Parity Models Erasure-Coded Resilience for Prediction Serving Systems

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Inference used in latency-sensitive apps

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Inference used in latency-sensitive apps



Inference must operate with low, predictable latency



Frontend

Frontend

model instances











model instances





















Storage systems

resource-efficient resilience



Storage systems

resource-efficient resilience



Communication systems

low-latency packet loss recovery



Storage systems

resource-efficient resilience



Communication systems

low-latency packet loss recovery



Erasure codes for systems that compute over data (e.g., serving systems)?

Erasure codes for resilient ML inference

This work: overcome fundamental challenges, use erasure codes for reducing tail latency in machine learning inference

Erasure codes for resilient ML inference

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Bring benefits of erasure codes to inference



low recovery latency



more resource-efficient than replication














End goal: erasure-coded prediction serving



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What does it mean to use erasure codes for ML inference?

Why is this hard?











Quick recap of erasure codes: parameter k



Quick recap of erasure codes: benefits



Erasure Coding





same resilience

lower resource-overhead



















Traditional coding vs. codes for inference

Codes for storage



Codes for inference



Need to handle computation over inputs

Traditional coding vs. codes for inference



Designing erasure codes for inference is hard



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Theoretical framework: "coded-computation"



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Currently: handcraft erasure code



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• Straight-forward for linear F



Designing erasure codes for inference is hard

Theoretical framework: "coded-computation"

Currently: handcraft erasure code

- Straight-forward for linear F
- Far more challenging for non-linear F
 - Apply to only restricted functions (polynomials)
 - Require 2x resource-overhead



Theoretical framework: "coded-computation"

Currently: handcraft erasure code

Current handcrafted coded-computation approaches cannot support neural networks

- Apply to only restricted functions (polynomials)
- Require 2x resource-overhead

F(P)

X

 $F(X_2)$

Xт

 $F(X_1)$

This work:

overcome challenges of handcrafting erasure codes for coded-computation by taking a **learning-based** approach to erasure-coded resilience

Learning an erasure code?

Design encoder and decoder as neural networks



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Learn computation over parities

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Use simple, fast encoders and decoders Learn computation over parities: "parity model"

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$$P = X_1 + X_2$$

Desired output: $F(X_1) + F(X_2)$

1. Sample inputs and encode



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Training a parity model: higher parameter k











Can specialize encoders and decoders to inference task at hand



Appropriate for machine learning inference

Appropriate for machine learning inference

1. Predictions resulting from inference are approximations

Appropriate for machine learning inference

- **1.** Predictions resulting from inference are approximations
- 2. Inaccuracy only at play when predictions otherwise slow/failed

Parity models in action in Clipper



Evaluation

1. How **accurate** are reconstructions using parity models?

2. By how much can parity models help reduce tail latency?









Tail latency reduction



Tail latency reduction



Extensive evaluation in paper

- Evaluate accuracy with different:
 - Different encoders
 - Inference tasks (image classification, object localization, speech)
 - Neural network architectures (ResNets, VGG, LeNet, MLP)
 - Code parameters (k = 3, k = 4)
- Evaluate tail latency with different:
 - Inference hardware (GPUs, CPUs)
 - Query arrival rates
 - Batch sizes
 - Levels of load imbalance
 - Amounts of redundancy
 - Baseline approaches

• Overcome challenges of handcrafting erasure codes for coded-computation through learning-based coded-resilience

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- Parity models: transform parities to enable decoding
 - Applicable to many inference tasks, neural networks
 - Reduce tail latency in presence of resource-contention

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Project: pdl.cmu.edu/MLCodedComputation/
Code: github.com/Thesys-lab/parity-models

