



signSGD with Majority Vote is Communication Efficient and Byzantine Fault Tolerant

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1. Motivation

Distributed deep learning can be limited by the **time cost of communicating gradients** and the chance of **network faults** for large machine counts. We studied a simple algorithm to solve these problems.

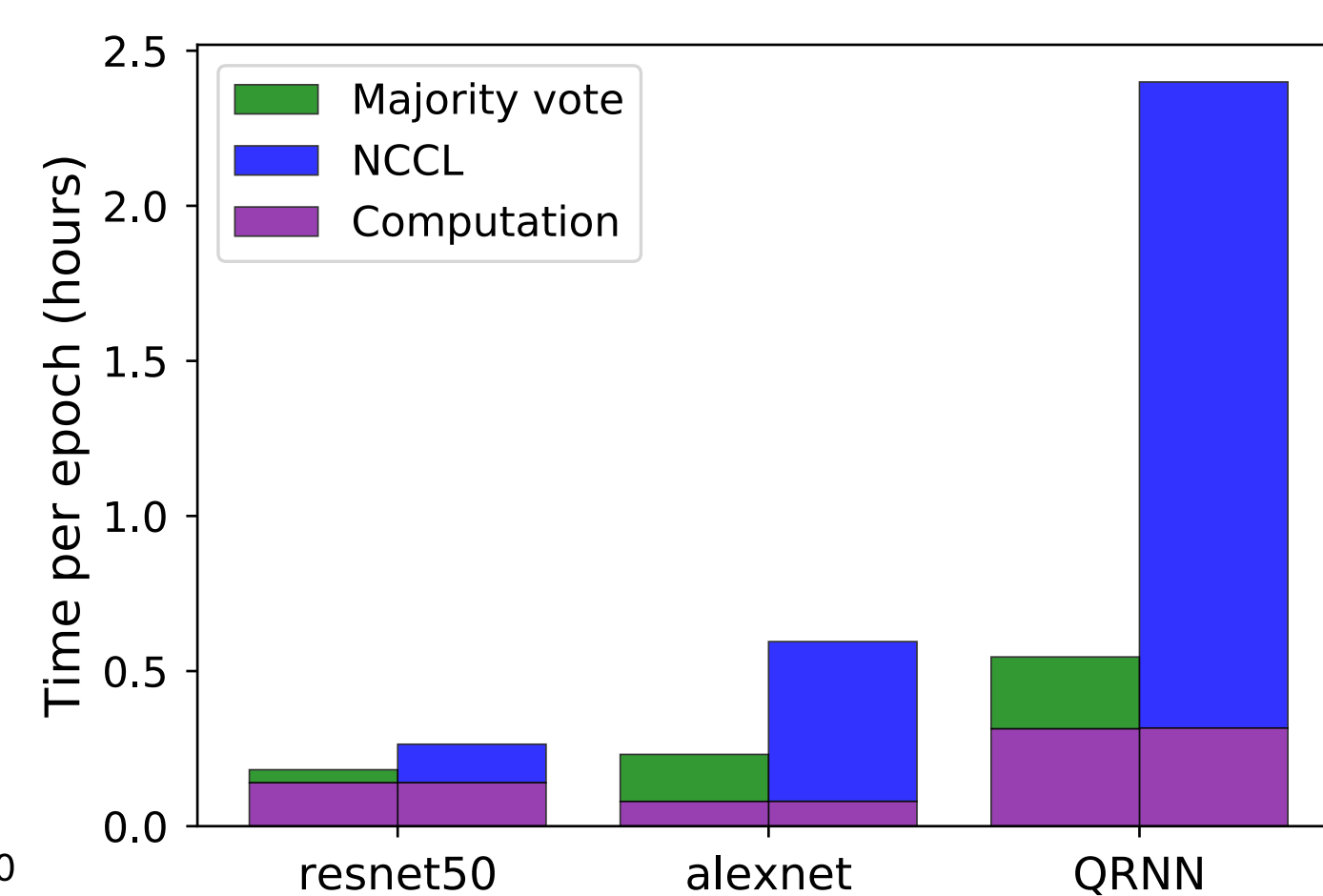
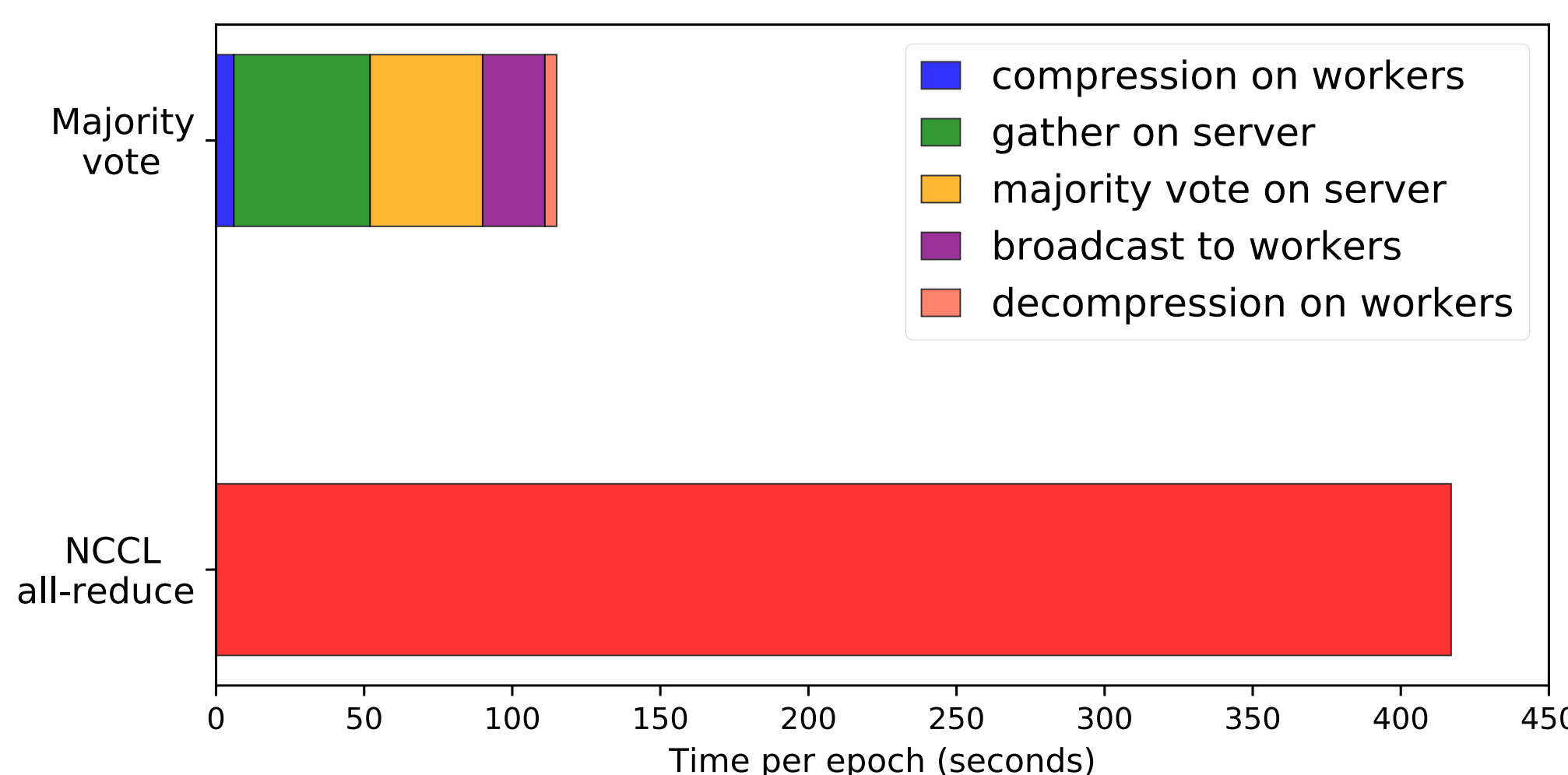
2. Algorithm

