$-norm(s) and sign vector(s), from the last worker(s);
- Recover the gradient segment(s) as $w$ for full precision;
- Aggregate local gradient $\sigma$ with decompressed segment(s);
- Compress the assembled segment into a precision-loss one, i.e., $\mathbb{Q}(w + \sigma)$;
- Send the compressed segment to the next worker(s).

The workflow, named as cascading compression, is able to broadcast and unify the updates among clients. Obviously, the expected result of cascading compression is equivalent to the sum of all gradients. However, cascading compression has two major shortcomings.

3.2.1 Overwhelming Time Consumption. In contrast to all-reduce operation, cascading compression inevitably requires additional decomposition-compression steps, which spends more time on
synchronization. In Figure 1a, although the approach has significant improvement in terms of communication, the decompression-compression period consumes a large amount of time, making it inefficient when comparing with the one under PS and under all-reduce operation.

3.2.2 Performance Deterioration. Notably, the second step cannot actually represent the real aggregation results. In this case, the error accumulates and spreads over the network, which deteriorates the training performance. Besides, it is not suitable to use the $\ell_2$-norm to achieve unbiased compression because its value is so large that the new compressed sign is more likely biased to the received one, even if the actual aggregation sign should be the opposite one. As demonstrated in Figure 1b, among the applicable settings, cascading compression has the lowest matching rate (i.e., around 56%) measured by the sign of non-compression aggregation value. Following remark compares the performance between cascading compression under RAR and centralized training under PS.

**Remark.** We assume that the $\ell_2$-norm of any gradients are bounded by a non-negative scalar $G$. Suppose SSDM [14] is achieved as unbiased estimator under centralized training and cascading compression, where the expected update value is equivalent to the update of non-compression algorithm. For training a deep neural network where the value of $D$ is quite large, the upper bound of gradient deviation, i.e., the Euclidean distance between the expected result and the actual update, for cascading compression explodes rapidly with $M$, while centralized training does not exist.²

4 MARSIT

In this section, we first provide a holistic insight for Marsit. Then, in Section 4.1 and Section 4.2, we present the technical details and the theoretical analysis, respectively.

Due to the lack of centralized server under MAR, all workers should maintain a global model locally, the parameters of which are always consistent with others. Figure 2 illustrates the pipeline of Marsit under RAR, a common paradigm for MAR using ring network topology. Each worker possesses a compensation vector and a gradient, and aggregates them into a standalone vector. Then, they partition the vector into several segments and exchanges them at the synchronization phase which consists of a reduce period (highlighted in green and marked as R) and a gather period (highlighted in blue and marked as G). In the reduce period, i.e., R1 and R2, a worker processes the received message with corresponding local segment and sends it to the next worker. Here we exemplify with R1 and depict the procedures in the gray box. The left part of the gray box presents how the message transfers among workers, while the right takes the message transferring from worker 3 to worker 1 (highlighted in azure) as an example and exhibits how to aggregate the received vector and the local vector. In the gather period, i.e., G1 and G2, a worker substitutes corresponding local segment with the received information and transmits it to the next worker. The relevant processes have been widely adopted in [4, 5]. After the synchronization phase, all clients reach to a consensus and holds the same gradient which is used to update the global model and the local compensation vector.

4.1 Implementation Details

Here we discuss the key operations with in-depth justifications. Generally, the workflow lies in two phases: one-bit synchronization in each round to reduce the communication cost, and full-precision synchronization executed every $K$ rounds to periodically eliminate the error accumulation. The full implementation is given in Algorithm 1 to demonstrate the workflow behind Marsit, and Algorithm 2 is to illustrate how we can apply Marsit to existing optimizers like stochastic gradient descent (SGD).

4.1.1 Global Model Synchronization (Line 4–8 in Algorithm 1). No matter which phase it is, Marsit synchronizes the gradients through MAR. Full-precision synchronization has been widely discussed in the previous studies [4–6, 25], which is equivalent to the aggregation result under PS, we mainly focus on the synchronization using sign bit only in this part.

As illustrated in Figure 2, both receiving vector $v_i$ and local compression $\hat{v}_i^*$ (Line 5 in Algorithm 1) run in parallel, which reduces a

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²The detailed proofs for the remark and Theorem 1 in this paper is available on arXiv (http://arxiv.org/abs/2204.06787)
Algorithm 1: Marsit (worker $m$)

Require: Synchronization index $t$, number of communication rounds for full-precision synchronization $K$, gradient $g_t^{(m)}$, compensation vector $c_t^{(m)}$, global stepsize $\eta_t$.

