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Towards Optimal Heterogeneous Client Sampling in Multi-Model Federated Learning

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# Outline

• Introduction

Federated learning (FL)

Multi-model federated learning (MMFL)

- Variance-reduced client sampling in a simple MMFL system
- Modeling computational heterogeneity in MMFL
- Experiments

# Federated Learning

### Distributed learning with unshared local data

Server:

- 1 Receive updates from clients
- 2 Aggregate local updates for a better global model
- 3 Broadcast new model parameters to clients

Local client (device):

- 1 Get global model parameters
- 2 Train model parameters with local data
- 3 Send updated parameters to the server



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### **Examples:** Multiple FL applications on one device.

Keyboard prediction



Predicting text selection

Sounds good. Let's meet at 350 Third Street, Cambridge later then Speech model



Source: federated.withgoogle.com

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#### Key assumptions from previous work [1]

In each round, the server only allows <u>partial participation</u>, and each active client <u>can only train one model</u>.

1) Partial Participation: reduce communication cost

2) Only train one model: computational constraints



Multi-model federated learning

5 [1] Bhuyan, Neelkamal, Sharayu Moharir, and Gauri Joshi. "Multi-model federated learning with provable guarantees." *EAI International Conference on Performance Evaluation Methodologies and Tools.* Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2022.

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Idea: the server prefers selecting more "important" clients.





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# MMFL optimal variance-reduced sampling

Aggregation:

$$w_{s}^{\tau+1} = w_{s}^{\tau} - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} U_{i,s}^{\tau}$$

Random Variable X

 $\mathbb{E}[X]$  is given.

## MMFL optimal variance-reduced sampling

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High variance of X can make the training unstable... Therefore, define our objective:

$$\min_{\{p_{s|i}^{\tau}\}} \sum_{s=1}^{S} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \left[ \| \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} U_{i,s}^{\tau} - \sum_{i=1}^{N} d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \|^2 \right]$$



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Notice: variance is an ideal objective to stabilize the training, but there could be other factors... (will further discuss later)



# $$\begin{split} \min_{\{p_{s|i}^{\tau}\}} \; & \sum_{s=1}^{S} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \left[ \| \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} U_{i,s}^{\tau} - \sum_{i=1}^{N} d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \|^{2} \right] \\ \text{s.t.} \; p_{s|i}^{\tau} \geq 0, \; & \sum_{s=1}^{S} p_{s|i}^{\tau} \leq 1, \; \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{i=1}^{N} p_{s|i}^{\tau} = m \quad \forall i,s \end{split}$$

Minimizing the variance of update

τ: global round number *i*: client index *s*: model index *m*: expected number of active clients  $d_{i,s}$ : dataset size ratio *t*: local epoch number  $\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}$ : set of active clients

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#### **Closed-form solution of the problem**

$$p_{s|i}^{\tau} = \begin{cases} (m - N + k) \frac{\|\tilde{U}_{i,s}^{\tau}\|}{\sum_{j=1}^{k} M_{j}^{\tau}} & \text{if } i = 1, 2, \cdots, k, \\ \frac{\|\tilde{U}_{i,s}^{\tau}\|}{M_{i}^{\tau}} & \text{if } i = k+1, \cdots, N. \end{cases}$$
(5)

where  $\|\tilde{U}_{i,s}^{\tau}\| = \|d_{i,s}U_{i,s}^{\tau}\|$  and  $M_i^{\tau} = \sum_{s=1}^{S} \|\tilde{U}_{i,s}^{\tau}\|$ . We reorder clients such that  $M_i^{\tau} \leq M_{i+1}^{\tau}$  for all *i*, and *k* is the largest integer for which  $0 < (m - N + k) \leq \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{k} M_j^{\tau}}{M_k^{\tau}}$ .

τ: global round number *i*: client index *s*: model index *m*: expected number of active clients  $d_{i,s}$ : dataset size ratio *t*: local epoch number  $\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}$ : set of active clients



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#### Gradient-based Variance-Reduce Sampling (GVR) Computing the gradient norm is too expensive on the client side!

19 Proof: https://tinyurl.com/mmflos

## Reduce computational cost

Computing the gradient norm is too expensive on the client side.



