

Polo *et al.* [9] introduced a velocity prediction technique using a DNN that takes calculated velocity feature semblance as input, followed by post-processing with a k-means method. Li *et al.* [10] conducted an in-depth analysis on mapping seismic data to velocity images, and developed a novel DNN framework, entitled SeisInvNet, to perform end-to-end velocity inversion mapping, employing enhanced single-trace seismic data as inputs.

All the mentioned DNN models for seismic inversion are trained based on a centralized manner, meaning that seismic data sensed by different seismic receivers have to be transmitted to a data center, which leads to data privacy and security concerns. Also, seismic field tests are normally conducted in rural areas, where facilities, such as data centers and Internet infrastructures, are not available. Hence, these high volumes of seismic data need to be manually transported to a data center for further processing, thus unable to train the DNN model and achieve seismic inversion in real-time. To achieve real-time training and testing of a DNN model for seismic inversion, we incorporate federated learning (FL) [11] and edge computing [12] into seismic inversion. Specifically, as shown in Fig. 1, each seismic receiver is associated with an IoT device in terms of a computing board to upload its seismic data, and the IoT device acts as a client in FL to store and process its received seismic data. Here, FL allows different clients to collaboratively train a machine learning model without sharing their seismic data, thus ensuring IoT data privacy and security. The whole training process is divided into a sequence of global rounds, each composed of four steps. 1) The FL server, which could be one of the IoT devices in the test field, selects suitable clients and broadcasts the current global model to these selected clients. 2) Each selected client independently trains the received global model using its local seismic data to obtain the local model. 3) The selected clients then upload their local models to the FL server via the wireless local network. 4) Once all local models from selected clients have been received, the FL server aggregates them, using, for example, FedAvg [13], to update the global model. The global rounds continue until the global model converges or the number of global rounds exceeds a predefined threshold.

The above FL process is referred to as synchronous FL, where the FL server has to wait until all the selected clients have uploaded their local models, which may lead to the straggler problem if one of the selected clients requires a much longer time to compute and upload its local model, thus increasing the latency of a global round. Although many solutions have been proposed to mitigate the straggler problem, they all raise other issues. For example, one of the most popular solutions is to set up a deadline, and the FL server only selects the clients, who can upload their local models before the deadline, or simply ignores the local models that are uploaded after the deadline [14, 15]. This solution may degrade the global model accuracy caused by biased client selection, i.e., the FL server does not select slow clients, and so the derived global model may not accommodate the training data

from these slow clients [16]. Instead of applying synchronous FL, we propose to use asynchronous FL, where the FL server does not wait for all the selected clients to upload their local models; instead, it updates the global model when it receives a local model from any client, and then sends the updated global model to that client. Hence, asynchronous FL does not have the straggler problem and enables all the clients to participate in the training process, thus potentially leading to more efficient training and enhancing data diversity. Many works have demonstrated asynchronous FL outperforms synchronous FL [17], but also highlight two drawbacks of asynchronous FL. 1) Model staleness, where slow clients train their local models based on outdated global models; hence, the global model may reduce its accuracy when the FL server aggregates the local models from those slow clients [17]. 2) High communication cost, where fast clients need to communicate with the FL server much more frequently, thus leading to high energy consumption.

In this paper, we propose the Asynchronous Federated Learning for Seismic Inversion (AsyncFedInv) framework, which integrates asynchronous FL and edge computing into seismic data analysis to achieve real-time seismic inversion. The main contributions are summarized as follows.

- We propose AsyncFedInv that enables edge devices to apply asynchronous FL to train a DNN, i.e., UNet, to achieve real-time seismic inversion. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first that explore the integration of FL and edge computing into seismic inversion.
- In AsyncFedInv, to efficiently train UNet based on asynchronous FL, we apply 1) staleness functions to dynamically adjust the weights of local models during model aggregation, thus potentially mitigating the model staleness issue, and 2) dynamic client participation, i.e., the clients, whose local models do not have a significant difference from the current global model, will suspend its training, thus reducing the communication costs and energy consumption, while preserving the model accuracy.
- Extensive simulations have been conducted to demonstrate the convergence and model accuracy of AsyncFedInv. Also, the performance of AsyncFedInv by applying different staleness functions is evaluated via simulations.

