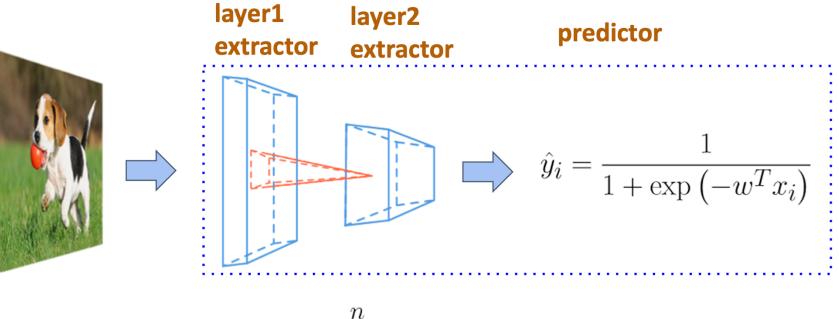
15-442/15-642: Machine Learning Systems

Parallelization Part 1 (Data Parallelism and Zero Redundancy)

Tianqi Chen Carnegie Mellon University

2/19/2025

Recap: DNN Training Overview



Objective

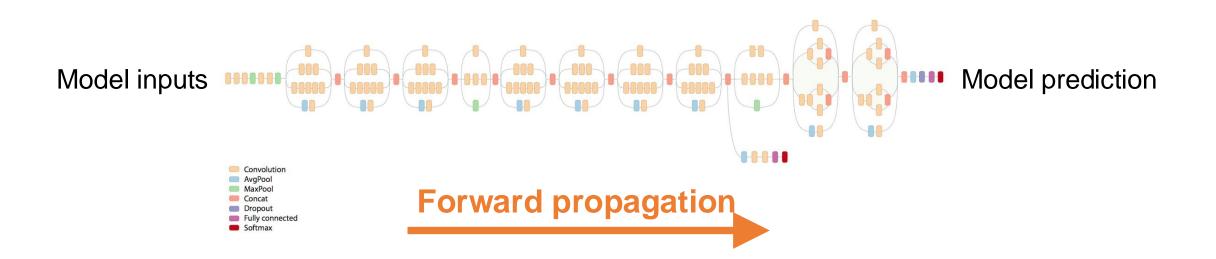
Training

$$\begin{split} L(w) &= \sum_{i=1}^n l(y_i, \hat{y}_i) + \lambda \|w\|^2 \\ w \leftarrow w - \eta \nabla_w L(w) \end{split}$$

DNN Training Process

Train ML models through many iterations of 3 stages

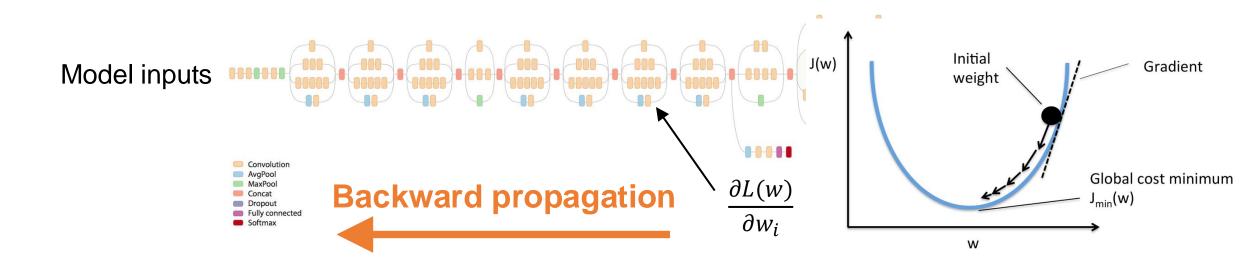
- 1. Forward propagation: apply model to a batch of input samples and run calculation through operators to produce a prediction
- 2. Backward propagation: run the model in reverse to produce error for each trainable weight
- 3. Weight update: use the loss value to update model weights



DNN Training Process

Train ML models through many iterations of 3 stages

- 1. Forward propagation: apply model to a batch of input samples and run calculation through operators to produce a prediction
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DNN Training Process

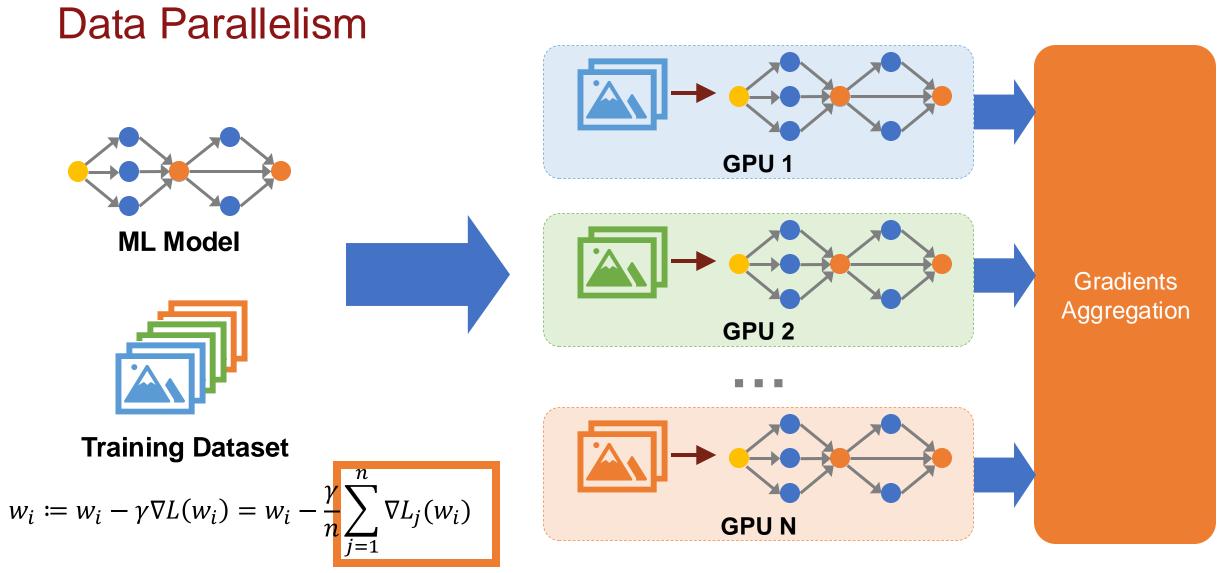
Train ML models through many iterations of 3 stages

- 1. Forward propagation: apply model to a batch of input samples and run calculation through operators to produce a prediction
- 2. Backward propagation: run the model in reverse to produce a gradient for each trainable weight
- 3. Weight update: use the gradients to update model weights

$$w_i \coloneqq w_i - \gamma \frac{\partial L(w)}{\partial w_i} = w_i - \frac{\gamma}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial l_i(w)}{\partial w_i} \text{ Given } in$$

Gradients of individual samples How can we parallelize DNN training?

$$w_i \coloneqq w_i - \gamma \nabla L(w_i) = w_i - \frac{\gamma}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \nabla L_j(w_i)$$

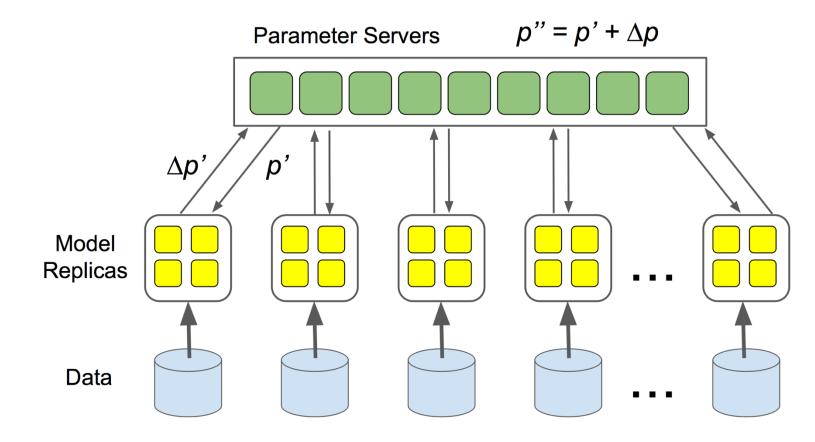


1. Partition training data into batches

2. Compute the gradients of each batch on a GPU

3. Aggregate gradients across GPUs

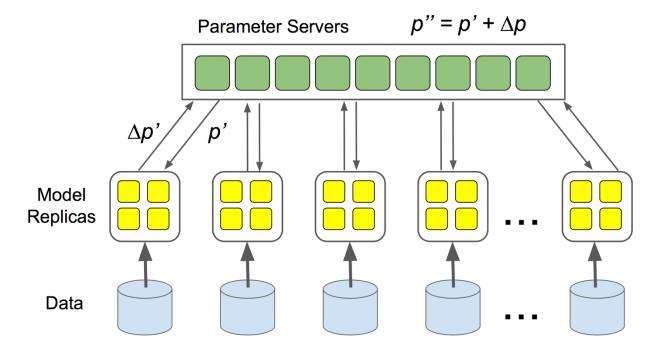
Data Parallelism: Parameter Server



Workers push gradients to parameter servers and pull updated parameters back

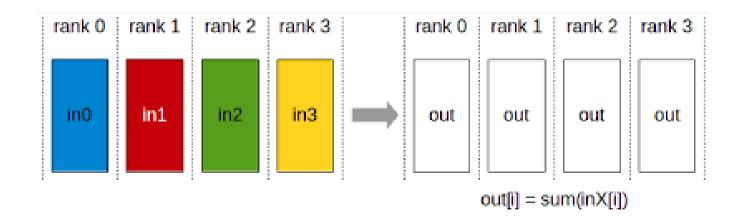
Inefficiency of Parameter Server

- Centralized communication: all workers communicate with parameter servers for weights update; cannot scale to large numbers of workers
- How can we decentralize communication in DNN training?