τ: global round number *i*: client index *s*: model index *m*: expected number of active clients  $d_{i,s}$ : dataset size ratio *t*: local epoch number  $\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}$ : set of active clients

Loss-based Variance-Reduced Sampling (LVR)

## Reduce computational cost

Computing the gradient norm is too expensive on the client side.



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Now we have two methods to optimize the sampling distribution. Can we analyze their influence on convergence speed?

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Based on some common assumptions (L-smoothness, mu-strongly convex, etc.) We modified and adapted the proof from [2].

**Theorem 4** (Convergence). Let  $w_s^*$  denote the optimal weights of model s. If the learning rate  $\eta_{\tau} = \frac{16}{\mu} \frac{1}{(\tau+1)K+\gamma}$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\|w_s^{\tau} - w_s^*\|^2\right) \le \frac{V_{\tau}}{(\tau K + \gamma_{\tau})^2} \tag{413}$$

$$\begin{split} & \text{Here we define } \gamma_{\tau} = \max\{\frac{32L}{\mu}, 4K \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} \mathbb{1}_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau}\} \\ & V_{\tau} = \max\{\gamma_{\tau}^{2} \mathbb{E}(\|w_{s}^{0} - w_{s}^{*}\|^{2}), (\frac{16}{\mu})^{2} \sum_{\tau'=0}^{\tau-1} z_{\tau'}\}, \\ & z_{\tau'} = \mathbb{E}[Z_{g}^{\tau'} + Z_{l}^{\tau'} + Z_{p}^{\tau'}], \\ & \mathbb{E}[Z_{g}^{\tau}] = K \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} \frac{(d_{i,s}\sigma_{i,s})^{2}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} + 4LK \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} d_{i,s}\Gamma_{i,s} + \max(\frac{1}{d_{i,s}})\mathbb{E}[\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} \frac{(d_{i,s})^{2} \sum_{t=1}^{K} \|\nabla f_{i,s}(w_{i,s}^{t,\tau})\|^{2}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}], \\ & \mathbb{E}[Z_{l}^{\tau}] = R\mathbb{E}[|\mathcal{N}_{s}| \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} (\mathbbm{1}_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau} f_{i,s}(w_{s}^{\tau}) - d_{i,s}f_{i,s}(w_{s}^{\tau}))^{2}], \ where \ R = \frac{2K^{3}\bar{\sigma}^{2}}{e_{w}^{2}e_{f}^{2}\theta}, \\ & \mathbb{E}[Z_{p}^{\tau}] = (\frac{2}{\theta} + K(2 + \frac{\mu}{2L}))K^{2}\bar{\sigma}^{2} + \frac{2K^{3}\bar{\sigma}^{2}}{\theta}\mathbb{E}[(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} \mathbbm{1}_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau} - 1)^{2}]. \end{split}$$

[2] Ruan, Yichen, et al. "Towards flexible device participation in federated learning." *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*. PMLR, 2021.

Based on some common assumptions (L-smoothness, mu-strongly convex, etc.) We modified and adapted the proof from [2].

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{E}[Z_{g}^{\tau}] &= K \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} \frac{(d_{i,s}\sigma_{i,s})^{2}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} + 4LK \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} d_{i,s}\Gamma_{i,s} + \max(\frac{1}{d_{i,s}}) \mathbb{E}[\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} \frac{(d_{i,s})^{2} \sum_{t=1}^{K} \|\nabla f_{i,s}(w_{i,s}^{t,\tau})\|^{2}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}] \\ \mathbb{E}[Z_{l}^{\tau}] &= R\mathbb{E}[|\mathcal{N}_{s}| \sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} (\mathbbm{1}_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau} f_{i,s}(w_{s}^{\tau}) - d_{i,s} f_{i,s}(w_{s}^{\tau}))^{2}], \text{ where } R = \frac{2K^{3}\bar{\sigma}^{2}}{e_{w}^{2}e_{f}^{2}\theta}, \\ \mathbb{E}[Z_{p}^{\tau}] &= (\frac{2}{\theta} + K(2 + \frac{\mu}{2L}))K^{2}\bar{\sigma}^{2} + \frac{2K^{3}\bar{\sigma}^{2}}{\theta}\mathbb{E}[(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{N}_{s}} \mathbbm{1}_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau} - 1)^{2}]. \end{split}$$