1. Calculate the update by $g_t^{(m)} \leftarrow g_t^{(m)} + c_t^{(m)}$;
2. Split $g_t^{(m)}$ into $M$ parts, and denote by $g_t^{(m)}$, $\forall i \in \{0, \ldots, M-1\}$;
3. if $\text{mod}(t, K) \neq 0$ then
   for $i \leftarrow 0$ to $M - 1$ do
      Receive the sign vector $v_i$ in parallel with
      • Calculate the sign vector by $v_i^* \leftarrow \text{sgn} \left( g_t^{(m)} \right)$;
      • Update the transmission sign vector via $v_t \leftarrow v_t \odot v_i^*$;
      Send $v_t$ to the next worker;
   end
4. Aggregate the global update via $g_t \leftarrow \eta \left( \frac{1}{M-1} v_t \right)$;
5. Update compensation vector via $c_t^{(m)} \leftarrow g_t^{(m)} - g_t$;
else
6. Aggregate the global update via $g_t \leftarrow \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} g_t^{(m)}$;
7. Update compensation vector via $c_{t+1} \leftarrow 0$;
end

Return: The global update $g_t$, compensation vector $c_{t+1}^{(m)}$

great amount of time in comparison with the cascading compression. Since both $v_i$ and $v_j$ are a sign-bit vector, a problem raises on how to aggregate both vectors without additional compression-decompression processes. Therefore, we define a novel bit-wise operator $\odot$ to ensure these two vectors compatible with each other. In this update process, if an index on both vectors is the same, then the transmission vector at this points remains unchanged. However, considering element inconsistency between $v_i$ and $v_j$, we use a transient vector, $v$, which predetermines the transmitted binary value when confronted with inconsistent elements. It follows a Bernoulli distribution: Let $b_j$ be the probability for the element $j$ of vector $v^*$ (denote by $v_j^*$) at worker $m$ that marks as 1 in vector $v$:

$$ b_j = \begin{cases} (m-1)/m & v_j^* = 0 \text{ Bernoulli} \\ 1/m & v_j^* = 1 \implies v_j = 1 \text{ pr } b_j \\ 0 & \text{ Otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2) $$

Note that the process can take place in parallel with the receiving stage but after the calculation of $v^*$. With the transient vector $v$, the updated operator $\odot$ between $v_i$ and $v_j$ should be expressed as $v_t \odot v_j^* = (v_t \text{ AND } v_j^*)$ OR ($v_t \text{ XOR } v_j^* \text{ AND } v_j$). By mathematical expectation, the expected value of the sign bit is equivalent to the average of the sign bits among all clients.

4.1.2 Global Model Update (Line 9 and Line 12 in Algorithm 1).

The value $g_t$ depends on whether the synchronization is under full precision. If the transmission is sign-bit only, Line 9 returns $g_t$ that comes from a vector of signs multiplying a global learning rate. As for full-precision synchronization in Line 11, extra learning rate is not necessary since $g_t^{(m)}$ has included the local stepsize. The purpose for this update is to eliminate the accumulated error and accelerate the training process. In Figure 3, we demonstrate there exists a trade-off between the final accuracy and the additional communication costs due to full precision synchronizations, by choosing different system parameter $K$.

Algorithm 2: Marsit-driven SGD (worker $m$)

Input: Initial point $x_0$, local stepsize $\eta_t$, global stepsize $\eta_g$, number of communication rounds for full-precision synchronization $K$, number of global synchronizations $T$.

1. Initialize local compensation gradient $c_0^{(m)} \leftarrow 0$;
2. for $t \leftarrow 0$ to $T - 1$ do
   Randomly sample $x_k$ from local data $D_m$;
   Compute local stochastic gradient $g_t^{(m)} \leftarrow \nabla f_m(\tilde{x}_t; x_k^{(m)})$;
   $g_t, c_{t+1} \leftarrow \text{Marsit}(t, K, \eta_t g_t^{(m)}, c_t^{(m)}, x_t^{(m)})$;
   Update the parameters through $\tilde{x}_{t+1} \leftarrow \tilde{x}_t - g_t$;
end
Output: The final model $\tilde{x}_T$

Figure 3: Training CIFAR-10 over AlexNet by evaluating various values of $K$. (a) indicates the relation between epoch and accuracy; and (b) depicts the convergence result. $K = \infty$ means $K$ is greater than the maximum communication rounds, i.e., 400 in this case.