II. DATA-DRIVEN FWI (DD-FWI) DESIGN

DD-FWI is to derive a pseudoinverse operator $F_{\theta}^{\dagger} : \mathbf{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^M$ parameterized by θ , where

$$F_{\theta}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{P}^{\text{obs}}) \approx \mathbf{m}^{\text{true}} + \varepsilon, \quad (1)$$

where $\mathbf{P}^{\text{obs}} \in \mathbf{R}^D$ is the seismic data observed by different seismic receivers, $\mathbf{m}^{\text{true}} \in \mathbf{R}^M$ is the ground truth of the velocity data, and ε is the measurement noise. In 2-D scenarios, the dimensions of \mathbf{P}^{obs} and \mathbf{m}^{true} are defined as $D = S \times R \times T$ and $M = H \times W$, respectively. Here, S , R , and T represent the number of seismic sources generated in a period, the number of seismic receivers, and timesteps in a period for inversion, respectively. Also, $H \times W$ is the size

of a velocity image, which typically equals $R \times T$. In DD-FWI, F_θ^\dagger is normally implemented as a DNN, such as UNet [18, 19], which learns a mapping from the seismic data to the velocity data. Basically, the parameter θ in F_θ^\dagger is trained based on, for example, stochastic gradient descent, given a set of seismic data $\{P_1^{obs}, \dots, P_N^{obs}\}$ and their corresponding velocity images $\{m_1^{true}, \dots, m_N^{true}\}$, where velocity images can be obtained based on, for example, the physics-based FWI model, which has high computational cost but provides accurate velocity images. The loss function of UNet is

$$\argmin_{\theta} \mathcal{L} = \argmin_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^N \|m_i^{true} - F_\theta(P_i^{obs})\|^2. \quad (2)$$

UNet is based on an encoder-decoder structure, where the encoder reduces the dimensions of the inputs by extracting relevant high-level features, and the decoder transforms the extracted features into a different domain. We modify our previous UNet model [20] to achieve seismic inversion, and the new UNet model has a more compact architecture to be executed in resource-constrained clients. As shown in Fig. 2, the encoder has four convolutional layers with 3×3 fixed kernel size and both stride and padding equal to 1. Each convolutional layer is then followed by a 2×2 max-pooling with the stride of 2 to downsample the feature maps. At each downsampling step, the number of feature channels is doubled. The channel dimensions in the encoding are 32, 64, 128, and 256. The decoder comprises four transposed convolutional layers for upsampling, each with 5×5 kernel size, stride of 2, and zero padding. At each upsampling step, the number of feature channels is halved. The channel dimensions in the decoding path are 512, 256, 128, 64, and 32. Finally, a 3×3 convolutional layer maps the last 32 features into the predicted velocity value. The soft-max function is then used to obtain the predicted velocity label. Basically, our modified UNet architecture has a total of 9 convolutional layers.

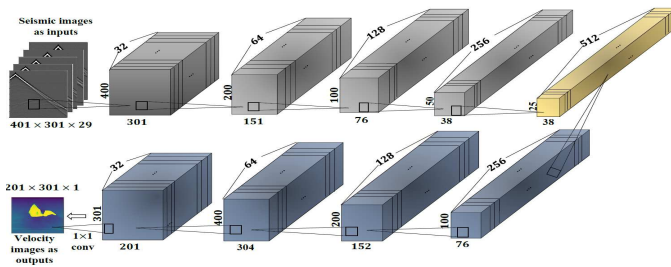


Fig. 2: The designed UNet model for seismic inversion.

III. SYSTEM MODELS

The clients apply FL to collaboratively train the UNet model such that the global loss function \mathcal{L} can be minimized, i.e.,

$$\argmin_{\theta} \mathcal{L} = \argmin_{\theta} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \frac{N_k}{N} \mathcal{L}_k(\theta), \quad (3)$$

where θ is the set of global model parameters, \mathcal{K} is the set of clients, N_k is the number of seismic data and velocity image

pairs, i.e., $\{P_i^{obs}, m_i^{true}\}$ in client k , $N = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} N_k$ is the total number of seismic data and velocity image pairs for all the clients, and $\mathcal{L}_k(\omega)$ is the local loss function of client k , i.e.,

$$\mathcal{L}_k(\theta) = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^{N_k} \mathcal{L}(\theta, P_n^{obs}, m_n^{true}). \quad (4)$$

Since Problem (3) is nontrivial to solve, FL decomposes the problem to enable each client to derive its local model θ_k based on its local data set to minimize the loss function, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \argmin_{\theta_k} \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^{N_k} \mathcal{L}(\theta_k, P_n^{obs}, m_n^{true}) \\ = \argmin_{\theta_k} \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^{N_k} \|m_n^{true} - F_{\theta_k}(P_n^{obs})\|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

and then local models are aggregated at the FL server to derive a global model.

