

Lecture 05: DNN Quantization

Recap

- Why pruning?
 - Running cost of CNNs and Transformers
- Sparse matrix encoding
- General pruning techniques
- Transformer pruning
- Large model pruning



Topics

- Basic Data Formats
 - \circ Fixed point (INT)
 - Floating point (FP)
 - Block floating point (BFP)
- Quantization methods
 - Taxonomy of Quantization
 - Learnable adaptive quantization scheme
 - Quantization for LLM



Topics

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Fixed-Point Arithmetic (INT)



- Hyperparameter associated with the fixed-point format:
 - Clipping range (-L, L): usually symmetrical around 0
 - Bitwidth (b)
- Quantization with Fixed-point format is called **Fixed point quantization** or **INT quantization**.



Fixed-Point Format (Symmetrical)

- How to convert a number x to INT representation?
 - Set the clipping range: (-L, L), bitwidth: b
 - Compute the scale: $s = 2L/(2^b 2)$
 - Clip the input x: $x_c = Clip(x, L, -L)$
 - Calculate the INT representation: $x_{int} = round(x_c/s)$

• Rescale:
$$x_q = sx_{int}$$

- Have a uniform representation power within the clipping range.
- All the computations can be performed using x_{int}



Example

- X = [1.1, 2.4, -0.3, 0.8], bitwidth = 3, L = 2
- How to convert a number x to INT representation?
 - Set the clipping range: (-L, L), bitwidth: b b=3, L=2
 - Compute the scale: $s = 2L/(2^b 2)$ s = 4/6 = 2/3
 - Clip the input x: $x_c = Clip(x, L, -L)$ Xc = [1.1, 2, -0.3, 0.8]
 - Calculate the INT representation: $x_{int} = round(x_c/s)$ Xint = [2, 3, 0, 1]
 - Rescale: $x_q = sx_{int}$ Xq = [1.33, 2.0, 0.0, 0.67]



Computation with Fixed-Point Format

- Addition/Subtraction: $x_q \pm y_q = s(x_{int} \pm y_{int})$
- Multiplication: $x_q imes y_q = s^2(x_{int} imes y_{int})$
- Division: $x_q/y_q = x_{int}/y_{int}$





If the scales are the same



Computation with Fixed-Point Format

• If we try to compute the matrix multiplication between X and Y:



All elements within the tensors are quantized using the same scale

$$x_{q,1} imes y_{q,1}+x_{q,2} imes y_{q,2}=s_xs_y(x_{int,1} imes y_{int,1}+x_{int,2} imes y_{int,2})$$



INT Quantization with Low Precision



• Binary and Ternary neural networks are both multiplication-free DNN.



Fixed Point Format (Unsymmetrical)

- How to convert a number to INT8 representation?
 - Set the clipping range: (-L, L), bitwidth: b
 - Compute the scale: $s = (L_{max} L_{min})/(2^b 1)$
 - Clip the input x: $x_c = Clip(x, L_{min}, L_{max})$
 - Calculate the fixed-point representation:

$$x_{int} = round((x_c - L_{min})/s)$$

$$\circ$$
 Rescale: $x_q = s x_{int} + L_{min}$



Example

- X = [1.1, 2.4, -0.3, 0.8], bitwidth = 3, L = 2
- How to convert a number to INT8 representation?
 - Set the clipping range: (-L, L), bitwidth: b b=3, Lmax=2, Lmin=-0.5
 - Compute the scale: $s = (L_{max} L_{min})/(2^b 1)$ s = 0.357
 - Clip the input x: $x_c = Clip(x, L_{min}, L_{max})$ Xc = [1.1, 2, -0.3, 0.8]
 - Calculate the fixed-point representation: $x_{int} = round((x_c - L_{min})/s)$ Xint = [4,7,1,4]
 - Rescale: $x_q = sx_{int} + L_{min}$ Xq = [0.93, 2.0, -0.14, 0.93]



Computation with Fixed-Point Format

- Addition/Subtraction: hard to implement
- Multiplication (needs additional computation):

 $x_q imes y_q = s_x s_y (x_{int} imes y_{int}) + L_{min,x} y_q s_y + L_{min,y} x_q s_x + L_{min,x} L_{min,y}$

• Division: hard to implement



Floating-Point Arithmetic



Sign field Exponent (e) Mantissa (m)

- The floating-point number has three fields:
 - Sign (s)
 - Exponent (e)
 - Mantissa (m)



Floating-Point Arithmetic



• Every real number can be converted in the following format:

 $x = (-1)^s \times 2^{e-bias} \times m$ where $1 \le m < 2$ There typically exists a predefined $m = (1.b_0b_1b_2...b_{22})_2$ bias: bias = 127 for IEEE 754 FP32.