 $\mathbb{E}[Z_g^{\tau}]$  -> Sampled update variance (GVR)

In the proof: https://tinyurl.com/mmflos

From the upper bound to variance term:  $\left\|\sum_{t=1}^{K} \nabla f_{i,s}\right\|^{2} \leq K \sum_{t=1}^{K} \left\|\nabla f_{i,s}\right\|^{2} (\text{GM-HM inequality})$ 

$$= \sum_{s=1}^{S} \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ \left\| \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \right\|^{2} \right] - \left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N} d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \right\|^{2} \right] \right]$$
(9)  

$$= \sum_{s=1}^{S} \left[ \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i,j} \frac{d_{i,s} (U_{i,s}^{\tau})^{\top}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} \frac{d_{j,s} U_{j,s}^{\tau}}{p_{s|j}^{\tau}} \mathbb{1}_{i,j \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \right] - \sum_{i,j} d_{i,s} d_{j,s} (U_{i,s}^{\tau})^{\top} U_{j,s}^{\tau} \right]$$
(10)  

$$= \sum_{s=1}^{S} \left[ \sum_{i \neq j} d_{i,s} (U_{i,s}^{\tau})^{\top} d_{j,s} U_{j,s}^{\tau} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{d_{i,s}^{2} (U_{i,s}^{\tau})^{\top} U_{i,s}^{\tau}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} - \sum_{i,j} d_{i,s} d_{j,s} (U_{i,s}^{\tau})^{\top} U_{j,s}^{\tau} \right]$$
(11)  

$$= \sum_{s=1}^{S} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( \frac{\| d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \|^{2}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} - \| d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \|^{2} \right) \right)$$
(12)  

$$= \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\| d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \|^{2}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} - \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \| d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \|^{2}$$
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Based on some common assumptions (L-smoothness, mu-strongly convex, etc.) We modified and adapted the proof from [2].

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 $\mathbb{E}[Z_l^{\tau}]$  -> Sampled loss variance (LVR), with similar GM-HM inequality.

$$\begin{split} \min_{\{p_{s|i}^{\tau}\}} & \sum_{s=1}^{S} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \left[ \| \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} U_{i,s}^{\tau} - \sum_{i=1}^{N} d_{i,s} U_{i,s}^{\tau} \|^{2} \right] \\ \text{s.t.} & p_{s|i}^{\tau} \geq 0, \ \sum_{s=1}^{S} p_{s|i}^{\tau} \leq 1, \ \sum_{s=1}^{S} \sum_{i=1}^{N} p_{s|i}^{\tau} = m \quad \forall i, s \end{split}$$

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 $\mathbb{E}[Z_p^{\tau}]$  -> Participation heterogeneity (or variance).

The red term is only related to dataset distribution and sampling distribution.

What is the meaning of this term?

Based on some common assumptions (L-smoothness, mu-strongly convex, etc.) We modified and adapted the proof from [2].

$$\mathbb{E}[Z_p^{\tau}] = \left(\frac{2}{\theta} + K\left(2 + \frac{\mu}{2L}\right)\right)K^2\bar{\sigma}^2 + \frac{2K^3\bar{\sigma}^2}{\theta}\mathbb{E}\left[\left(\sum_{i\in\mathcal{N}_s}\mathbbm{1}_i^{s,\tau}P_{i,s}^{\tau} - 1\right)^2\right].$$
$$P_{i,s}^{\tau} = \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}$$

 $\mathbb{E}[Z_p^{\tau}]$  -> Participation heterogeneity (or variance) Recall our global aggregation rule:

$$w_s^{\tau+1} = w_s^{\tau} - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}} U_{i,s}^{\tau}$$

Can be rewritten as:

$$w_s^{\tau+1} = w_s^{\tau} - (H_s^{\tau})^{\mathsf{T}} U_s^{\tau}$$

$$H_{S}^{\tau} = \left[\cdots, 1_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau}, \cdots\right]^{\mathsf{T}}, U_{S}^{\tau} = \left[\cdots, U_{i,s}^{\tau}, \cdots\right]$$
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$$P_{i,s}^{\tau} = \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}$$

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$$H_{s}^{\tau} = \left[\cdots, 1_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau}, \cdots\right]^{\mathsf{T}}, U_{s}^{\tau} = \left[\cdots, U_{i,s}^{\tau}, \cdots\right]$$
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$$|H_{s}^{\tau}|_{1} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 1_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 1_{i}^{s,\tau} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}$$

Notice  $\mathbb{E}[|H_s^{\tau}|_1] = 1$ , therefore

 $red term = \mathbb{E}[(|H_s^{\tau}|_1 - 1)^2]$ 

This is also a variance!

