



ICML
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Pursuing Overall Welfare in Federated Learning through Sequential Decision Making

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Introduction

- **Client-Level Fairness in FL [1,2]**
 - Uniform performance distributions of a global model across participating clients
 - i.e., a global model (θ) can be biased toward different clients.

$$F_1(\theta) = 0.1, F_2(\theta) = 2.3, F_3(\theta) = 9.5, F_4(\theta) = 0.6, F_5(\theta) = 1.1$$

Introduction

- Stop Using Static Mixing Coefficient

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d} F(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := \sum_{i=1}^K w_i F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad w_i = \frac{n_i}{\sum_{j=1}^K n_j}$$

- Simple solution: imposing larger coefficients to the clients with larger losses
- Use adaptive mixing coefficient $\mathbf{p} = [p_1, \dots, p_K]^\top$ instead!
 - This adaptive decision is sequentially made by the server.

Previous Works

- **Research Gap: Truly Adaptive?**

- Server only receives a single response vector (e.g., local losses $[F_1(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \dots, F_K(\boldsymbol{\theta})]^\top$)
... for deciding another single mixing coefficient, $\mathbf{p} = [p_1, \dots, p_K]^\top$.
 - i.e., a sample-deficient situation!

Method	Adaptive Mixing Coefficients
FedAvg[3]	$p_i \propto w_i$
q-FedAvg[2]	$p_i \propto w_i F_i^q(\boldsymbol{\theta}), q \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$
AFL[4] & FedMGDA[5]	(a special case of q-FedAvg when $q \rightarrow \infty$)
TERM[6]	$p_i \propto w_i \exp(\lambda F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta})), \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$
PropFair[7]	$p_i \propto \frac{w_i}{M - F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta})}, M \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$

[2] Li, T., Sanjabi, M., Beirami, A., & Smith, V. (2019, September). Fair Resource Allocation in Federated Learning. In International Conference on Learning Representations.

[3] McMahan, B., Moore, E., Ramage, D., Hampson, S., & y Arcas, B. A. (2017, April). Communication-efficient learning of deep networks from decentralized data. In Artificial intelligence and statistics (pp. 1273-1282). PMLR.

[4] Mohri, M., Sivek, G., & Suresh, A. T. (2019, May). Agnostic federated learning. In International Conference on Machine Learning (pp. 4615-4625). PMLR.

[5] Hu, Z., Shaloudegi, K., Zhang, G., & Yu, Y. (2022). Federated learning meets multi-objective optimization. IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering, 9(4), 2039-2051.

[6] Li, T., Beirami, A., Sanjabi, M., & Smith, V. (2020). Tilted empirical risk minimization. arXiv preprint arXiv:2007.01162.

[7] Zhang, G., Malekmohammadi, S., Chen, X., & Yu, Y. (2022). Proportional Fairness in Federated Learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2202.01666.

Research Question

How can we improve the scheme of deciding **mixing coefficients** so that it is *truly adaptive* even under the sample-deficient condition?

Discovery

- **Online Convex Optimization (OCO) as a Unified Language**

- Exponentiated Gradient (EG [8])

- For all $t = 1, \dots, T$, suppose we want to minimize a decision loss $\ell^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}) = -\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle$ sequentially, which is defined by a response vector $\mathbf{r}^{(t)} \in \mathbb{R}^K$ and a decision variable $\mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}$.

$R(\mathbf{p})$ is a regularizer multiplied by a constant step size $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.

$$\mathbf{p}^{(t+1)} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}} \ell^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}) + \eta R(\mathbf{p})$$

- As long as the regularizer $R(\mathbf{p})$ is fixed as the negative entropy, i.e., $R(\mathbf{p}) = \sum_{i=1}^K p_i \log p_i$, it has a closed-form update:

$$p_i^{(t+1)} = \frac{p_i^{(t)} \exp(r_i^{(t)}/\eta)}{\sum_{j=1}^K p_j^{(t)} \exp(r_j^{(t)}/\eta)}$$

Discovery

- EG Subsumes Existing Fair FL Algorithms

$$p_i^{(t+1)} = \frac{p_i^{(t)} \exp(r_i^{(t)}/\eta)}{\sum_{j=1}^K p_j^{(t)} \exp(r_j^{(t)}/\eta)}$$

Method	Response, $r_i^{(t)}$	Last Decision, $p_i^{(t)}$	Step Size, η	New Decision, $p_i^{(t+1)}$
FedAvg[3]	0	w_i	1	$\propto w_i$
q-FedAvg[2] (AFL[4] if $q \rightarrow \infty$)	$q \log F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)})$	w_i	1	$\propto w_i F_i^q(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)})$
TERM[6]	$F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)})$	w_i	$1/\lambda$	$\propto w_i \exp(\lambda F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)}))$
PropFair[7]	$-\log(M - F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)}))$	w_i	1	$\propto \frac{w_i}{M - F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)})}$

[2] Li, T., Sanjabi, M., Beirami, A., & Smith, V. (2019, September). Fair Resource Allocation in Federated Learning. In International Conference on Learning Representations.

