## RDO-Q: Extremely Fine-Grained Channel-Wise Quantization via Rate-Distortion Optimization —Supplementary Material

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**Abstract.** In this supplementary materials, we provide the analysis for the additivity property of output distortion. We show a mathematical derivation for the additivity property by linearizing the output distortion using Taylor series expansion.

## 1 Additivity of Output Distortion

The output distortion  $\delta$ , caused by quantizing all weight channels and activation layers, equals the sum of all output distortion due to the quantization of each individual weight channel and activation layer

$$\delta = \sum_{i=1}^{l} \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} \delta_{i,j}^w + \sum_{i=1}^{l} \delta_i^a$$
(1)

if the neural network is continuously differentiable in every layer, the quantization errors can be considered as small deviations distributed with zero mean.

Proof. We first define the main notations. Let

$$\mathcal{F}(W_{1,1},...,W_{1,n_1},...,W_{l,1},...,W_{l,n_l})$$

denote a neural network and

$$\mathcal{F}(W_{1,1},...,W_{1,n_1},...,W_{l,1},...,W_{l,n_l},s_1,...,s_l)$$

denote a modified neural network of  $\mathcal{F}$  where an element-wise add layer with parameter  $s_i$  is followed for each activation  $a_i$  (see Fig. 1). Based on this definition, we have

$$\mathcal{F}(W_{1,1},...,W_{l,n_l}) = \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(W_{1,1},...,W_{l,n_l},0,...,0)$$
(2)

Define two variables  $X_0$  and  $\Delta X$ , where

$$X_0 = (W_{1,1}, ..., W_{l,n_l}, 0, ..., 0)$$

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Fig. 1. Examples of a neural network  $\mathcal{F}$  and a modified neural network  $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}$ .

 $\Delta X = \left( \Delta W_{1,1}, \dots, \Delta W_{l,n_l}, \Delta s_1, \dots, \Delta s_l \right)$ 

Assume that the quantization error can be considered as small deviation. We apply the Taylor series expansion up to first order term on  $\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}$  at  $X_0$ ,

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(X_0 + \Delta X) - \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(X_0) = \sum_{i,j} \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}} \cdot \Delta W_{i,j} + \sum_i \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial s_i} \cdot \Delta s_i.$$
(3)

Then  $\|\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(X_0 + \Delta X) - \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(X_0)\|^2$  can be written as

$$\left(\sum_{i,j} \Delta W_{i,j}^{\top} \cdot \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}}^{\top} + \sum_{i} \Delta s_{i}^{\top} \cdot \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial s_{i}}^{\top}\right)$$

$$\cdot \left(\sum_{i,j} \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}} \cdot \Delta W_{i,j} + \sum_{i} \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial s_{i}} \cdot \Delta s_{i}\right)$$
(4)

Because quantization errors in different layers are independently distributed with zero mean, the cross terms of (4) disappear when taking the expectation. That is:

$$E(\Delta W_{i,j}^{\top} \cdot \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}}^{\top} \cdot \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}} \cdot \Delta W_{i,j})$$

$$=E(\Delta W_{i,j}^{\top}) \cdot \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}}^{\top} \cdot \frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}} \cdot E(\Delta W_{i,j}) = 0$$
(5)

as is the case also for the cross products between  $W_{i,j}$  and  $s_i$  (all i, j), and  $s_i$ and  $s_j$   $(i \neq j)$ . Then, we can obtain

$$E(\|\widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(X_0 + \Delta X) - \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(X_0)\|^2)$$
  
=  $\sum_{i,j} E\left(\|\frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}} \cdot \Delta W_{i,j}\|^2\right) + \sum_i E\left(\|\frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial s_i} \cdot \Delta s_i\|^2\right)$  (6)

Eq. (6) is the result we want because, again, according to the Taylor series expansion up to first order term,

$$\frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial W_{i,j}} \cdot \Delta W_{i,j} = \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(..., W_{i,j} + \Delta W_{i,j}, ..., W_{l,n_l}, 0, ...) - \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(..., W_{i,j}, ..., W_{l,n_l}, 0, ...)$$
(7)

$$\frac{\partial \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}}{\partial s_i} \cdot \Delta s_i = \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(W_{1,1}, ..., W_{l,n_l}, 0, ..., \Delta s_i, ...) 
- \widetilde{\mathcal{F}}(W_{1,1}, ..., W_{l,n_l}, 0, ..., 0, ...)$$
(8)

After dividing both sides of (6) by the dimensionality of the output vector of the neural network, the left side becomes  $\delta$  and the right side becomes the sum of all output distortion due to the quantization of each individual weight channel and activation layer.