- For example:
 - $5.5 = (-1)^0 \times 2^{129 127} \times (1.011)_2$ s = 0, e = 129, m = 011
 - $\circ -71 = (-1)^1 \times 2^{133 127} \times (1.000111)_2$

$$\circ \quad 0.34375 = (-1)^1 \times 2^{125 - 127} \times (1.011)_2$$

Floating-Point Arithmetic



• IEEE-754 standard:

$$x = (-1)^s \times 2^{e-bias} \times m$$
 where $1 \le m < 2$
 $m = (1.b_0b_1b_2...b_{22})_2$

- The exponent field is unsigned.
- We need some special representation:
 - A bit stream of all zeros represents 0



Floating Point Arithmetic



- Have better representation power for values with small magnitudes.
- How to convert a real number x to FP representation?

$$egin{array}{ccc} {f x}=|{f x}| & {f s}={f sign}({f x})\ a=\lfloor log_2x
floor & e=a+bias & m=rac{x}{2^a}-1 \end{array}$$



Example

x = -13.24, bias=127 x = |x| s = sign(x) $a = \lfloor log_2 x \rfloor$ e = a + bias $m = \frac{x}{2^a} - 1$ a = 3, e = 130, m = 0.655 s = (0)₂, e = (10000010)₂, m = (0.101001111010111000010000)₂



Computation with FP Representation

- Addition/Subtraction:
 - Need to align the exponent 011010 + 001111 = 011010 + 011001 = 011011 $s_1e_1 m_1 s_2e_2 m_2$ Alignment
- Multiplication/Subtraction:
 - Sum the exponent, multiply the mantissa

 $\begin{array}{ccc} 011010 \ \ \textbf{x} \ 001111 \\ \ \ \textbf{y} \ \ \textbf{x} \ 1.m_2 \\ \textbf{x} 1e_1 \ \ \textbf{m} \ \ \textbf{x} \ 1.m_2 \end{array} \qquad e = e_1 + e_2 \\ m = 1.m_1 \ \ \textbf{x} \ 1.m_2 \end{array}$

• Addition and subtraction is expensive for FP.



Customized FP Representation



 Numerous customized FP representations have been developed to facilitate DNN execution.



Block Floating Point (BFP)



• BFP formats offer a middle ground between FP and INT formats, by enforcing that a group of values share a common exponent while maintaining individual mantissas.



Block-Floating Arithmetics (BFP)



- Inner-group operations are performed using fixed-point arithmetic.
- Cross-group operations are performed using floating-point arithmetic.
- Each group exponent also includes a bias, which is shared across all the groups.

$$x = (-1)^s \times 2^{e-bias} \times m$$
 where $1 \le m < 2$
m = (b_0.b_1b_2b_3...b_{22})_2



Example





Logarithm Arithmetics

- Only quantize the floating-point number to the nearest power-of-two values.
- Hardware multiplication is cheaper for power-of-two values.



• A total of 8 numbers, 3 bits are needed to encode the bits.



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Taxonomy of Quantization

- Quantization techniques can be classified from different perspectives:
 - Weight quantization, activation quantization
 - Quantization aware training, post training quantization
 - Tensor-based quantization, vector-based quantization, group-based quantization
 - Quantization for inference/training
 - Deterministic quantization, stochastic quantization



Weight Quantization



Weight distribution in ResNet

- The weight distribution follows a gaussian-like distribution.
- The outlier will lead to large quantization error.
- A good selection on the clip range L is critical for accuracy performance.



Weight Quantization



- Large truncation error
- Low quantization error for small values



- Small truncation error
- Large quantization error for small values

• L = 0.9×max(|W|), L = 0.95×max(|W|)



Activation Quantization

- Quantization on activation needs to be performed dynamically. This will introduce additional compute overhead.
- Also the activation will pass the nonlinear functions, requantization is required to convert the quantized number.





Activation Quantization



• For low-precision quantization, the quantization process may cause more computation than the computational savings achieved by using low-precision quantization.



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When to Quantize?