[3] McMahan, B., Moore, E., Ramage, D., Hampson, S., & y Arcas, B. A. (2017, April). Communication-efficient learning of deep networks from decentralized data. In Artificial intelligence and statistics (pp. 1273-1282). PMLR.

[4] Mohri, M., Sivek, G., & Suresh, A. T. (2019, May). Agnostic federated learning. In International Conference on Machine Learning (pp. 4615-4625). PMLR.

[6] Li, T., Beirami, A., Sanjabi, M., & Smith, V. (2020). Tilted empirical risk minimization. arXiv preprint arXiv:2007.01162.

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Proposed Methods

- **Fixing Suboptimal Designs in Existing Methods as EG**

- i) Stateless decision making: $p_i^{(t)} = w_i$
- ii) Fixed step size: η
- iii) Decision loss without Lipschitz continuity and strict convexity guarantee: $\ell^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}) = -\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle$
 - The local loss $F_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t)})$ corresponded to $r_i^{(t)}$ is usually unbounded above, e.g., cross-entropy loss.

Proposed Methods

- **Follow-The-Regularized-Leader (FTRL [9-12])**

$$\mathbf{p}^{(t+1)} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}} \sum_{\tau=1}^t \ell^{(\tau)}(\mathbf{p}) + \eta^{(t+1)} R(\mathbf{p})$$

- i) Stateful as mirroring all previous decision losses: $\sum_{\tau=1}^t \ell^{(\tau)}(\mathbf{p})$
- ii) Time-varying step size: $\eta^{(t+1)}$
 - ... or time-varying regularizer: $R^{(t+1)}(\mathbf{p})$

[9] Abernethy, J. D., Hazan, E., & Rakhlin, A. (2009). Competing in the dark: An efficient algorithm for bandit linear optimization.

[10] Hazan, E., & Kale, S. (2010). Extracting certainty from uncertainty: Regret bounded by variation in costs. Machine learning, 80, 165-188.

[11] Agarwal, A., & Hazan, E. (2005). New algorithms for repeated play and universal portfolio management. Princeton University Technical Report TR-740-05.

[12] Shalev-Shwartz, S., & Singer, Y. (2006, June). Online learning meets optimization in the dual. In International Conference on Computational Learning Theory (pp. 423-437). Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg.

Proposed Methods

- **Logarithmic Growth from Online Portfolio Selection [13]**

- Metaphor: OPS sequentially assigns higher portfolio weights to bullish assets, to maximize:

- Logarithmic growth: $\sum_{t=1}^T \log(1 + \langle \mathbf{p}^{(t)}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle)$

- The negative logarithmic growth as our decision loss to minimize:

$$\ell^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}) = -\log(1 + \langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle)$$

- Lipschitz continuous and strictly convex (*please see Lemma 4.1 and Lemma A.1*)
 - Loosely related to (rectified) min-max fairness notion

Proposed Methods

- **Doubly Robust Estimator for Partially Observed Responses**

- Client sampling (especially in the cross-device FL setting)

- The server can only observe partial entries of a response $\mathbf{r}^{(t)}$...

- Doubly Robust Estimator [14-16]

- Denote $C = P(i \in S^{(t)})$ as a client sampling probability, $S^{(t)}$ is an index set of selected clients:

$$\check{r}_i^{(t)} = \left(1 - \frac{\mathbb{I}(i \in S^{(t)})}{C}\right) \bar{r}^{(t)} + \frac{\mathbb{I}(i \in S^{(t)})}{C} r_i^{(t)},$$

where $\bar{r}^{(t)} = \frac{1}{|S^{(t)}|} \sum_{i \in S^{(t)}} r_i^{(t)}$. (Please see Lemma 4.3)

[14] Robins, J. M., Rotnitzky, A., & Zhao, L. P. (1994). Estimation of regression coefficients when some regressors are not always observed. *Journal of the American statistical Association*, 89(427), 846-866.

[15] Bang, H., & Robins, J. M. (2005). Doubly robust estimation in missing data and causal inference models. *Biometrics*, 61(4), 962-973.