Inefficiency of Parameter Server

- Centralized communication: all workers communicate with parameter servers for weights update; cannot scale to large numbers of workers
- How can we decentralize communication in DNN training?
- AllReduce: perform element-wise reduction across multiple devices

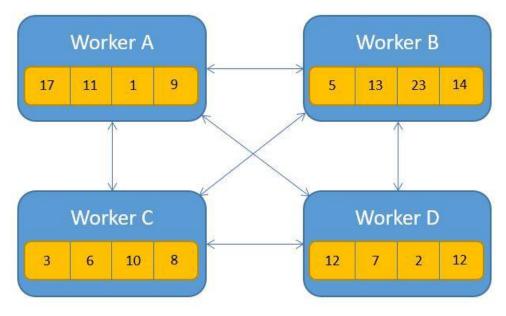


Different Ways to Perform AllReduce

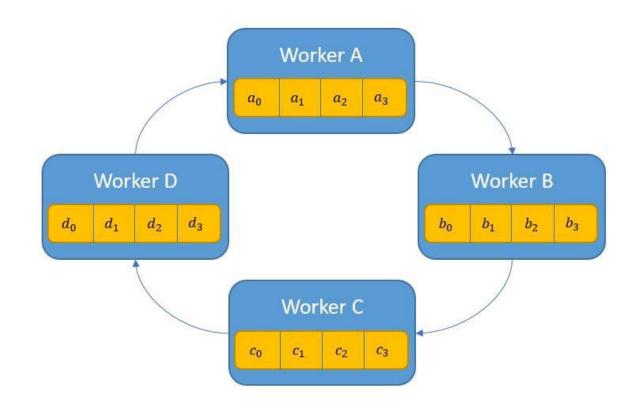
- Naïve AllReduce
- Ring AllReduce
- Tree AllReduce
- Butterfly AllReduce

Naïve AllReduce

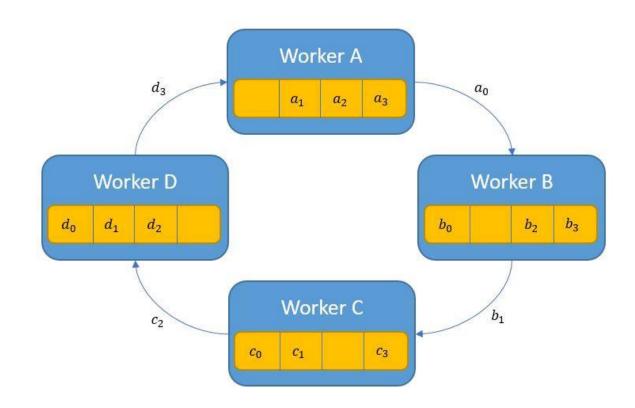
- Each worker can send its local gradients to all other workers
- If we have N workers and each worker contains M parameters
- Overall communication: N * (N-1) * M parameters
- Issue: each worker communicates with all other workers; same scalability issue as parameter server



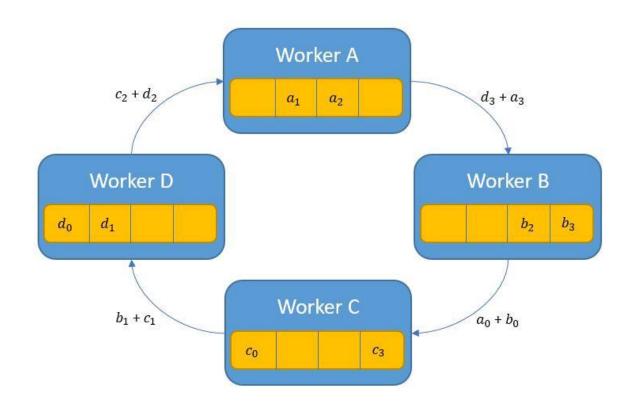
- Construct a ring of N workers, divide M parameters into N slices
- Step 1 (Aggregation): each worker send one slice (M/N parameters) to the next worker on the ring; repeat N times



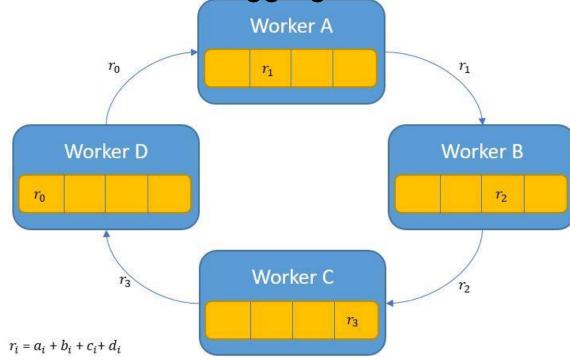
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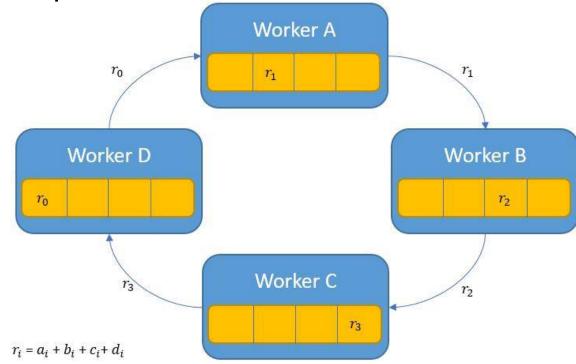
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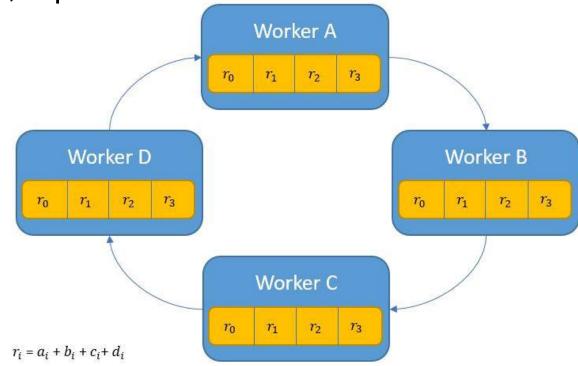
- Construct a ring of N workers, divide M parameters into N slices
- Step 1 (Aggregation): each worker send one slice (M/N parameters) to the next worker on the ring; repeat N times
- After step 1, each worker has the aggregated version of M/N parameters



- Construct a ring of N workers, divide M parameters into N slices
- Step 1 (Aggregation): each worker send one slice (M/N parameters) to the next worker on the ring; repeat N times
- Step 2 (Broadcast): each worker send one slice of aggregated parameters to the next worker; repeat N times



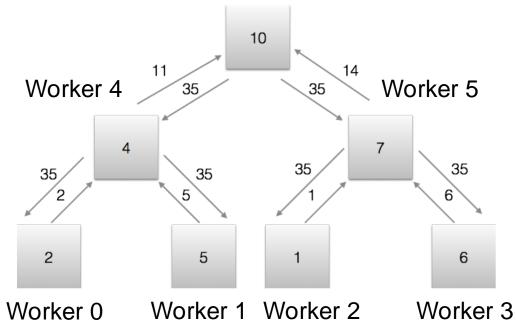
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- Construct a ring of N workers, divide M parameters into N slices
- Step 1 (Aggregation): each worker send one slice (M/N parameters) to the next worker on the ring; repeat N times
- Step 2 (Broadcast): each worker send one slice of aggregated parameters to the next worker; repeat N times
- Overall communication: 2 * M * N parameters
 - Aggregation: M * N parameters
 - Broadcast: M * N parameters

Tree AllReduce

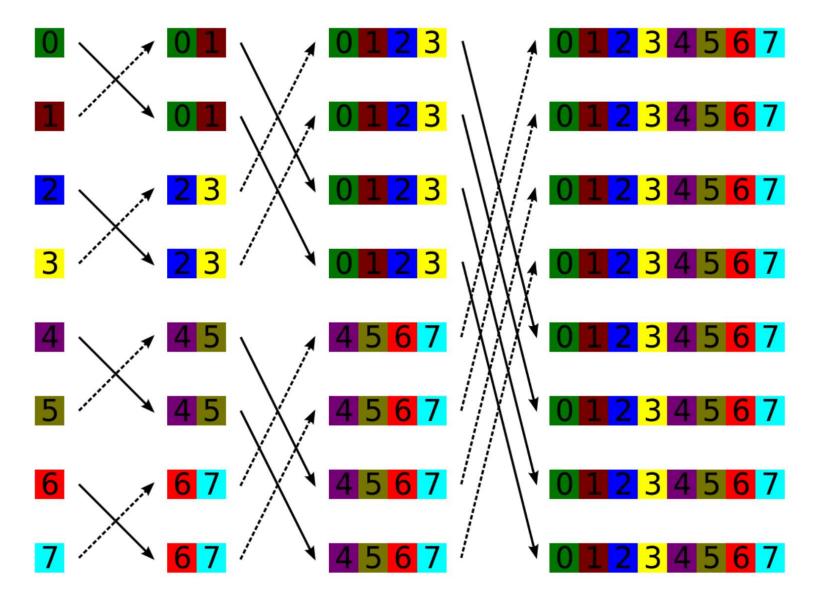
- Construct a tree of N workers;
- Step 1 (Aggregation): each worker sends M parameters to its parent; repeat log(N) times
- Step 2 (Broadcast): each worker sends M parameters to its children; repeat log(N) times
 Worker 6