- PTQ has lower computational cost, but accuracy is also lower.
- For the model which is expensive to train (LLM), PTQ is applied to facilitate their implementations.



Another Way to Look at Quantization





Straight Through Estimator (STE)



- Staircase function has a derivative of 0 at most of the values. This will makes the DNN not trainable.
- We instead use STE to estimate the gradient of a non-differentiable quantized function in the backward pass.

$$\frac{\partial W'}{\partial W} = 1$$

• During the forward pass, apply quantization, for backprop, ignore it.

Another Way to Look at Quantization

Forward pass

Backward pass







Other Ways to Approximate Quantization



Liu, Zechun, et al. "Bi-real net: Binarizing deep network towards real-network performance." International Journal of Computer Vision 128 (2020): 202-219.
Pytorch Implementation of Quantization

```
def forward(self, x):
    y = F.conv2d(self.w, x)
    return y
```

```
def forward(self, x, b, L):
    self.quantized w = Q(self.w, b, L)
    y = F.conv2d(self.quantized w, x)
    return y
def Q(w, b, L):
   L = 0.9 * w.abs().max()
   w = torch.clip(w, min=-L, max=L)
   scale = 2L/(2**b-2)
   wq = (w/scale).round() * scale
   return wq
```



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Granularity of Quantization

- The weight can be quantized with different granularity:
 - Tensor-based quantization
 - Vector-based quantization
 - Group-based quantization
- A higher quantization granularity will lead to a lower quantization error and a higher hardware implementation cost.





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X: input **W**: weight filters **Y**: output

• The forward propagation is very similar to the inference operation, where the input X is multiplied by weight W, generating the output Y.





X: input ∇X: input gradient **W**: weight filters ∇**W**: weight gradient

Y: output ∇Y: output gradient







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Deterministic and Stochastic Quantization



- To quantize a, conventional linear quantization will make q(a) = 0. However, this will cause a bias.
- With stochastic quantization:

$$q(a) = egin{cases} 1 & ext{for } p = 0.2 \ 0 & ext{for } p = 0.8 \end{cases}$$

- For quantization during the forward pass of DNN training, the bias will not cause any problem, due to the existence of bias in BN.
- Stochastic quantization is extremely useful when applying quantization to accelerate DNN training.



Deterministic and Stochastic Quantization







DNN Gradient Distribution



• DNN gradient is much hard to quantize and very sensitive to quantization error.

Chmiel, Brian, et al. "Neural gradients are near-lognormal: improved quantized and sparse training." arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.08173 (2020).

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- Multiple methods have been proposed to learn the quantization hyperparameters:
 - PACT
 - o QIL
 - Quantization network
 - LQ-Net



- How to convert a number to INT8 representation?
 - Set the clipping range: (-L, L), bitwidth: b
 - Compute the scale: $s = (L_{max} L_{min})/(2^b 1)$
 - Clip the input x: $x_c = Clip(x, L_{min}, L_{max})$
 - Calculate the fixed-point representation:

$$x_{int} = round((x_c - L_{min})/s)$$

$$\circ$$
 Rescale: $x_q = s x_{int} + L_{min}$





Weight distribution in ResNet

- How to convert a number to INT8 representation?
 - Set the clipping range: (-I, I), bitwidth: b
 - Compute the scale: $s = (Imax Imin)/(2^{b}-1)$
 - Clip the input x: $x_c = Clip(x, I_{max}, I_{min})$
 - Calculate the fixed-point representation: xint = round((xc-lmin)/s)
 - Rescale: Xq = sXint+ Imin

= 0.9×max(|W|), I = 0.95×max(|W|) Can learn by learnt during training?





 First we need to apply CLIP function to the input x, where the clip function has a range of (-I, I).

•
$$x_c = Clip(x, l) = \begin{cases} l, & ext{if } x \ge l \\ x, & -l \le x \le l \\ -l, & x \le l \end{cases}$$

• $x_q = round(rac{x_c}{s}) imes s$
• Can we learn I? $rac{dL}{dl} = rac{dL}{dx_q} rac{dx_q}{dx_c} rac{dx_c}{dl} pprox rac{dL}{dx_q} rac{dx_c}{dl}$

Choi, Jungwook, et al. "Pact: Parameterized clipping activation for quantized neural networks." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1805.06085* (2018). 53







Choi, Jungwook, et al. "Pact: Parameterized clipping activation for quantized neural networks." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1805.06085* (2018).