[16] Dimakopoulou, M., Zhou, Z., Athey, S., & Imbens, G. (2019, July). Balanced linear contextual bandits. In *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (Vol. 33, No. 01, pp. 3445-3453).

Proposed Methods

- **Practical FL Settings Require Different Conditions**
 - Cross-silo FL (number of clients $<$ number of rounds, i.e., $K \ll T$)
 - e.g., $K = 20$ hospitals with $T = 200$ rounds [17]
 - All clients can usually be participated in each round.
 - Cross-device FL (number of clients $>$ number of rounds, i.e., $K \gg T$)
 - e.g., $K = 1.5 \times 10^6$ users with $T = 3,000$ rounds [18]
 - Client sampling is inevitably required.

[17] Hard, A., Rao, K., Mathews, R., Ramaswamy, S., Beaufays, F., Augenstein, S., ... & Ramage, D. (2018). Federated learning for mobile keyboard prediction. arXiv preprint arXiv:1811.03604.

[18] Dayan, I., Roth, H. R., Zhong, A., Harouni, A., Gentili, A., Abidin, A. Z., ... & Li, Q. (2021). Federated learning for predicting clinical outcomes in patients with COVID-19. Nature medicine, 27(10), 1735-1743.

Proposed Methods

- **A**Agg**F**F: Addaptive Aggregation for Fair Federated Learning
 - AAggFF-S: for cross-silo FL setting – Online Newton Step [19,20]

$$\mathbf{p}^{(t+1)} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}} \sum_{\tau=1}^t \tilde{\ell}^{(\tau)}(\mathbf{p}) + \frac{\alpha}{2} \|\mathbf{p}\|_2^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{\tau=1}^t (\langle \mathbf{g}^{(\tau)}, \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}^{(\tau)} \rangle)^2,$$

where $\tilde{\ell}^{(t)}(\mathbf{p})$ is a linearized loss defined as $\tilde{\ell}^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}) = \langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{g}^{(t)} \rangle$ and $\mathbf{g}^{(t)} = \nabla \ell^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}^{(t)})$.

(Please see pseudocodes in Appendix D)

- Runtime: $\mathcal{O}(K^2 + K^3)$
 - $\mathcal{O}(K^3)$ for weighted projection to a simplex [21]
 - Empirically moderate for the cross-silo setting

[19] Agarwal, A., Hazan, E., Kale, S., & Schapire, R. E. (2006, June). Algorithms for portfolio management based on the newton method. In Proceedings of the 23rd international conference on Machine learning (pp. 9-16).

[20] Hazan, E., Agarwal, A., & Kale, S. (2007). Logarithmic regret algorithms for online convex optimization. Machine Learning, 69, 169-192.

[21] Yurii Nesterov. Introductory lectures on convex optimization: A basic course, volume 87. Springer Science & Business Media, 2003.

Proposed Methods

- **A**Agg**F**F: Addaptive Aggregation for Fair Federated Learning
 - AAggFF-D: for cross-device FL setting – FTRL [9-12]

$$\mathbf{p}^{(t+1)} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}} \sum_{\tau=1}^t \tilde{\ell}^{(\tau)}(\mathbf{p}) + \frac{L_{\infty} \sqrt{t+1}}{\sqrt{\log K}} \sum_{i=1}^K p_i \log p_i,$$

where $\tilde{\ell}^{(t)}(\mathbf{p})$ is a linearized loss defined as $\tilde{\ell}^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}) = \langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{g}^{(t)} \rangle$ and $\mathbf{g}^{(t)} = \nabla \ell^{(t)}(\mathbf{p}^{(t)})$.

(Please see closed-form update in Remark 4.5 and pseudocodes in Appendix D)

- Runtime: $\mathcal{O}(K)$
 - Linear; favorable to the cross-device setting

[9] Abernethy, J. D., Hazan, E., & Rakhlin, A. (2009). Competing in the dark: An efficient algorithm for bandit linear optimization.

[10] Hazan, E., & Kale, S. (2010). Extracting certainty from uncertainty: Regret bounded by variation in costs. Machine learning, 80, 165-188.

[11] Agarwal, A., & Hazan, E. (2005). New algorithms for repeated play and universal portfolio management. Princeton University Technical Report TR-740-05.

[12] Shalev-Shwartz, S., & Singer, Y. (2006, June). Online learning meets optimization in the dual. In International Conference on Computational Learning Theory (pp. 423-437). Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg.

Theoretical Guarantee

- **Regret Upper Bound for AAggFF - S**
 - **Theorem** (Regret Upper Bound for AAggFF - S)

Suppose $\forall \mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}$, let the decision $\{\mathbf{p}^{(t)}: t \in [T]\}$ be derived by AAggFF - S for K clients during T rounds.