Tree AllReduce

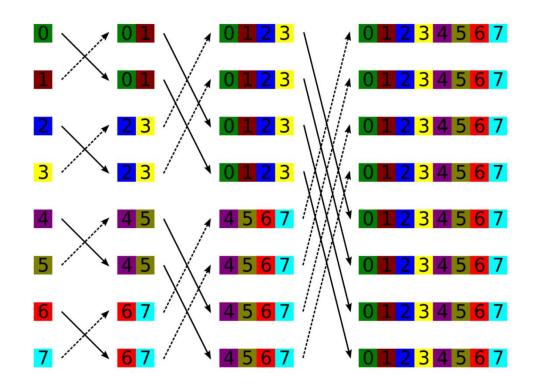
- Construct a tree of N workers;
- Step 1 (Aggregation): each worker sends M parameters to its parent; repeat log(N) times
- Step 2 (Broadcast): each worker sends M parameters to its children; repeat log(N) times
- Overall communication: 2 * N * M parameters
 - Aggregation: M * N parameters
 - Broadcast: M * N parameters

Butterfly Network



Butterfly AllReduce

- Repeat log(N) times:
 - 1. Each worker sends M parameters to its target node in the butterfly network
 - 2. Each worker aggregates gradients locally
- Overall communication: N * M * log(N) parameters



Comparing different AllReduce Methods

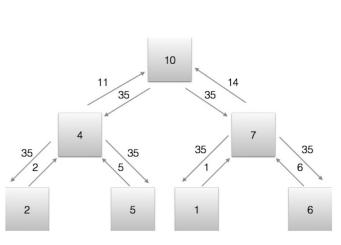
	Parameter Server		Ring AllReduce	Tree AllReduce	Butterfly AllReduce
Overall communicatio n	$2 \times N \times M$	$N^2 \times M$	$2 \times N \times M$	$2 \times N \times M$	$N \times M$ $\times \log N$

Question: Ring AllReduce is more efficient and scalable then Tree AllReduce and Parameter Server, why?

Ring AllReduce v.s. Tree AllReduce v.s. Parameter Server

Ring AllReduce:

- Best latency
- Balanced workload across workers
- More scalable since each worker sends 2*M parameters (independent to the number of workers)





Worker A

Worker C

 r_0 r_1 r_2 r_3

Worker D

 $r_i = a_i + b_i + c_i + d_i$

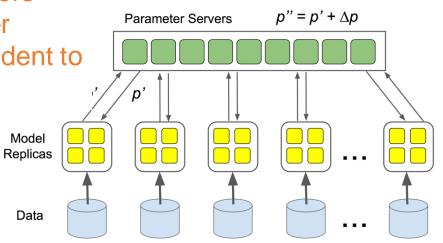
 $r_1 r_2 r_3$

 r_1 r_2 r_3

Worker B

 r_1 r_2 r_3

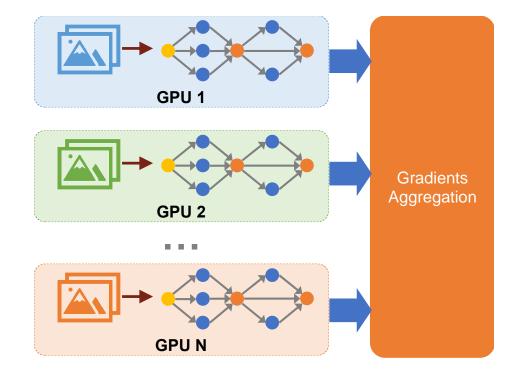
Each worker sends M parameters per iteration; repeat for 2*log(N) iterations Latency: M * 2 * log(N) / bandwidth



All workers send M parameters to parameter servers and receive M parameters from servers Latency: M * N / bandwidth

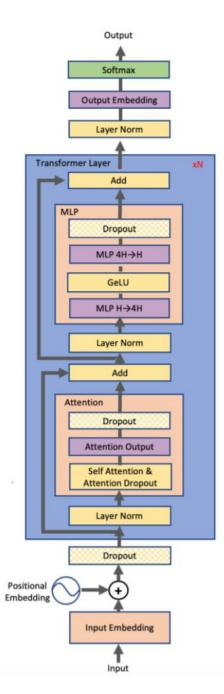
An Issue with Data Parallelism

- Each GPU saves a replica of the entire model
- Cannot train large models that exceed GPU device memory



Large Model Training Challenges

	Bert- Large	GPT-2	Turing 17.2 NLG	GPT-3
Parameters	0.32B	1.5B	17.2B	175B
Layers	24	48	78	96
Hidden Dimension	1024	1600	4256	12288
Relative				
Computation	1x	4.7x	54x	547x
Memory Footprint	5.12GB	24GB	275GB	2800GB

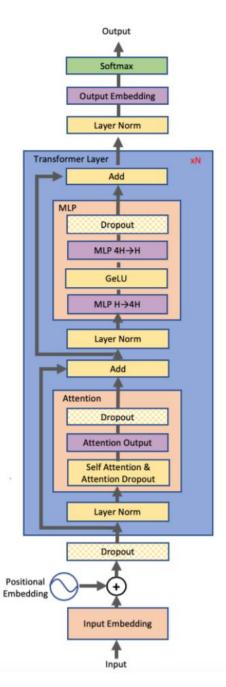


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NVIDIA V100 GPU memory capacity: 16G/32G NVIDIA A100 GPU memory capacity: 40G/80G

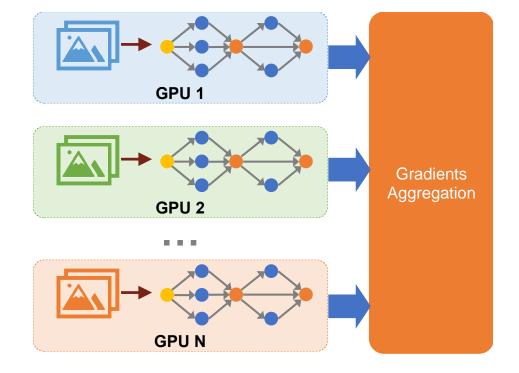
Out of Memory



ZeRO: Zero Redundancy Optimizer



- Eliminating data redundancy in data parallel training
- A widely used technique for data parallel training of large models



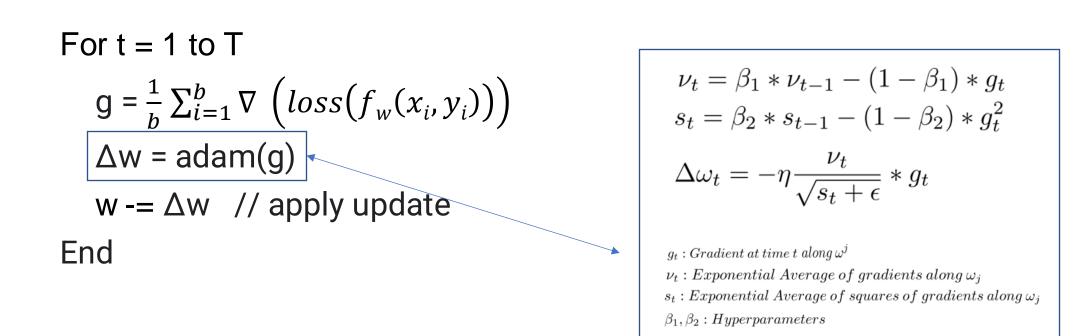
Revisit: Stocastic Gradient Descent

For t = 1 to T

$$\Delta w = \eta \times \frac{1}{b} \sum_{i=1}^{b} \nabla \left(loss(f_w(x_i, y_i)) \right) // \text{ compute derivative and update}$$

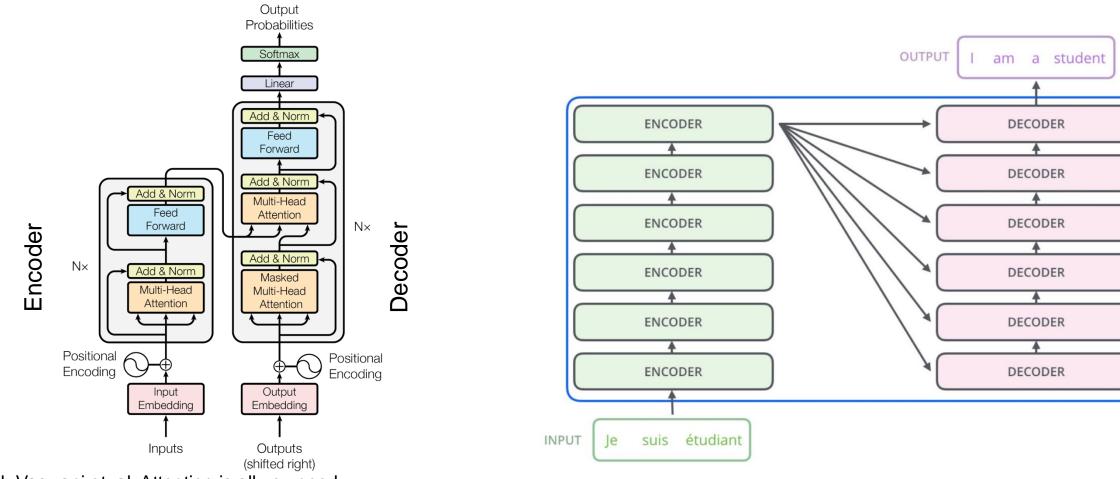
$$w \to \Delta w // \text{ apply update}$$
End