A. Latency Models

In this section, we present the latency of a client, which will be used to evaluate the training/convergence time of FL algorithms. In general, the latency of client k comprises 1) the latency of client k in downloading the global model from the FL server, defined as $t_k^{download}$, 2) the latency of client k to compute its local model, defined as t_k^{comp} , 3) the latency of client k when uploading its local model to the FL server, defined as t_k^{upload} , and 4) latency of the FL server to update the global model. Typically, the latency related to the global model update in Step 4) is negligible. Thus, we define the latency of client k in each global iteration as follows:

$$t_k = t_k^{download} + t_k^{comp} + t_k^{upload}. \quad (6)$$

1) *Computing Latency*: Assume that there are N_k seismic images used by client k to train its local UNet model. The batch size is η , and so the number of batches for client k is $\frac{N_k}{\eta}$. Also, assume that the number of local iterations of training a local model is ϕ . Hence, there are $N_k \times \phi$ and $\frac{\phi N_k}{\eta}$ number of forward and backward propagations, respectively, in client k 's global round. If the complexity in terms of the number of CPU cycles required to conduct a forward and backward propagation for the proposed UNet model in client k are $c_k^{forward}$ and $c_k^{backward}$, respectively, then the computing latency of client k to train the local model is

$$t_k^{comp} = \frac{N_k \times \phi \times c_k^{forward} + \frac{\phi N_k}{\eta} \times c_k^{backward}}{f_k}, \quad (7)$$

where f_k is the CPU frequency of client k .

2) *Downloading and Uploading Latency*: Assume that a time division duplex system is applied for the FL server to download the global model to a client as well as for a client to upload a local model to the FL server. Denote g_k as the channel gain between the FL server to client k , and the channel

is reciprocal. Hence, the downloading and uploading data rate achievable by client k are

$$\begin{cases} r_k^{\text{download}} = B \log_2(1 + \frac{p_k^s g_k}{N_0}), \\ r_k^{\text{upload}} = B \log_2(1 + \frac{p_k^c g_k}{N_0}), \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Here, B is the total amount of bandwidth, p^s and p_k^c are the transmission power density of the FL server and client k , respectively, and N_0 is the average noise power density. Assuming that the size of the global model is s , then we have

$$\begin{cases} t_k^{\text{download}} = \frac{s}{r_k^{\text{download}}} = \frac{s}{B \log_2(1 + \frac{p_k^s g_k}{N_0})}, \\ t_k^{\text{upload}} = \frac{s}{r_k^{\text{upload}}} = \frac{s}{B \log_2(1 + \frac{p_k^c g_k}{N_0})}. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

IV. THE ASYNCFEDINV FRAMEWORK

AsyncFedInv modifies the existing asynchronous FL to achieve more efficient training of the proposed UNet model. As mentioned before, asynchronous FL is different from synchronous FL since the FL server immediately updates the global model θ^{global} upon receiving a local model, i.e.,

$$\theta^{\text{global}} := (1 - \alpha_k) \theta^{\text{global}} + \alpha_k \theta_k^{\text{local}}, \quad (10)$$

where α_k is the weight assigned to client k . As mentioned before, the staleness problem is one of the major drawbacks of asynchronous FL, where some slow clients train their local models θ_k^{local} based on the outdated global model. As a result, these local models may not improve the performance of the global model, or even diverge the global model, when they are used to update the global model based on Eq. (10). One common approach to address staleness is to adjust α_k . That is, a slow client, which has a higher latency t_k to compute and upload its local model, will be assigned with a smaller weight α_k , and vice versa. Specifically, α_k is calculated based on

$$\alpha_k = \alpha \times h(t_k), \quad (11)$$

where α ($0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$) is a hyperparameter and $h(t_k)$ is client k 's staleness function to evaluate the freshness of the local model. Here, we design three typical staleness functions, i.e.,

- **Constant:** $h^{\text{const}} = 1$.
- **Exponential:** $h^{\text{exp}}(t_k) = e^{-a(t_k - \tau)}$.
- **Hinge:** $h^{\text{hinge}}(t_k) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } t_k - \tau \leq b, \\ \frac{1}{a(t_k - \tau - b) + 1}, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$

where a and b are hyperparameters, and $\tau = \min(t_k | \forall k \in \mathcal{K}')$. Here, $\mathcal{K}' \subset \mathcal{K}$ is the set of clients, who are currently training their local models. Basically, h^{const} treats all the clients equally in terms of staleness/weights, and $h^{\text{exp}}(t_k)$ and $h^{\text{hinge}}(t_k)$ assigns lower weights to the clients with higher t_k .