Then, the regret can be bounded above as:

$$\text{Regret}^{(T)}(\mathbf{p}^*) \leq 2L_\infty K \left(1 + \log \left(1 + \frac{T}{16K} \right) \right),$$

where $\alpha = 4KL_\infty$ and $\beta = \frac{1}{4L_\infty}$ in the objective, and L_∞ can be adjusted by the range of a response.

Theoretical Guarantee

- **Regret Upper Bound for AAggFF -D**

- **Theorem** (Regret Upper Bound for AAggFF -D with Full Client Participation)

Suppose $\forall \mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}$, let the decision $\{\mathbf{p}^{(t)}: t \in [T]\}$ be derived by AAggFF -D for K clients during T rounds with client sampling probability $C = 1$.

Then, the regret can be bounded above as:

$$\text{Regret}^{(T)}(\mathbf{p}^*) \leq 2L_\infty \sqrt{T \log K},$$

where L_∞ can be adjusted by the range of a response.

Theoretical Guarantee

- **Regret Upper Bound for AAggFF -D**

- **Corollary** (Regret Upper Bound for AAggFF -D with Partial Client Participation)

Suppose $\forall \mathbf{p} \in \Delta_{K-1}$, let the decision $\{\mathbf{p}^{(t)}: t \in [T]\}$ be derived by AAggFF -D for K clients during T rounds with client sampling probability $C \in (0,1)$.

Being equipped with the doubly robust estimator $\check{\mathbf{r}}^{(t)}$, the regret can be bounded above in expectation as:

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Regret}^{(T)}(\mathbf{p}^*)] \leq \mathcal{O}(L_\infty \sqrt{T \log K}),$$

where L_∞ can be adjusted by the range of a response.

Experimental Results

• Setup

- Cross-silo (number of clients (K) < number of rounds (T))
 - Berka (tabular): loan default prediction (2 classes)
 - MQP (text): medical sentence similarity classification (2 classes)
 - ISIC (image): skin cancer classification (8 classes)
- Cross-device (number of clients (K) > number of rounds (T))
 - CelebA (image): smiling face recognition (2 classes)
 - Reddit (text): language modeling (10,000 sentence tokens)
 - SpeechCommands (audio): speech recognition (35 classes)

Cross-silo		
Dataset	K	T
Berka	7	100
MQP	11	100
ISIC	1	50

Cross-device		
Dataset	K	T
CelebA	9,343	3,000
Reddit	817	300
Speech Commands	2,005	500

Experimental Results

- **Boosted Performance in Both Cross-Silo and Cross-Device Settings**

- Improved worst-case performance as well as little compromise on the average performance
 - Low Gini coefficient: uniform performance distribution

Dataset	Berka (AUROC)				MQP (AUROC)				ISIC (Acc. 5)			
	Avg. (↑)	Worst (↑)	Best (↑)	Gini (↓)	Avg. (↑)	Worst (↑)	Best (↑)	Gini (↓)	Avg. (↑)	Worst (↑)	Best (↑)	Gini (↓)
FedAvg [3]	80.09 (2.45)	48.06 (25.15)	99.03 (1.37)	10.87 (4.11)	56.06 (0.06)	41.03 (4.33)	76.31 (8.42)	8.63 (0.91)	87.42 (2.11)	69.92 (6.78)	92.57 (2.56)	4.84 (1.17)
AFL [4]	79.70 (4.14)	49.02 (25.89)	98.55 (2.05)	10.58 (5.03)	56.01 (0.30)	41.28 (3.92)	75.54 (6.77)	8.56 (1.24)	87.39 (2.31)	68.17 (10.09)	93.33 (2.18)	4.80 (1.74)
q-FedAvg [2]	79.98 (3.89)	49.44 (26.15)	98.07 (2.73)	10.62 (5.22)	56.89 (0.42)	40.22 (3.06)	79.38 (9.09)	8.68 (0.57)	41.59 (16.22)	20.38 (23.24)	58.08 (28.52)	22.25 (10.02)
TERM [6]	80.11 (3.08)	48.96 (25.79)	99.03 (1.37)	10.86 (4.73)	56.47 (0.19)	40.73 (4.36)	76.80 (8.30)	8.67 (1.43)	87.89 (1.69)	77.32 (5.84)	96.00 (3.27)	3.77 (0.94)
FedMGDA [5]	79.24 (2.96)	46.38 (24.11)	99.03 (1.37)	11.64 (4.84)	53.02 (1.67)	34.91 (2.22)	69.65 (3.89)	10.33 (0.44)	42.36 (14.94)	21.44 (21.30)	59.21 (28.52)	22.25 (10.02)
PropFair [7]	79.61 (4.49)	49.44 (26.15)	98.07 (2.73)	10.47 (5.04)	56.60 (0.39)	41.71 (3.80)	79.09 (7.40)	8.74 (0.87)	83.88 (2.50)	58.36 (11.63)	91.35 (2.48)	7.91 (2.10)
AAGgFF-S (Proposed)	80.93 (2.96)	52.08 (23.59)	99.03 (1.37)	10.16 (3.80)	56.63 (0.54)	41.79 (4.43)	75.56 (6.53)	8.38 (0.77)	89.76 (1.03)	85.17 (3.87)	98.22 (1.66)	2.52 (0.38)

