

City University of Hong Kong

CASA: Clustered Federated Learning with Asynchronous Clients



Boyi Liu¹, Yiming Ma¹, Zimu Zhou², Yexuan Shi¹, Shuyuan Li¹, Yongxin Tong¹ ¹Beihang University ²City University of Hong Kong

Introduction

Clustered Federated Learning harnesses the *decentralized, heterogeneous* data of IoT devices



CFL suffers from **stragglers**, a promising solution is to integrate **asynchrony** into CFL



New setting, new challenges!

Understanding Impact

Direct impact

A-phase: aggregation strategy changes C-phase: similarity calculation changes



*Compound impact

A-phase: *more difficult convergence due to dynamic clustering relationship* C-phase: *higher mis-clustering rate* due to stale similarity calculation



Methods

We design a **bi-level asynchronous aggregation** to separate and manage the complex dependencies on factors as time, cluster scale, computation capacity et al.

We incorporate a **buffer-aided similarity calculation** to enable timely and accurate clustering.



Experiments

Accuracy