Adaptive Learning Rates (Adam)

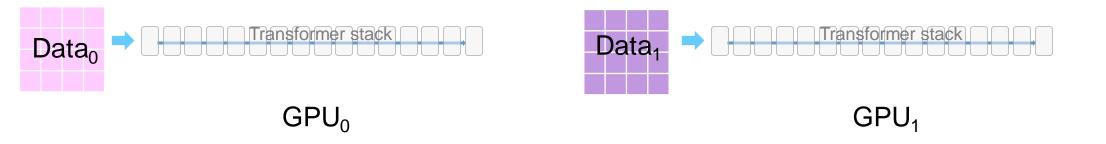


[1] Kingma and Ba, "Adam: A Method for Stochastic Optimization", 2014, https://arxiv.org/abs/1412.6980

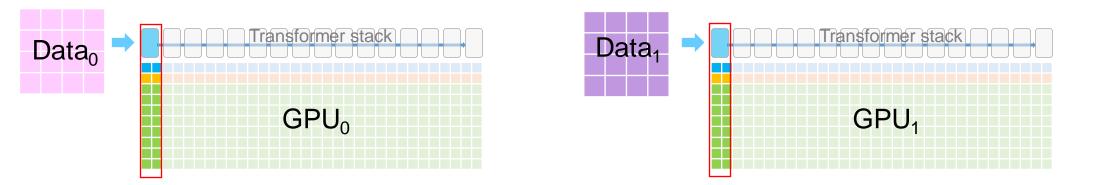
Transformer for Language Models



Ashish Vaswani et. al. Attention is all you need.



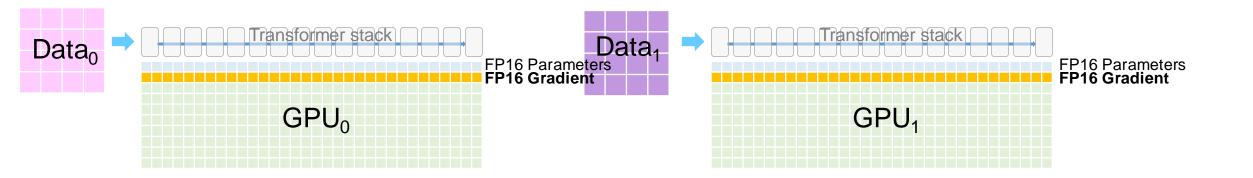
A 16-layer transformer model = 1 layer



Each cell represents GPU memory used by its corresponding transformer layer

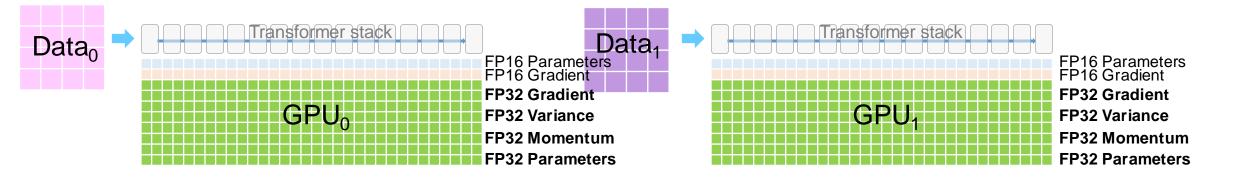


• FP16 parameter



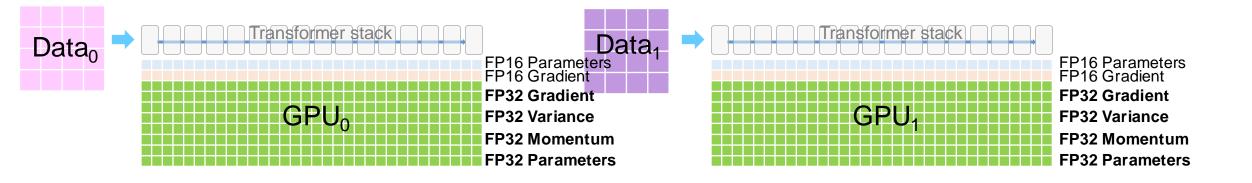
- FP16 parameter
- FP16 Gradients

Understanding Memory Consumption



- FP16 parameter
- FP16 Gradients
- FP32 Optimizer States
 - Gradients, Variance, Momentum, Parameters

Understanding Memory Consumption



- FP16 parameter : 2M bytes
- FP16 Gradients : 2M bytes
- FP32 Optimizer States : 16M bytes
 - Gradients, Variance, Momentum, Parameters Memory consumption doesn't include:

Input batch + activations

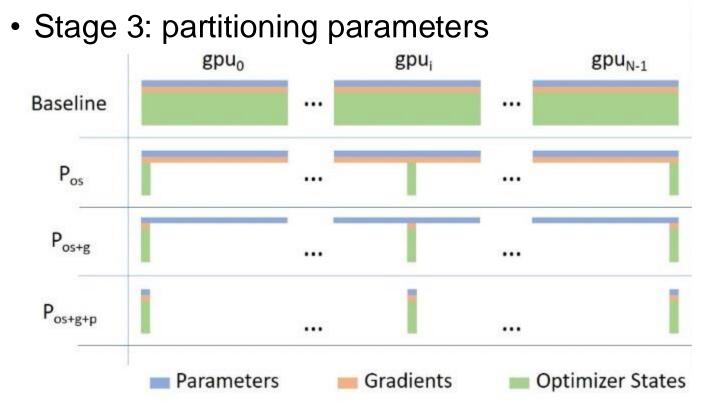
20GB/GPU

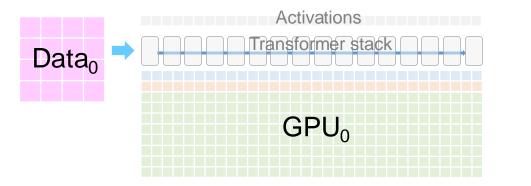
Example 1B parameter model ->

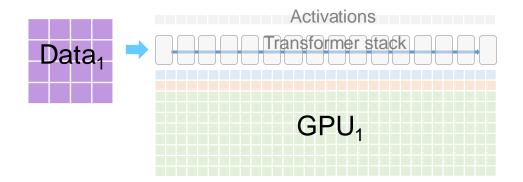
M = number of parameters in the model

ZeRO-DP: ZeRO powered Data Parallelism

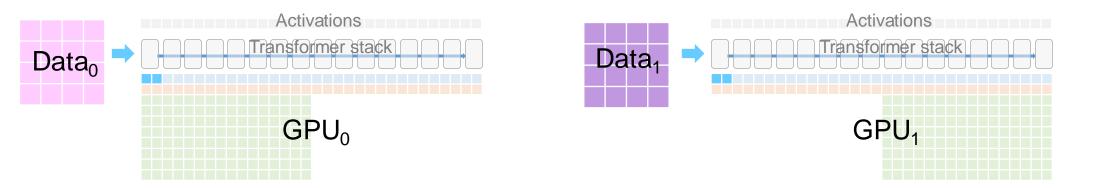
- ZeRO removes the redundancy across data parallel process
- Stage 1: partitioning optimizer states
- Stage 2: partitioning gradients



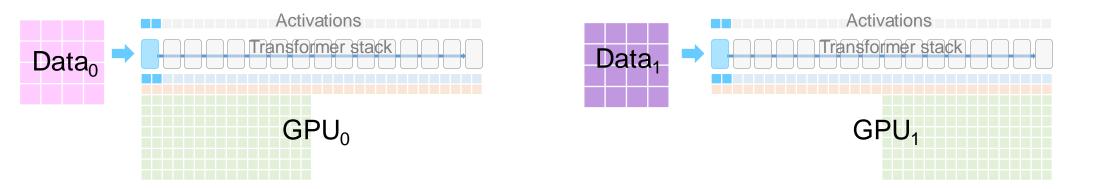




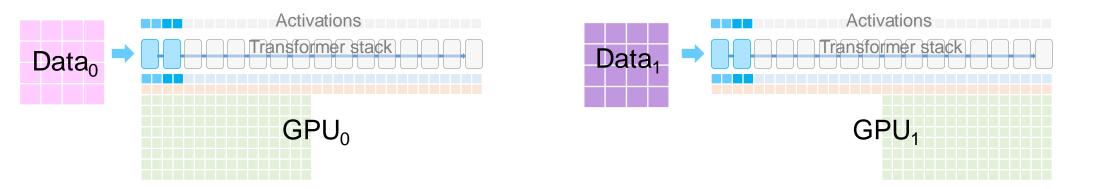
ZeRO Stage 1



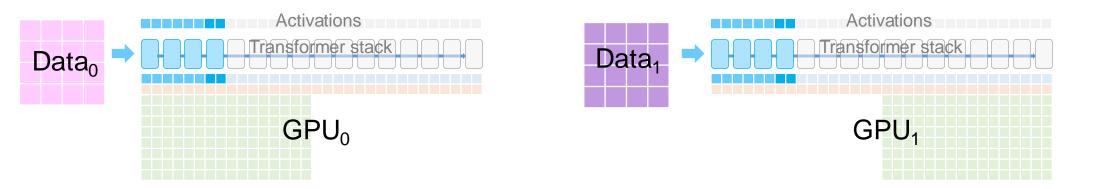
- ZeRO Stage 1
- Partitions optimizer states across GPUs