Dataset	CeleBA (Acc. 1)				Reddit (Acc. 1)				SpeechCommands (Acc. 5)			
	Avg. (↑)	Worst 10% (↑)	Best 10%(↑)	Gini (↓)	Avg. (↑)	Worst 10%(↑)	Best 10%(↑)	Gini (↓)	Avg. (↑)	Worst 10%(↑)	Best 10%(↑)	Gini (↓)
FedAvg [3]	90.79 (0.53)	55.76 (0.84)	100.00 (0.00)	7.86 (0.30)	10.76 (1.45)	2.50 (0.21)	20.86 (3.64)	25.66 (0.49)	75.51 (1.08)	7.93 (2.87)	100.00 (0.00)	24.58 (1.34)
q-FedAvg [2]	90.88 (0.19)	55.73 (0.85)	100.00 (0.00)	7.82 (0.21)	12.76 (0.32)	3.38 (0.20)	21.81 (0.19)	23.34 (0.34)	73.34 (0.47)	11.19 (0.47)	100.00 (0.00)	23.16 (0.13)
TERM [6]	90.71 (0.65)	55.66 (0.93)	100.00 (0.00)	7.90 (0.38)	12.02 (0.16)	2.85 (0.41)	20.74 (0.65)	24.15 (1.05)	70.90 (2.96)	5.98 (1.10)	100.00 (0.00)	26.37 (1.32)
FedMGDA [5]	88.33 (0.63)	48.60 (25.85)	100.00 (0.00)	9.75 (0.59)	10.58 (0.18)	2.35 (0.20)	19.09 (0.62)	25.20 (0.22)	72.45 (1.88)	9.65 (2.90)	100.00 (0.00)	23.68 (1.27)
PropFair [7]	87.25 (5.01)	48.11 (10.03)	100.00 (0.00)	10.39 (3.43)	11.26 (0.71)	1.95 (0.32)	21.33 (0.92)	25.97 (1.02)	73.64 (3.31)	7.30 (1.02)	100.00 (0.00)	24.97 (1.09)
AAGgFF-D (Proposed)	91.27 (0.07)	56.71 (0.08)	100.00 (0.00)	7.54 (0.04)	12.95 (0.39)	4.75 (0.76)	22.81 (1.36)	22.59 (0.28)	76.68 (0.80)	14.54 (2.58)	100.00 (0.00)	21.42 (0.81)

[2] Li, T., Sanjabi, M., Beirami, A., & Smith, V. (2019, September). Fair Resource Allocation in Federated Learning. In International Conference on Learning Representations.

[3] McMahan, B., Moore, E., Ramage, D., Hampson, S., & y Arcas, B. A. (2017, April). Communication-efficient learning of deep networks from decentralized data. In Artificial intelligence and statistics (pp. 1273-1282). PMLR.

[4] Mohri, M., Sivek, G., & Suresh, A. T. (2019, May). Agnostic federated learning. In International Conference on Machine Learning (pp. 4615-4625). PMLR.

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[6] Li, T., Beirami, A., Sanjabi, M., & Smith, V. (2020). Tilted empirical risk minimization. arXiv preprint arXiv:2007.01162.

[7] Zhang, G., Malekmohammadi, S., Chen, X., & Yu, Y. (2022). Proportional Fairness in Federated Learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2202.01666.

Conclusion

- AAggFF finds better **mixing coefficients**
 - through improved online convex optimization objectives.
- AAggFF is specialized into practical FL settings
 - AAggFF-S for the cross-silo setting, and AAggFF-D for the cross-device setting; both guarantee vanishing regrets.
- AAggFF pursues overall welfare in the federated system
 - not only inducing uniform performances, but also maintaining decent average performances.

The End.