How does this variance influence the training?

# The influence of participation heterogeneity

$$|H_{S}^{\tau}|_{1} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbb{1}_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbb{1}_{i}^{s,\tau} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}$$
$$Var_{H} = \mathbb{E}[(|H_{S}^{\tau}|_{1} - 1)^{2}]$$

High  $Var_H$ :  $|H_s^{\tau}|_1$  may change a lot across rounds.

Lead to unstable "global step."

 $w_s^{\tau+1} = w_s^{\tau} - (H_s^{\tau})^{\top} U_s^{\tau}$ 

Impact the training especially at the end stage of the training.



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# Compare GVR and LVR



 $w_s^{\tau+1} = w_s^{\tau} - (H_s^{\tau})^{\top} U_s^{\tau}$ 

How to mitigate the impact of unstable "global step?"

# Mitigate the impact of participation heterogeneity

Previous Aggregation Rule:  $|H^{\tau}|_{A}$ 

$$|H_{s}^{\tau}|_{1} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 1_{i}^{s,\tau} P_{i,s}^{\tau} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} 1_{i}^{s,\tau} \frac{d_{i,s}}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}$$
$$w_{s}^{\tau+1} = w_{s}^{\tau} - (H_{s}^{\tau})^{\top} U_{s}^{\tau}$$

New Aggregation Rule [3]:

$$w_{s}^{\tau+1} = w_{s}^{\tau} - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} d_{i,s}h_{i,s}^{\tau} + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} \frac{d_{i,s}\left(U_{i,s}^{\tau} - h_{i,s}^{\tau}\right)}{p_{s|i}^{\tau}}\right)$$
$$h_{i,s}^{\tau} = \begin{cases} U_{i,s}^{\tau-1}, & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau-1,s}\\ h_{i,s}^{\tau-1}, & \text{if } i \in \mathcal{A}_{\tau-1,s} \end{cases}$$

 $U_{i,s}^{\tau} - h_{i,s}^{\tau}$  should be small. Even though  $|H_s^{\tau}|_1$  has a high variance, the impact is small.

Server stores stale updates from clients, and use stale updates to stabilize the training. **GVR\*** 

30 [3] Jhunjhunwala, Divyansh, et al. "Fedvarp: Tackling the variance due to partial client participation in federated learning." *Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence*. PMLR, 2022.

# Outline

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Multi-model federated learning (MMFL) 🗸

- Variance-reduced client sampling in a simple MMFL system  $\checkmark$
- Modeling computational heterogeneity in MMFL
- Experiments

# Recall

## Key assumptions from previous work [1]

In each round, the server only allows **partial participation**, and each active client **can only train one model**.

1) Partial Participation: reduce communication cost

2) Only train one model: computational constraints

"Only train one model" is too ideal, without considering heterogeneity of computational abilities.

32 [1] Bhuyan, Neelkamal, Sharayu Moharir, and Gauri Joshi. "Multi-model federated learning with provable guarantees." *EAI International Conference on Performance Evaluation Methodologies and Tools*. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2022.



Multi-model federated learning

#### Make more realistic assumptions

In each round, the server only allows <u>partial participation</u>, and each active client i <u>can train</u>  $B_i$  <u>models in parallel</u>.

1) Partial Participation: reduce communication cost

2) Client *i* can train  $B_i$  models ( $B_i \leq S$ ):

Computational constraint & heterogeneity

"Powerful" clients train more models, leading to biased convergence. How to achieve unbiased training? 33



Multi-model federated learning

## System model for heterogeneous MMFL

# For ease of description, <u>assume client *i* has $B_i$ processors</u>, each processor (i, b) can train one model independently.