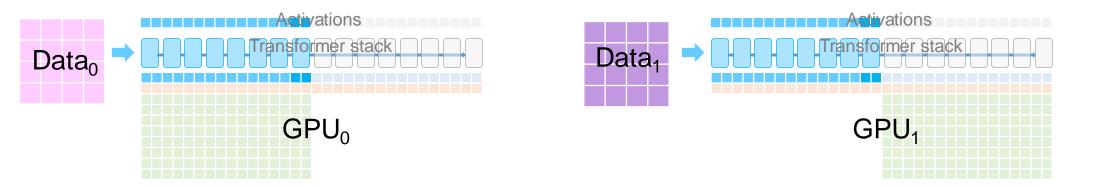
- ZeRO Stage 1
- Partitions optimizer states across GPUs
- Run Forward across the transformer blocks



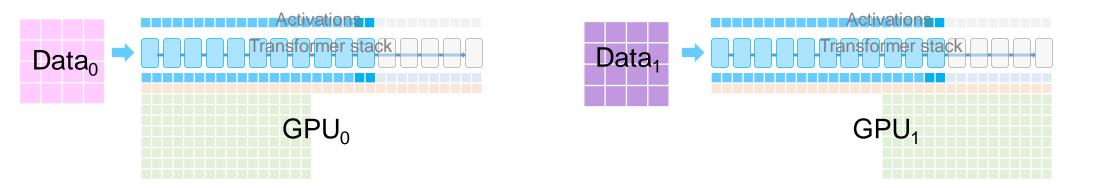
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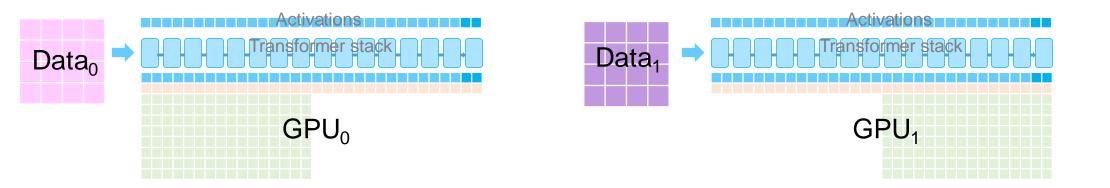
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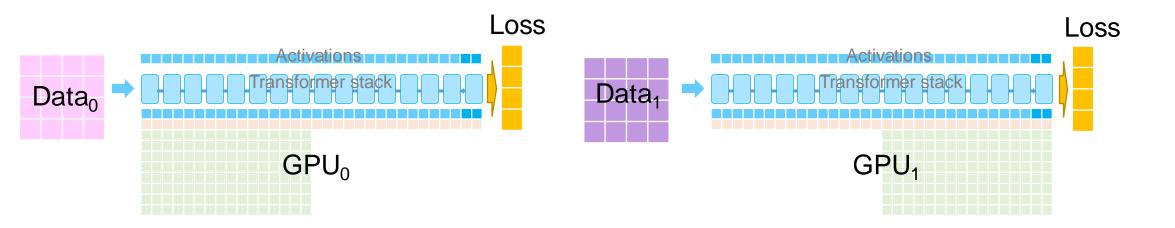
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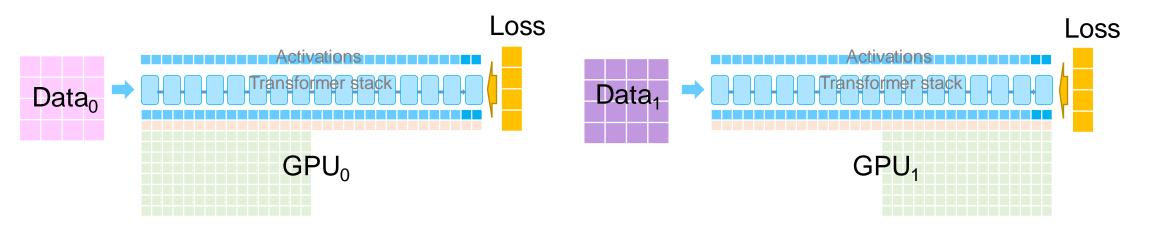
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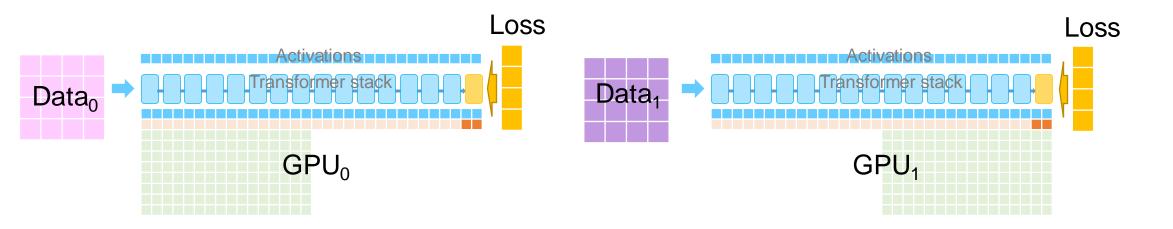
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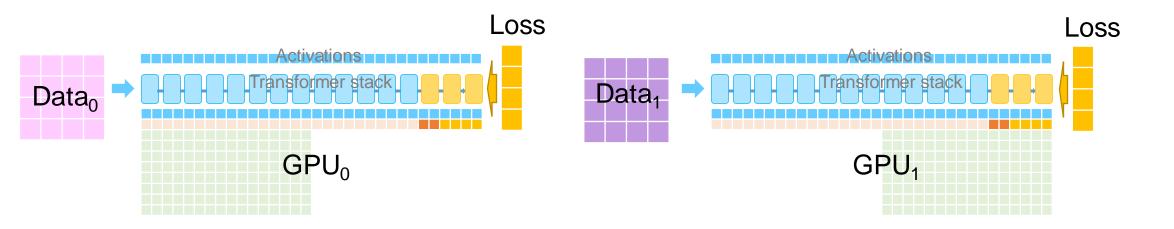
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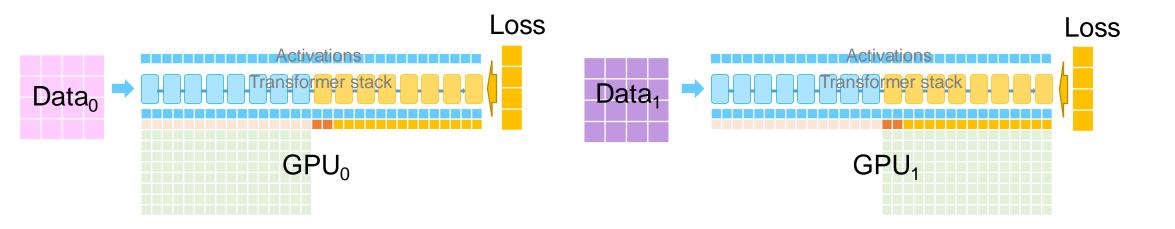
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- Run Forward across the transformer blocks
- Backward propagation to generate FP16 gradients