Jung, Sangil, et al. "Learning to quantize deep networks by optimizing quantization intervals with task loss." *Proceedings* of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition. 2019.

Yang, Jiwei, et al. "Quantization networks." *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*. 2019.

Quantization Interval Learning (QIL)





Jung, Sangil, et al. "Learning to quantize deep networks by optimizing quantization intervals with task loss." *Proceedings* of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition. 2019.

Quantization Interval Learning (QIL)

• To achieve this rounding flexibility, we combine a learnable function with quantization.

- $w_q = Q(w) \longrightarrow w_q = Q(F(w))$
- F(.) is a function which contains learnable hyperparameters.

$$\hat{w} = \begin{cases} 0 & |w| < c_W - d_W \\ \operatorname{sign}(w) & |w| > c_W + d_W \\ (\alpha_W |w| + \beta_W)^{\gamma} \cdot \operatorname{sign}(w) & otherwise, \end{cases}$$

Jung, Sangil, et al. "Learning to quantize deep networks by optimizing quantization intervals with task loss." *Proceedings* of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition. 2019.

Quantization Interval Learning (QIL)





- $w_q = Q(F(w))$ are stored for inference after the training process finished.
- We can not apply this techniques over the activation, due to its large computational overhead.

Jung, Sangil, et al. "Learning to quantize deep networks by optimizing quantization intervals with task loss." Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition. 2019.

LQ-Nets

$$\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x}) = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V} & \mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{x}} \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \dots \\ 2^{K-1} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \dots \\ b_K \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle$$

$$Q(x) = v^{T}e_{x}^{T}$$
, e_{x}^{T} is a binary vector

- V can be learnable.
- The resultant quantization can still facilitate MAC computation.

$$Q_{\text{ours}}(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}^w)^{\mathrm{T}} Q_{\text{ours}}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{v}^a) = \sum_{i=1}^{K_w} \sum_{j=1}^{K_a} v_i^w v_j^a(\mathbf{b}_i^w \odot \mathbf{b}_j^a)$$

- v^w_iv^a_j can be computed at low cost.
 b^w_ib^a_j can be pre-computed.

$$\mathbf{v}^*, B^* = \underset{\mathbf{v}, B}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \left\| B^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x} \right\|_2^2, \quad s.t. \ B \in \{-1, 1\}^{K \times N}$$

Zhang, Dongqing, et al. "Lq-nets: Learned quantization for highly accurate and compact deep neural networks." Proceedings of the European conference on computer vision (ECCV). 2018.

Quantization Networks

• We propose a novel perspective of interpreting and implementing neural network quantization by formulating low-bit quantization as a differentiable non-linear function.



$$y = \alpha(\sum_{i=1}^{n} s_i \mathcal{A}(\beta x - b_i) - o)$$
$$\mathcal{A}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \ge 0, \\ 0 & x < 0. \end{cases}$$

- n + 1 is the number of quantization intervals
- β is the scale factor of inputs
- si and bi are the scales and biases for the unit step functions

Yang, Jiwei, et al. "Quantization networks." *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*. 2019.

Gong, Ruihao, et al. "Differentiable soft quantization: Bridging full-precision and low-bit neural networks." *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF international conference on computer vision*. 2019.

Quantization Networks

$$\mathcal{A}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \ge 0, \\ 0 & x < 0. \end{cases} \qquad \sigma(Tx) = \frac{1}{1 + exp(-Tx)}$$



- We can replace the staircase function with a sigmoid function.
- We can progressively increases T during the training process.

Presentation

- Trained ternary quantization
- Incremental network quantization: Towards lossless cnns with low-precision weights
- Quantization and training of neural networks for efficient integer-arithmetic-only inference
- Smoothquant: Accurate and efficient post-training quantization for large language models



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Post Training Quantization

- Several Methods have been proposed to efficient post-training quantization.
- Given the large size of the modern LLM, it is beneficial to applied the quantization on the model directly without the need of finetuning.





Model Architecture: Llava



CLIP Architecture





Radford, Alec, et al. "Learning transferable visual models from natural language supervision." *International conference on machine learning*. PMLR, 2021.