1) Adjust the aggregation rule to ensure unbiased training

$$w_{s}^{\tau+1} = w_{s}^{\tau} - \sum_{(i,b)\in\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} P_{(i,b),s}^{\tau} G_{(i,b),s}^{\tau}$$

$$P_{(i,b),s}^{\tau} = \frac{d_{i,s}}{B_i p_{s|(i,b)}^{\tau}}, \qquad G_{(i,b),s}^{\tau} = \eta_{\tau} \sum_{t=1}^{K} \nabla f_{i,s}^{t,\tau}$$

Notations:

 $w_s^{\tau}$ : global model parameters  $\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}$ : set of active "processors"  $d_{i,s}$ : dataset size ratio  $p_{s|(i,b)}^{\tau}$ : the probability of having processor (i, b) to train model s  $\tau$ : global round index t: local epoch index

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$$w_{s}^{\tau+1} = w_{s}^{\tau} - \sum_{(i,b)\in\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}} P_{(i,b),s}^{\tau} G_{(i,b),s}^{\tau}$$

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{b=1}^{B_{i}}1_{(i,b),s}^{\tau}\frac{d_{i,s}}{B_{i}p_{s|(i,b)}}G_{(i,b),s}^{\tau}\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{N}d_{i,s}\mathbb{E}\left[G_{(i,b),s}^{\tau}\right]$$

Sampling at the "processor-level"

Notations:  $w_s^{\tau}$ : global model parameters  $\mathcal{A}_{\tau,s}$ : set of active "processors"  $d_{i,s}$ : dataset size ratio  $p_{s|(i,b)}^{\tau}$ : the probability of having processor (i, b) to train model s  $\tau$ : global round index t: local epoch index

## Experiments

3 Models: all Fashion-MNIST. N=120 clients m=12 (active rate=0.1) Each client: 30% labels.

For each model: 10% high-data clients, 90% low-data clients. 10% clients hold 52.6% data of each task.

25% clients:  $B_i = 3$ 50% clients:  $B_i = 2$ 25% clients:  $B_i = 1$ 



## Experiments



## Experiments

#### 3 Models: all Fashion-MNIST.

5 Models: two Fashion-MNIST, one CIFAR-10, one EMNIST, one Shakespeare.

10% clients only have data for S-1 models.

#### TABLE I FINAL AVERAGE MODEL ACCURACY RELATIVE TO THAT FROM FULL PARTICIPATION (THEORETICALLY THE BEST UNDER THE SAME LOCAL TRAINING SETTINGS).

Methods	3 tasks	5 tasks	Comm. Cost	Comp. Cost	Mem. Cost
FedVARP [30]	$0.712 \pm .14$	$0.690 \pm .19$	Low	Low	High
MIFA [31]	$0.868 {\pm}.18$	$0.835 {\pm}.18$	Low	Low	High
SCAFFOLD [32]	$0.794 {\pm}.14$	$0.650 {\pm}.24$	Low	Low	Low
Random	$0.778 {\pm}.19$	$0.749 \pm .23$	Low	Low	Low
Full Participation	$1.000 \pm .13$	$1.000 \pm .14$	High	High	Low
MMFL-GVR	$0.893 \pm .14$	$0.842 \pm .20$	Low	High	Low
MMFL-LVR	$0.912 \pm .15$	$0.849 \pm .16$	Low	Low	Low
MMFL-GVR*	<b>0.960</b> ±.15	<b>0.869</b> ±.18	Low	High	High

# Summary



#### Make more realistic assumptions

In each round, the server only allows <u>partial participation</u>, and each active client i <u>can train</u>  $B_i$  <u>models in parallel</u>.

Other ways to model computational heterogeneity:

1) Asynchronous training [4]

2) Flexible local epochs number [5]

3) Flexible model architectures [6]

[4] Askin, Baris, et al. "FedAST: Federated Asynchronous Simultaneous Training."
 [5] Ruan, Yichen, et al. "Towards flexible device participation in federated learning."
 [6] Park, Jong-Ik, and Carlee Joe-Wong. "Federated Learning with Flexible Architectures."



Multi-model federated learning