4.1.3 Global Compensation Mechanism (Line 10 and Line 13 in Algorithm 1). At the beginning of the model training, we initialize the local compensation gradient with a zero vector (Line 1 in Algorithm 2) by default. All clients have the consensus on how to update the global model, i.e., $g_t$ at Line 9 in Algorithm 1, which is a vector containing binary value only to indicate the sign of each element. Unlike traditional compensation approaches under single-hop synchronization, a client in Marsit cannot obtain how much it contributes to the aggregation under multi-hop synchronization. Based on the independent and identical data distribution on cloud training, every client compresses and obtains the same gradient in expectation. Thus, we apply an identical local compensation amount for each client, which then combines into the global compensation. Considering the accumulated error could be quite large, we periodically reset the error by means of full-precision synchronization, where the compensation vector can be set to 0. As we can see in Figure 3, although greater $K$ costs less time to reach the stable point, they have smaller convergence accuracy. Also, greater $K$ may not always speed up the convergence progress, for instance, when $K$ changes from 100 to 200, more time is required to realize the convergence feature.

4.2 Theoretical Guarantees

To theoretically analyze the convergence results for Marsit, we have the following assumption for Problem (1), which are ubiquitously applied to [14, 21, 23].

Assumption 1. Problem (1) satisfies the following constraints:

\begin{itemize}
    \item \textbf{Assumption 1.} Problem (1) satisfies the following constraints:
\end{itemize}
We evaluate our proposed framework on scenarios that meet the requirement of current industrial needs and cover the most representative model training instances on the public clouds. In this section, the problem we explore mainly lies in these two categories: (i) whether there exists a significant accuracy drop in comparison with non-compression methods; (ii) how fast a model achieves convergence in comparison with existing compression approaches under MAR.

Datasets, models and tasks. Our experiments consist of three datasets: CIFAR-10 [26], ImageNet [3] and IMDb reviews [27]. The first two datasets are frequently used for image classification and consist of 60K 32x32 and 14M 224×224 colored images, respectively. The last one is for sentiment analysis with 50K movie reviews. The models vary among the datasets: AlexNet [28] and ResNet-20 [11] for CIFAR-10, ResNet-18 and ResNet-50 for ImageNet, and DistilBERT [29] for IMDb reviews.

Implementation. The experiments are conducted on Huawei Cloud, where we deploy a cluster with 32 nodes and each node carries 2 Nvidia T4 GPUs. The underlying training framework is supported by Pytorch distributed computing package. We implement Marsit on RAR [4, 5], a classical MAR implementation over ring network topology, and 2D-torus all-reduce (TAR), a state-of-the-art MAR scheme over 2D-torus network topology. Marsit can be easily extended to other all-reduce paradigms including segmented-ring all-reduce [25] and tree all-reduce [24].

Baselines. We implement multiple baselines to evaluate the performance of Marsit. PSGD [7] is implemented under MAR with full precision, i.e., 32 bits. For EF-signSGD [30], signSGD with majority vote [21] and SSDM [14], we extend them to MAR by dynamically changing the bit length. We also utilize Elias coding [31] to compact the transmission message among nodes.

Optimizers and hyper-parameters. To reduce the frequency of the communications among nodes, clients perform multiple local updates between two successive synchronizations. The optimizer for image classification task is Momentum, and Adam for sentiment analysis. Marsit-100 refers to the setting where local gradients operate full-precision synchronization every 100 communication rounds (i.e., \( K = 100 \)), while Marsit does not have full-precision synchronization. For ImageNet and CIFAR-10, the initial learning rate is set to 0.1 and 0.03, respectively, and decays by a factor of 10 every full-precision synchronization. For DistilBERT, we use a constant learning rate of 5e-5.

### 5 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We evaluate our proposed framework on scenarios that meet the requirement of current industrial needs and cover the most representative model training instances on the public clouds. In this section, the problem we explore mainly lies in these two categories: (i) whether there exists a significant accuracy drop in comparison with non-compression methods; (ii) how fast a model achieves convergence in comparison with existing compression approaches under MAR.

### 6 NUMERICAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Performance Analysis. Table 2 summarizes Top-1 accuracy of all test datasets. Compared to PSGD, the state-of-the-art compression approaches suffer from a noticeable accuracy drop in both image classification and sentiment analysis tasks. For instance, signSGD has up to 5% decreasing. Moreover, in most cases, Marsit-100 and/or Marsit outperforms the existing approaches and achieves nearly the same final accuracy as PSGD. In CIFAR-10 training, Marsit with periodic full-precision synchronization (e.g., Marsit-100) has better performance than the one without full-precision synchronization, while they do not have distinct differences in both ImageNet and IMDb review datasets.