Another drawback of asynchronous FL is the fast clients' high communication and computing costs. That is, the fast clients have to frequently upload and keep training their local models, thus leading to high energy consumption. Note that energy consumption could be critical to the clients, who are deployed in the rural field and powered by portable batteries. To reduce the cost, we apply a simple but effective solution,

which is to suspend a client in training its local model by not sending the updated global model if the client's uploaded local model is similar to the updated global model, i.e.,

$$\|\theta^{\text{global}} - \theta_k^{\text{local}}\| \leq \varepsilon, \quad (12)$$

where ε is the predefined threshold. Once the FL server updates the global model, it will evaluate all the clients in \mathcal{K}'' to see if Eq. (12) is still met, where \mathcal{K}'' is the set of clients who are suspending their training, and $\mathcal{K}'' \cup \mathcal{K}' = \mathcal{K}$. If a client in \mathcal{K}'' does not satisfy Eq. (12), the FL server will resume its training by sending the current global model. Algorithm 1 summarizes AsyncFedInv.

Algorithm 1: The AsyncFedInv framework

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1 Initialize  $\theta^{\text{global}}$  and hyperparameters.
2 Broadcast  $\theta^{\text{global}}$  to all the clients.
3 At the FL server:
4 while receive a local model  $\theta_k^{\text{local}}$  from client  $k$  do
5   Calculate  $\alpha_k$  based on Eq. (11);
6   Update  $\theta^{\text{global}}$  based on Eq. (10);
7   if  $\|\theta^{\text{global}} - \theta_k^{\text{local}}\| > \varepsilon$  then
8     Download  $\theta^{\text{global}}$  to client  $k$ ;
9   else
10     $\mathcal{K}' := \mathcal{K}' \setminus k$  and  $\mathcal{K}'' := \mathcal{K}'' \cup k$ ;
11    Store client  $k$ 's local model  $\theta_k^{\text{local}}$ ;
12  end
13  for each  $k' \in \mathcal{K}''$  do
14    if  $\|\theta^{\text{global}} - \theta_{k'}^{\text{local}}\| > \varepsilon$  then
15       $\mathcal{K}' := \mathcal{K}' \cup k'$  and  $\mathcal{K}'' := \mathcal{K}'' \setminus k'$ ;
16      Download  $\theta^{\text{global}}$  to client  $k'$ ;
17    end
18  end
19 end
20 At client  $k$ :
21 while receive a global model  $\theta^{\text{global}}$  do
22    $\theta_k^{\text{local}} = \theta^{\text{global}}$ ;
23   Train  $\theta_k^{\text{local}}$  based on batch gradient descent;
24   Upload  $\theta_k^{\text{local}}$  to the FL server;
25 end

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V. SIMULATIONS

A. Simulation parameters

Assume that there are 3 clients to receive data from seismic receivers, and each client trains the UNet model described in Fig. 2 by using the Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001. The 2D SEG Salt data set [18] is used, where each seismic image represents the pressure of the acoustic waves received by 301 receivers during the 2-second monitoring period. These 301 receivers are evenly distributed in a 3 km distance area and each receiver samples the acoustic waves 201 times during the 2-second monitoring period once the transmitter generates an acoustic wave. Hence, the size of each seismic image is 301×201 pixels, and Fig. 3 (left) provides an example of a seismic image. In the data set, there

are 29 sources placed at different locations in a field. The total number of seismic images in the data set is 120. Note that the data set does not contain the ground truth in terms of the velocity images of the corresponding seismic images. Since FWI has been demonstrated to generate high accurate velocity images based on the low-noisy seismic images, such as 2D SEG Salt data set, we consider the velocity images derived by the FWI model in [21] as the ground truth values. Note that each velocity image is assumed to consist of 5 to 12 layers, representing the background velocity. The velocity value associated with each pixel in a velocity image varies between 2,000 and 4,000 m/s and the pixel that represents the salt has the velocity value of 4,500 m/s. The size of each velocity image should be matched up with the size of its seismic image, which is 301×201 pixels. Fig. 3 (right) shows a velocity image that is generated by FWI based on the seismic image on the left.

