PYTORCH AMPERE® AI OPTIMIZER (AIO) Documentation

V.1.1

AMPERE COMPUTING

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OVERVIEW

The Ampere® AIO inference acceleration engine is fully integrated with the PyTorch framework. PyTorch models and software written with the PyTorch API can be run as-is.

PYTORCH FRAMEWORK

Python is installed with the AIO accelerated Pytorch package, together with all dependencies. No additional installation steps are needed.

Versions Compatibility

This release is based on Pytorch 1.9.0 and comes with the compatible Torchvision 0.10.0 installed.

Python

Pytorch 1.9.0 is built for Python 3.8. Regarding other Python versions, please contact your Ampere sales representative. If you are using the software through a third party, contact their customer support team for help. You can also contact the AI team at ai-support@amperecomputing.com.

AIO CONFIGURATIONS

The AIO inference engine can be configured by a set of environment variables for performance and debugging purposes. They can be set in the command line when running Pytorch models (e.g. AIO_NUM_THREADS=16 python run.py -p fp32) or set in the shell initialization script.

AIO_PROCESS_MODE

This variable controls if the AIO inference engine is used in running the Pytorch model.

- 0: AIO is disabled
- 1: AIO is enabled (Default)

AIO_CPU_BIND

Enables core binding. If enabled, each AIO thread will bind itself to a single core.

- 0: Core binding disabled
- 1: Core binding enabled (Default)

AIO_MEM_BIND

Bind memory to NUMA (Non-uniform memory access) node 0. For optimal performance, numactl (https://linux.die.net/man/8/numactl) is preferred. numactl bind will affect both the Pytorch framework and AIO buffers, while AIO is unable to affect buffers allocated by the Pytorch framework.

- 0: Membind disabled
- 1: Membind to node 0 (Default)

AIO_NUMA_CPUS

Select the cores that AIO should bind to (if CPU_BIND is enabled).

- Not set: AIO will use the first N cores of the machine, excluding hyper-threaded (Default)
- Set: AIO will try to use N first cores from the list of cores for N threads. The list is in space separated, 0-based number format. For example, selecting cores 0 to 1: AIO_NUMA_CPUS="0 1"

AIO_NUM_THREADS

Specifies the number of cores that the AIO should use.

- Not set: the AIO will use one core (Default)
- "all": the AIO will use all cores, as specified by AIO_NUMA_CPUS
- N: the AIO will use N cores

AIO_DEBUG_MODE

Control the verbosity of debug messages.

- 0: No messages
- 1: Errors only
- 2: Basic information, warnings, and errors (Default)
- 3: Most messages
- 4: All messages

QUICKSTART

The following instructions run on Altra/Altra Max Linux machines installed **with Docker**. To initialize the AIO environment run:

```
$ wget -O aio-pytorch.tar.gz "<your_unique_url>"
$ docker load < aio-pytorch.tar.gz
$ docker run --privileged=true --rm --name pytorch-aio --network host -it aio-pytorch-1.9.0:1.0.0
```

Skip the above steps if running **without a Docker** container.

You can try AIO by either running the Jupyter Notebook examples or Python scripts on the CLI level.

To run the Jupyter Notebook QuickStart examples follow the instructions below:

Set AIO_NUM_THREADS to requested value first.

```
$ export AIO_NUM_THREADS=16
$ cd ~/aio-examples/
$ bash start_notebook.sh
```

If you run the Jupyter Notebook Quickstart on a cloud instance, make sure your machine has port 8080 open and on your local device run:

```
$ ssh -N -L 8080:localhost:8080 -I <ssh_key> your_user@xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx
```

Use a browser to point to the URL printed out by the Jupyter Notebook launcher.

You will find Jupyter Notebook examples (examples.ipynb) under the /classification and /object detection folders.

The examples run through several inference models, visualize results they produce, and present the performance numbers.

To use CLI-level scripts:

Set AIO_NUM_THREADS to the requested value first.

```
$ export AIO_NUM_THREADS=16
$ cd ~/aio-examples/
```

Go to the directory of choice, e.g.

```
$ cd classification/resnet_50_v1
```

Evaluate the model.

```
$ numactl --physcpubind=0-15 python3 run.py -p fp32
```

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