Figure 4a shows time-to-accuracy performance for ResNet-50 on ImageNet. Among these six approaches, non-compression approach, i.e., PSGD, takes a large amount of time, while Marsit achieves large speedups (1.5x) to reach a similar accuracy.

Communication Efficiency. Marsit has a significant reduction in communication cost compared to the other five baselines. From Figure 4b, our algorithm requires 90% less communication budget, when compared to PSGD, and reduces communication cost by 70%, when compared to the existing signSGD approaches. In the mean time, with a smaller communication budget, our algorithm still preserves the same convergence rate as other baselines.

In Figure 4b, given the same amount of communication overhead, Marsit and Marsit-100 always have higher accuracy than other baselines. Specifically, when Marsit and Marsit-100 reach convergence, other signSGD methods only attain accuracy around 50%.

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Table 2: Accuracy of existing works on different models training for different datasets.

| Model      | Dataset    | # parameters | Batch size | Top-1 Accuracy (%) | PSGD | signSGD | EF-signSGD | SSDM | Marsit-100 | Marsit |
|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|------|---------|------------|------|------------|--------|
| AlexNet    | CIFAR-10   | 23M          | 8192       | 82.38              | 80.74| 82.25   | 81.89      | 82.30| 81.58      |
| ResNet-20  | CIFAR-10   | 0.27M        | 8192       | 93.42              | 88.92| 91.85   | 89.18      | 92.18| 90.15      |
| ResNet-18  | ImageNet   | 11M          | 6144       | 69.18              | 67.17| 68.14   | 68.10      | 68.96| 68.40      |
| ResNet-50  | ImageNet   | 25M          | 6144       | 74.87              | 72.74| 73.89   | 73.35      | 74.35| 74.10      |
| DistilBERT | IMDb review| 8.5B         | 512        | 92.16              | 89.12| 90.57   | 91.41      | 90.13| 90.26      |

(1) **Smoothness**: All function \( F_m(\cdot) \)'s are continuous differentiable and their gradient functions are \( L \)-Lipschitz continuous with \( L > 0 \).

(2) **Bounded variance**: For any worker \( m \) and vector \( x \in \mathbb{R}^d \), there exists a scalar \( \sigma \geq 0 \) such that \( \| \nabla F_m(x, t) - \nabla F_m(x, s) \|_2^2 \leq \sigma^2 \).

Based on the preceding assumptions, the following theorem holds:

**Theorem 1.** Under Assumption 1, by setting local learning rate \( \eta_l = \sqrt{M/T} \) and the global learning rate \( \eta_g = \sqrt{1/TD} \), the upper bound for Algorithm 2 using RAR-based should be:

\[
\min_{t \in [0, \ldots, T-1]} \frac{1}{\sqrt{MT}} \| \nabla F(X_t) \|_2^2 \leq O \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{MT}} + O \left( \frac{K(K+1)}{T} \right) \right)
\]

where we treat \( F_t = F(X_t) \), \( L \) and \( \sigma \) as constants.

**Remark.** Given that the value of \( K \) is much smaller than the value of \( T \), our approach can achieve a convergence rate of \( O(1/\sqrt{MT}) \), which achieves linear speedup with the number of the workers. In other words, the more GPUs participate in the model training, the faster Marsit reaches a stable point.
(b) TAR
Figure 5: Experiments on training AlexNet for CIFAR-10 under TAR and RAR

Performance under Various MAR settings. Figure 5 presents the results of Marsit and its baselines under TAR and RAR. For each method, we measure its average training time in each communication round and split the time into three phases, namely, computation (grey), compression (red) and communication (blue). We notice that Marsit introduces minor compression overheads to prepare for the real-time aggregation. Among these six approaches, it is clear that Marsit and/or Marsit-100 spends the least time in communication compared with other baselines. For TAR paradigm, each baseline takes less time to communicate. For RAR paradigm, the communication time dominates the computation time and Marsit requires less training time between two successive synchronizations.

7 CONCLUSION
This paper proposes a synchronization framework, Marsit, that achieves one-bit transmission under multi-hop all-reduce. In this framework, we design a bit-wise operation to support the receiving and the compression undertake simultaneously. Besides, we introduce a global compensation mechanism to mitigate the compression deviation. Based on the structure, we offer a theoretical guarantee that it achieves the same convergence rate as the non-compression approach using the optimizer of SGD. Empirical studies present that our proposed approach can achieve a similar test accuracy to the non-compression version while using less training time by 35%.

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