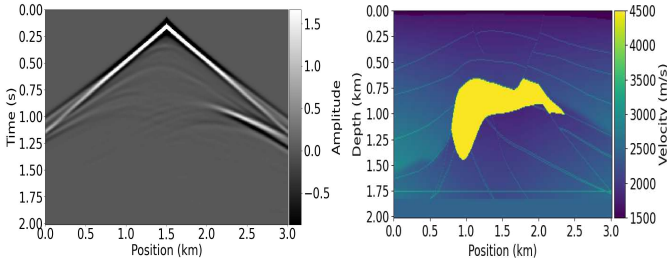


Fig. 3: An example of a pair of seismic (left) and velocity (right) images in the 2D SEG Salt dataset, where the velocity image is generated by FWI.

TABLE I: Simulation parameters

Parameter	Value
Size of the local model s	100 kbit
Number of local iterations ϕ	50
Number of global iterations	100
Batch size η	5
Hyperparameters in staleness functions a/b	10/4
Hyperparameter α in Eq. (10)	0.5

All 120 pairs of seismic/velocity images are first grouped into different classes based on the similarity in terms of structural similarity index metric (SSIM) of two velocity images from two pairs of seismic/velocity images. That is, if the SSIM value between a velocity image and any velocity image in a class is no larger than the defined threshold ξ , the pair of seismic/velocity images will be grouped into that class. Based on that, the 120 seismic/velocity image pairs are then distributed to the 3 clients in two different settings, i.e., independent and identically distribution (IID) and non-IID. In IID, the clients have the same/similar number of image pairs in a class. In non-IID, the probability of having x_l pairs of images in class l at client k is assumed to follow a Dirichlet distribution [22], i.e., $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_L; \beta) = \frac{\Gamma(\beta L)}{\Gamma(\beta)^L} \prod_{l=1}^L x_l^{\beta-1}$, where L is the total number of classes, $\Gamma(\cdot)$ is the gamma function, $\Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty y^{z-1} e^{-y} dy$ and β is the concentration parameter that determines the level of label imbalance. A larger β results in a more balanced data partition among different labels within

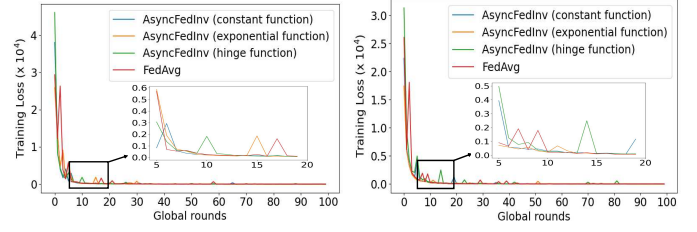


Fig. 4: Loss curves for AsyncFedInv and FedAvg in IID (left) and non-IID $\beta = 0.1$ (right) settings.

a client (i.e., closer to IID). Other simulation parameters are listed in Table I.

B. Simulation results

We compare the performance of AsyncFedInv with a baseline solution, i.e., FedAvg, which a well-known synchronous FL method to invite all the clients to participate in the model training in each global iteration.

1) *Training loss and convergence analysis:* Fig. 4 shows the loss curves learning curves of FedAvg and AsyncFedInv with different staleness functions under IID and non-IID cases. Note that there is no definition of a global round in asynchronous FL. To facilitate the comparisons, we define the duration of a global round in both AsyncFedInv and FedAvg as the duration of the slowest client in computing and uploading its local model. From Fig. 4, we can observe that all the methods finally converge with a very similar rate in both IID and non-IID cases. Yet, AsyncFedInv with exponential staleness function achieves the lowest training loss when the curve is converged. Specifically, the loss of the FedAvg, AsyncFedInv with exponential, AsyncFedInv with hinge, and AsyncFedInv with constant are 3.1449, 2.2356, 2.6344, and 3.2033, respectively, in IID, and 4.4193, 1.7669, 3.1383, 6.4552, respectively, in non-IID. Hence, we will use the exponential staleness function as the default setting for AsyncFedInv later on.