Types of Outlier

- Massive Activation:
 - For an activation matrix A, an massive activation is an element Aij within it that satisfies:
 - Aij > $\eta \times mean(|A|)$
 - Aij > γ
 - ο η=300, γ=50
- Channelwise Outlier:
 - mean(Ai) > $\eta \times std(A) + mean(|A|)$
 - std(Ai) < β
 - ο η=3, β=0.6





Outlier Study: CLIP

 3D activation within layer 12 MA is produced on y5 MA is propagated on x1,y1 from layer11



AB



70

Outlier Study: CLIP

 3D plots of X2 across layers.



• x2 exhibits channel wise outlier

SAILAB



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Outlier Study: CLIP

3D plots of x8 across layers.



x8 exhibits channel wise outlier

LAB




Outlier Study: CLIP Weights

• Wq across CLIP layers.







Outlier Study: CLIP Weights

• Wk across CLIP layers.







Outlier Study: CLIP Weights

• Wv across CLIP layers.







Outlier Study: LLaMA Activations





Sun, Mingjie, et al. "Massive activations in large language models." arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.17762 (2024).

Study the Reason of LLM Outliers

Layer 0 Weights



Outlier Smoothing



• When performing post-training quantization on a LLM, it's common to include a step of outlier smoothing prior to the quantization process.



SmoothQuant



- The intermediate results within LLM usually have a lot of outliers.
- SmoothQuant smooths the activation outliers by offline migrating the quantization difficulty from activations to weights with a mathematically equivalent transformation.

$$\mathbf{Y} = (\mathbf{X} \operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{s})^{-1}) \cdot (\operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{s})\mathbf{W}) = \hat{\mathbf{X}}\hat{\mathbf{W}}$$

• s depends on the square root of the magnitude of the largest channel



SmoothQuant



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Y} &= (\mathbf{X} \operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{s})^{-1}) \cdot (\operatorname{diag}(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{W}) = \hat{\mathbf{X}} \hat{\mathbf{W}} \\ \mathbf{s}_j &= \max(|\mathbf{X}_j|)^{\alpha} / \max(|\mathbf{W}_j|)^{1-\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

OPT-175B	LAMBADA	HellaSwag	PIQA	WinoGrande
FP16	74.7%	59.3%	79.7%	72.6%
W8A8	0.0%	25.6%	53.4%	50.3%
ZeroQuant	0.0%*	26.0%	51.7%	49.3%
LLM.int8()	74.7%	59.2%	79.7%	72.1%
Outlier Suppression	0.00%	25.8%	52.5%	48.6%
SmoothQuant-O1	74.7%	59.2%	79.7%	71.2%
SmoothQuant-O2	75.0%	59.0%	79.2%	71.2%
SmoothQuant-O3	74.6%	58.9%	79.7%	71.2%



QuaRot



- QuaRot introduces a novel methods to convert the weights and activation of LLM.
- After conversion, most of the outliers within the activation and weights are removed.
- This conversion introduces almost no additional cost during the inference.

QuaRot

- Assume Y = AW, where A may have outliers, quantizing A and W as Q(A) and Q(W) could result in increased quantization error. Consequently, Q(A)Q(W) may differ significantly from AW.
- With QuaRot, a orthogonal matrix is applied to eliminate the outliers within A.

$$A \longrightarrow W \longrightarrow AW \qquad AR \longrightarrow R^{T}W \longrightarrow AW \qquad R^{T}R=RR^{T}=I$$
$$Q(A) \longrightarrow Q(W) \longrightarrow Q(A)Q(W) \qquad Q(AR) \longrightarrow Q(R^{T}W) \longrightarrow Q(AR)Q(R^{T}W)$$

• R^TW can be computed offline, AR can be generated by modifying the weight matrices of the last layer.

Ashkboos, Saleh, et al. "Quarot: Outlier-free 4-bit inference in rotated Ilms." arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.00456 (2024).

QuaRot



- For some of the layers, the conversion needs to be performed online
- We can use Hadamard matrix, which consists of only 1 and -1 to facilitate the matrix multiplications.

Ashkboos, Saleh, et al. "Quarot: Outlier-free 4-bit inference in rotated Ilms." arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.00456 (2024).

SpinQuant



 $\underset{R\in\mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \mathcal{L}_Q(R_1, R_2 \mid W, X)$

- SpinQuant optimizes (or learns) the rotation matrices to obtain the minimal changes on the training loss.
- We have to ensure the rotational matrix still satisfies the orthogonal property → Cayley Optimization.