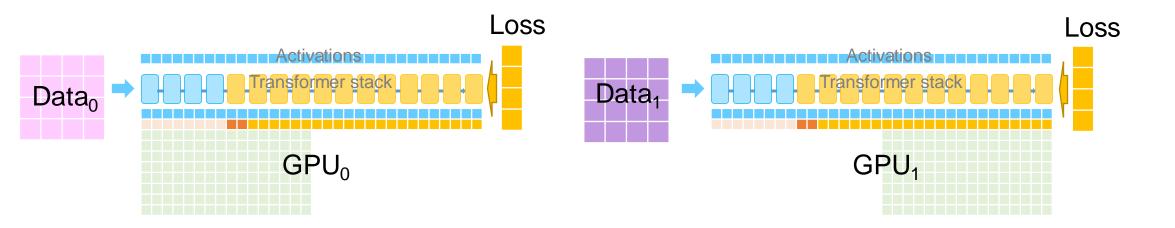
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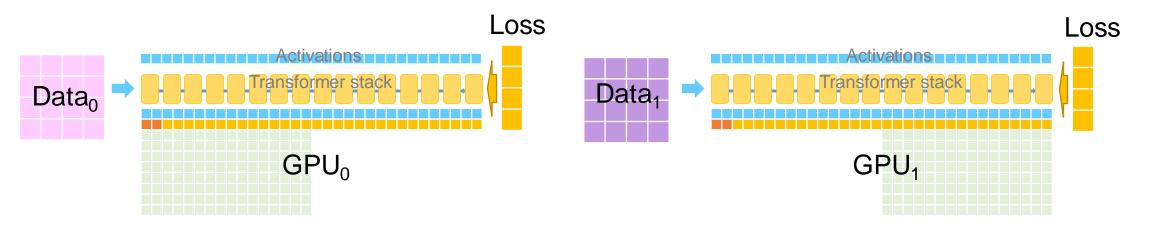
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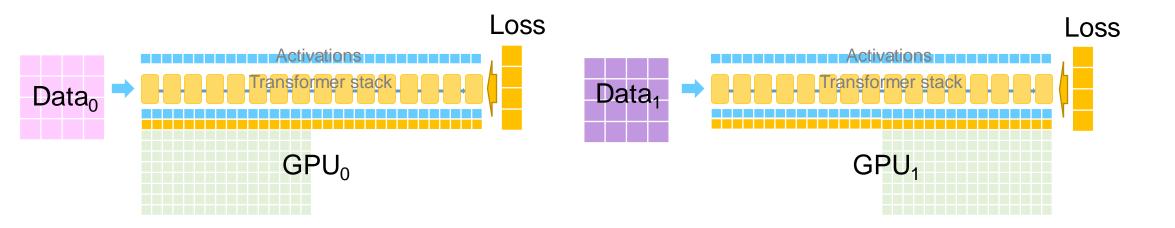
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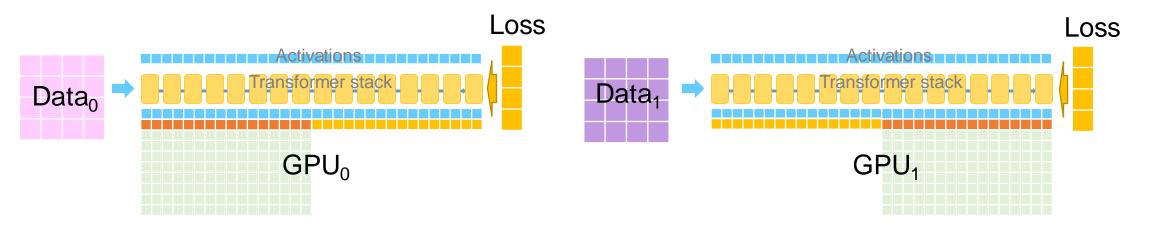
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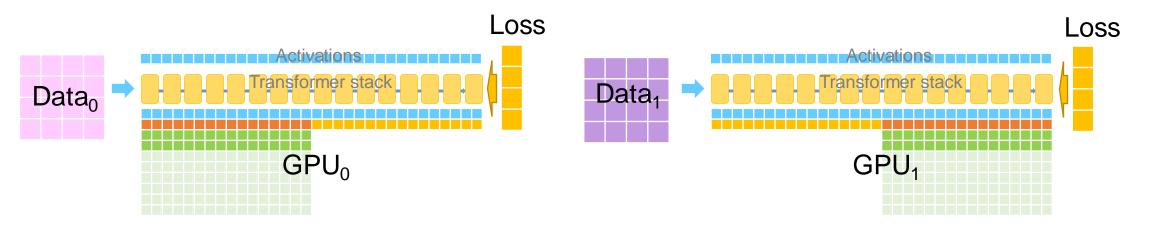
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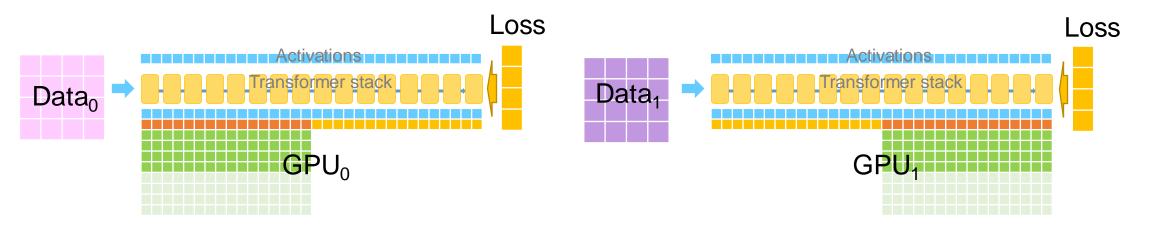
- ZeRO Stage 1
- Partitions optimizer states across GPUs
- Run Forward across the transformer blocks
- Backward propagation to generate FP16 gradients and AllReduce to average



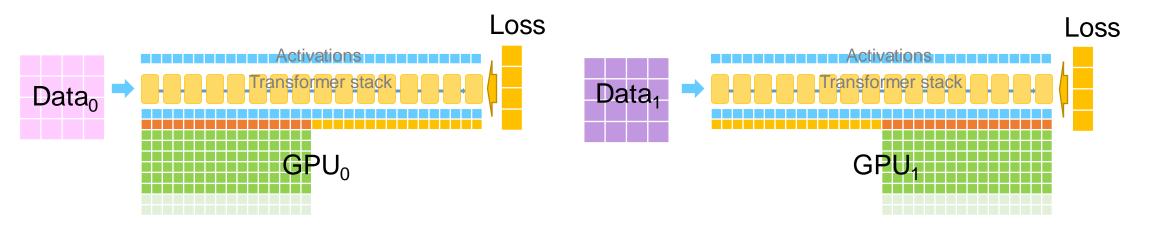
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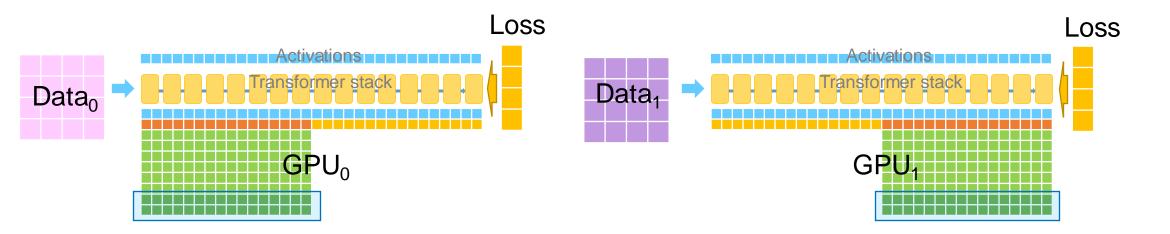
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- Update the FP32 weights with ADAM optimizer



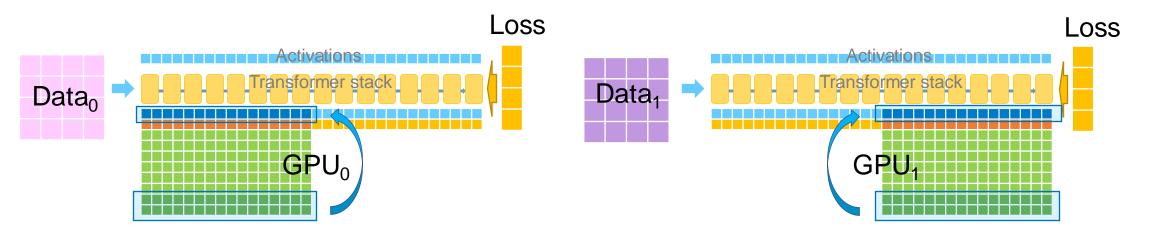
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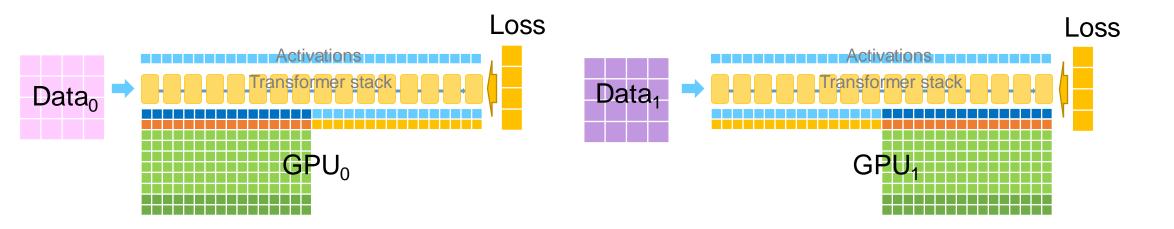
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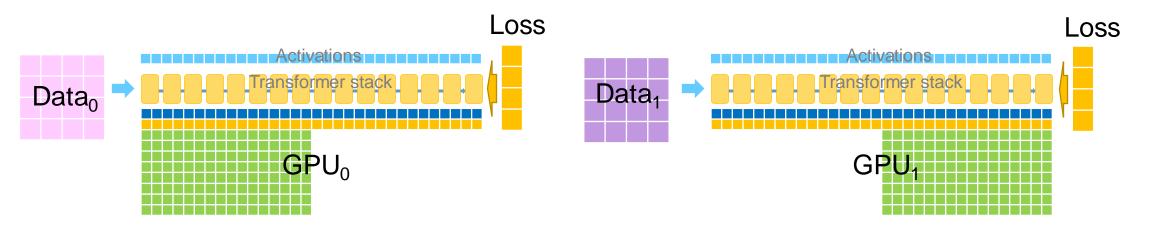
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- Run Forward across the transformer blocks
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- Update the FP16 weights



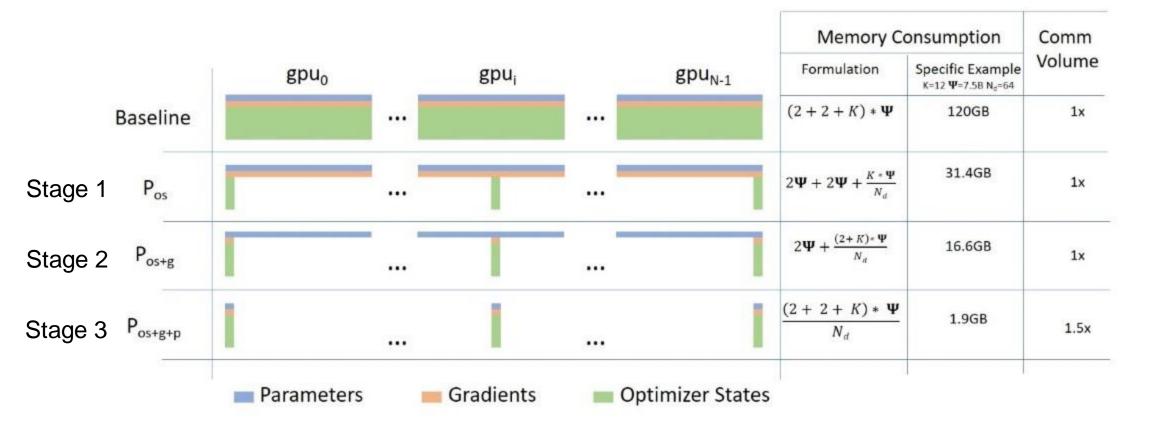
- Run Forward across the transformer blocks
- Backward propagation to generate FP16 gradients and AllReduce to average
- Update the FP32 weights with ADAM optimizer
- Update the FP16 weights
- All Gather the FP16 weights to complete the iteration