2) *Testing result analysis:* By feeding the testing data sets into the UNet models that are generated by AsyncFedInv and FedAvg after 100 global rounds, the testing results are obtained. Fig. 5 show four typical samples in IID and non-IID cases, respectively, where each sample comprises three different velocity images inverted from the same seismic image, i.e., a ground truth velocity image generated by FWI, a velocity image generated by AsyncFedInv, and a velocity image generated by FedAvg. From the figures, we can clearly identify that the velocity images generated by AsyncFedInv are more similar to the ground truth than FedAvg in IID. For instance, the velocity image generated by AsyncFedInv in the first sample is much better than that generated by FedAvg. Also, the testing result of FedAvg becomes much worse than AsyncFedInv in the non-IID case. For instance, the velocity image generated by FedAvg in the first sample is totally different from the ground truth, while the velocity image generated by AsyncFedInv still keeps high similarity.

In order to quantify the testing results, two metrics, i.e., structural similarity index metric (SSIM) and peak signal-to-

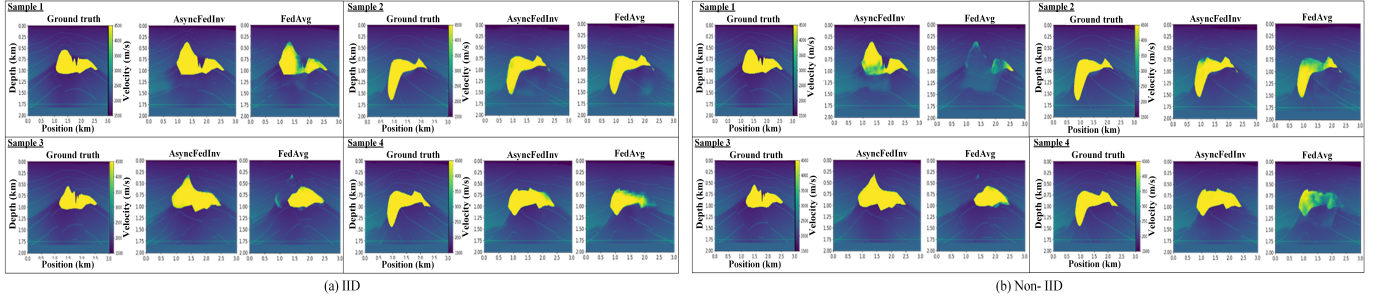


Fig. 5: Testing result for AsyncFedInv and FedAvg in IID (left) and non-IID (right).

TABLE II: SSIM and PSNR for AsyncFedInv and FedAvg

Sample	IID				Non-IID			
	SSIM		PSNR		SSIM		PSNR	
0	0.541	0.508	15.371	15.900	0.532	0.502	15.044	12.168
1	0.591	0.612	17.801	17.969	0.664	0.601	18.438	18.508
2	0.537	0.528	12.441	14.517	0.516	0.527	12.227	14.780
3	0.568	0.557	25.278	24.682	0.596	0.553	25.919	24.312
4	0.448	0.424	17.713	15.016	0.433	0.410	18.200	15.873
5	0.609	0.543	14.924	15.250	0.607	0.503	14.770	15.038
6	0.476	0.429	19.640	12.159	0.471	0.470	20.125	15.229
7	0.682	0.659	16.218	13.843	0.635	0.648	14.115	17.273
Average	0.557	0.533	17.424	16.167	0.557	0.527	17.355	16.648

noise ratio (PSNR), are used. SSIM and PSNR evaluate the similarity and quality of a predicted velocity image, respectively, in comparison to its ground truth. A higher SSIM/PSNR value indicates a higher similarity/quality of the predicted velocity image. Table II shows testing results on 8 seismic images for AsyncFedInv and FedAvg in IID and non-IID cases, where we can observe that AsyncFedInv always incurs lower average SSIM and PSNR values than FedAvg in both IID and non-IID cases. All in all, we conclude that AsyncFedInv has a similar convergence rate, but lower training loss and better testing performance as compared to FedAvg.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have proposed AsyncFedInv that uses multiple edge devices to collaboratively train a compact UNet model in real-time based on a novel asynchronous federated learning, where 1) a staleness function is used to mitigate model staleness, and 2) dynamic client participation is designed to reduce the communication costs and energy consumption of clients. Simulation results show that AsyncFedInv achieves a similar convergence rate but lower training loss and better testing performance as compared to FedAvg.

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