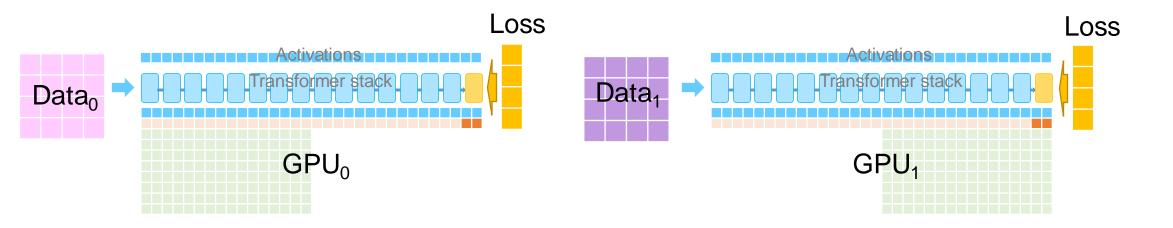


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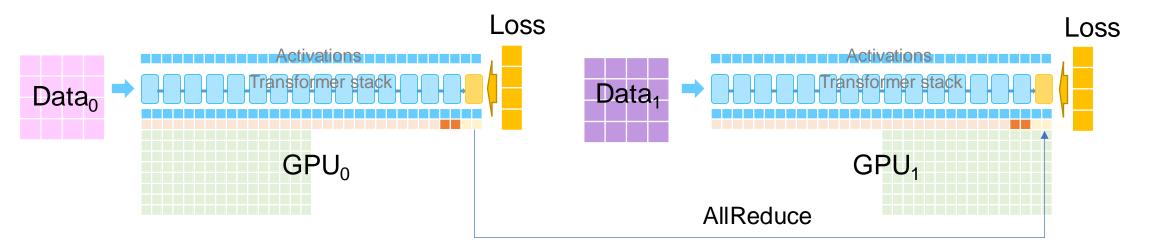
ZeRO: Zero Redundancy Optimizer

- Progressive memory savings and communication volume
- Turning NLR 17.2B is powered by Stage 1 and Megatron

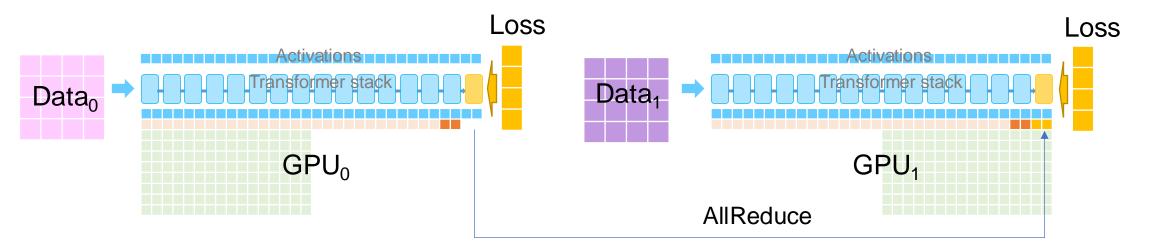




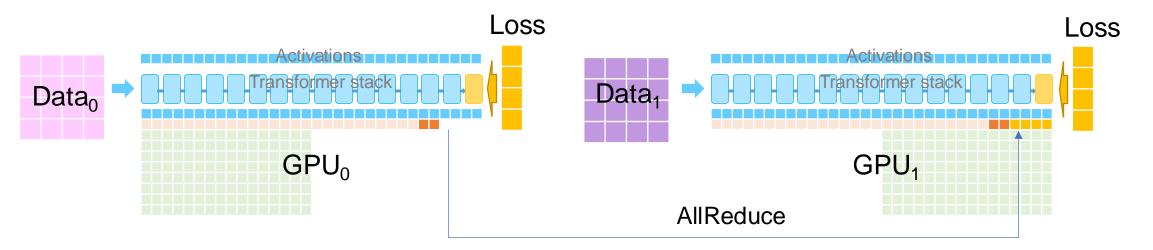
- Partitioning gradients across GPUs
- The forward process remains the same as stage 1



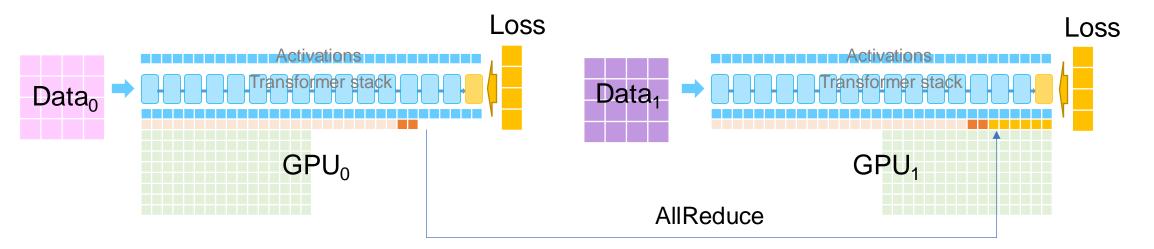
- Partitioning gradients across GPUs
- Perform AllReduce right after back propagation of each layer



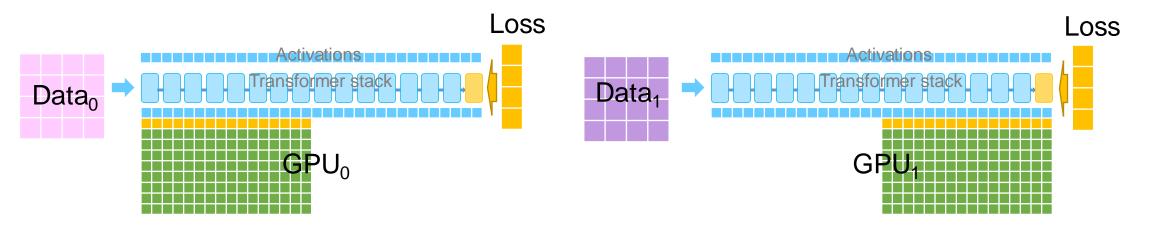
- Partitioning gradients across GPUs
- Only one GPU keeps the gradients after AllReduce



- Partitioning gradients across GPUs
- Reduce gradients on GPUs responsible for updating parameters



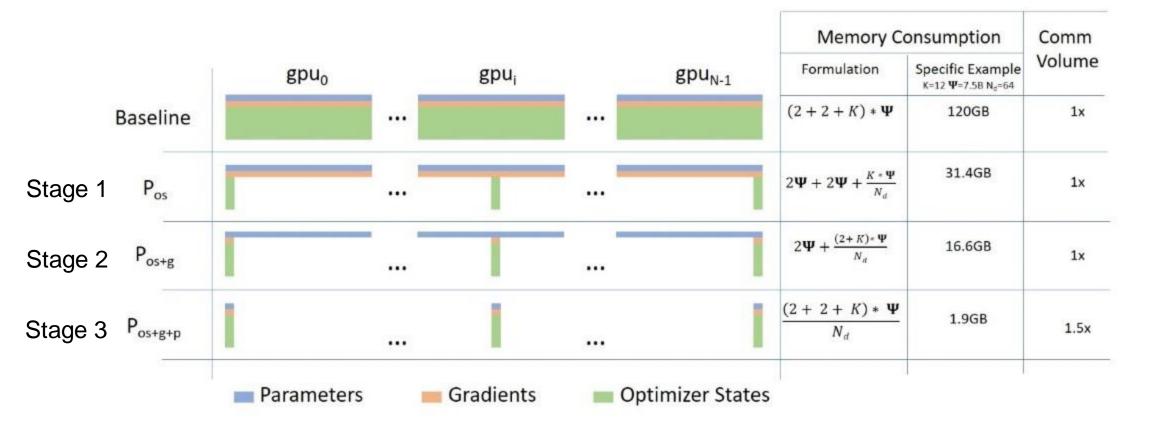
- Partitioning gradients across GPUs
- Reduce gradients on GPUs responsible for updating parameters



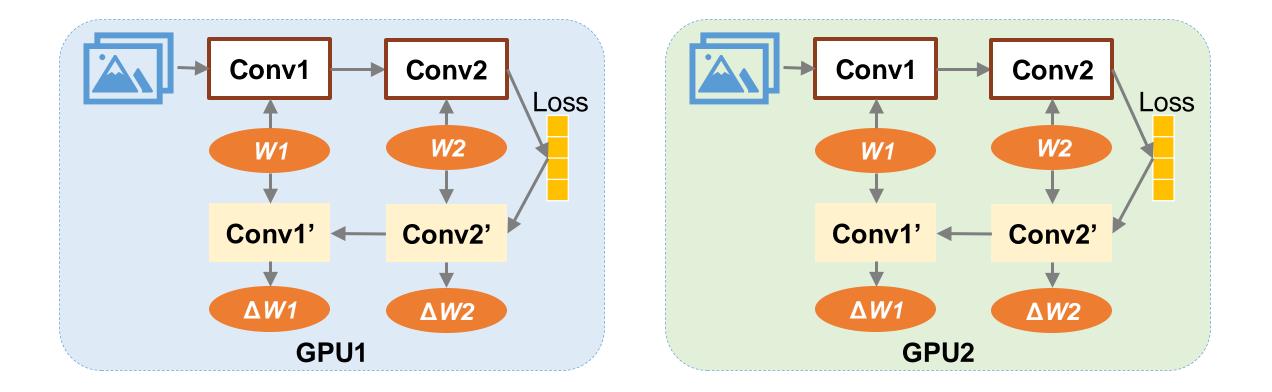
- Partitioning gradients across GPUs
- Reduce gradients on GPUs responsible for updating parameters

ZeRO: Zero Redundancy Optimizer

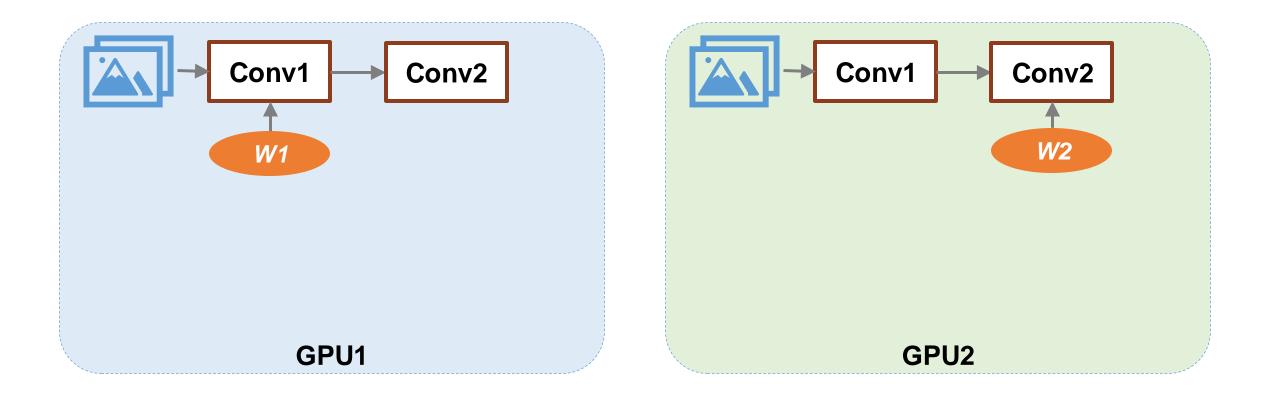
- Progressive memory savings and communication volume
- Turning NLR 17.2B is powered by Stage 1 and Megatron



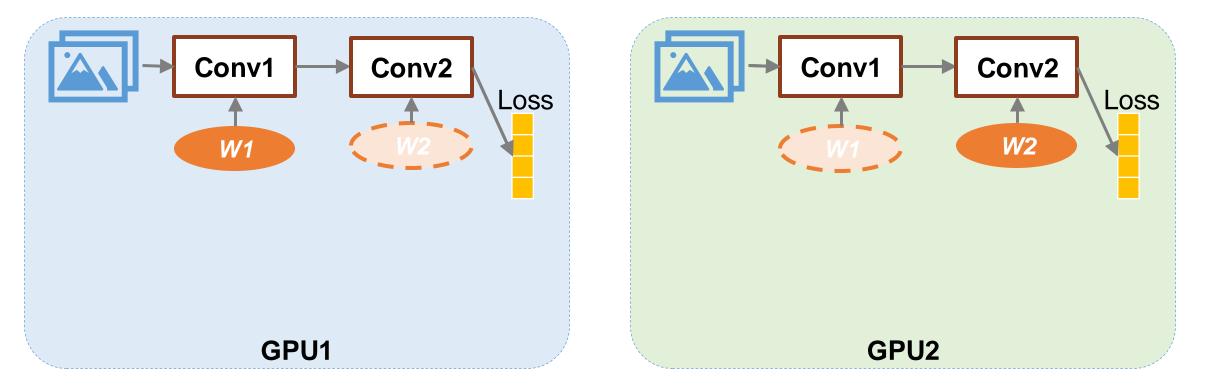
• In data parallel training, all GPUs keep <u>all</u> parameters during training



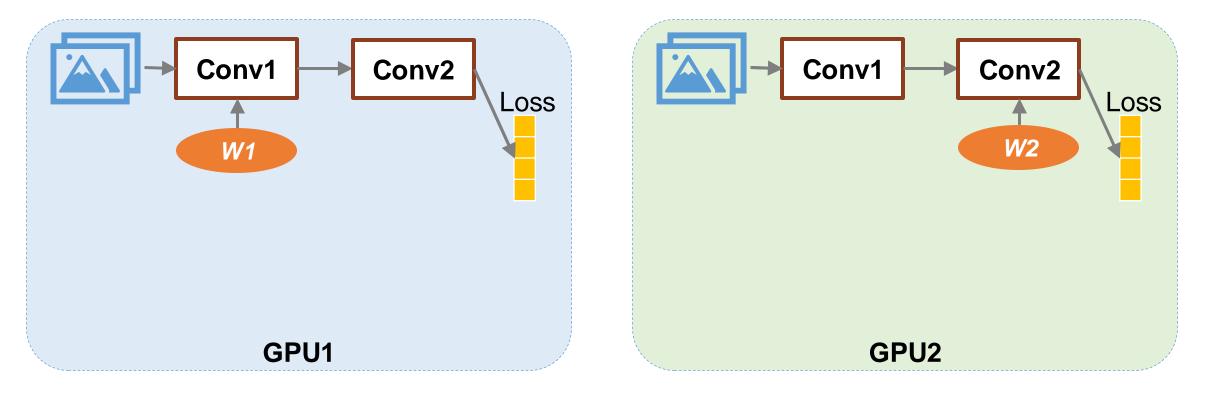
• In ZeRO, model parameters are partitioned across GPUs



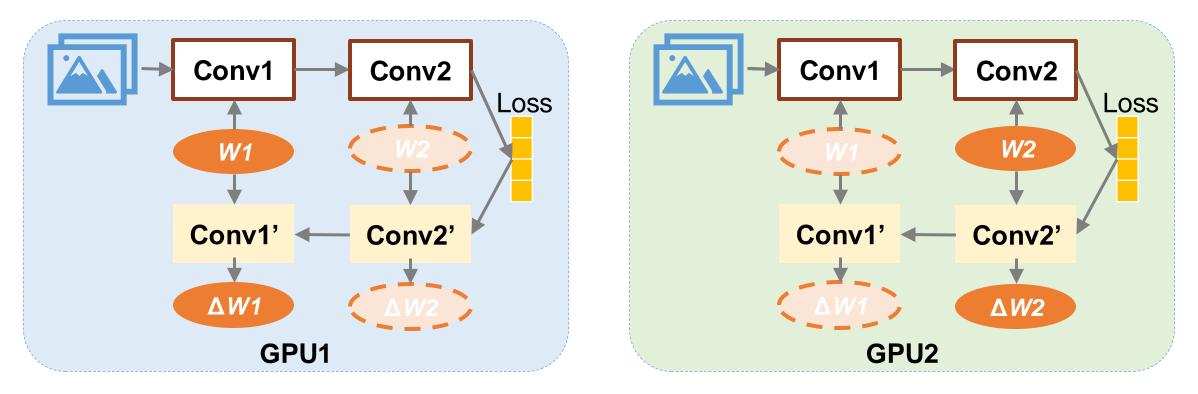
- In ZeRO, model parameters are partitioned across GPUs
- GPUs broadcast their parameters during forward



- In ZeRO, model parameters are partitioned across GPUs
- Parameters are discarded right after use

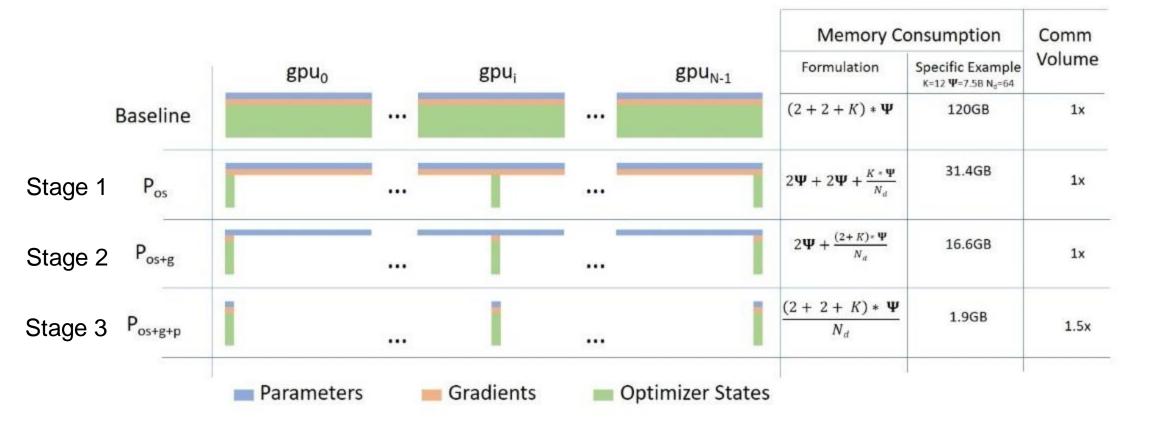


- In ZeRO, model parameters are partitioned across GPUs
- GPUs broadcast their parameters again during backward



ZeRO: Zero Redundancy Optimizer

- ZeRO has three different stages
- Progressive memory savings and communication volume



Summary

- Data-parallel training
 - Parameter server
 - Ring AllReduce
 - Tree AllReduce
 - Butterfly AllReduce
- ZeRO: zero redundancy optimizer