Worker → Server:

$$\text{sign}(g)$$

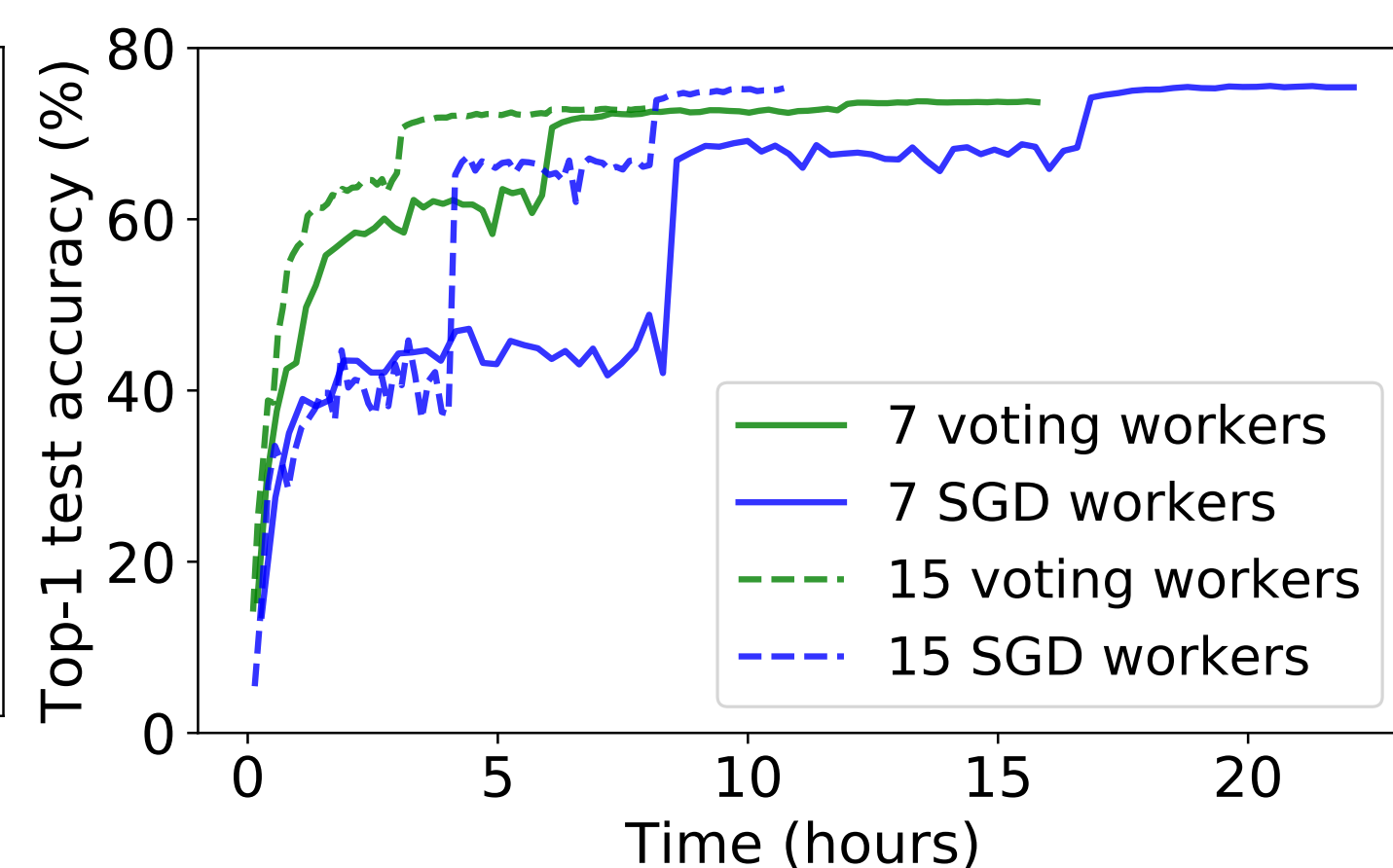
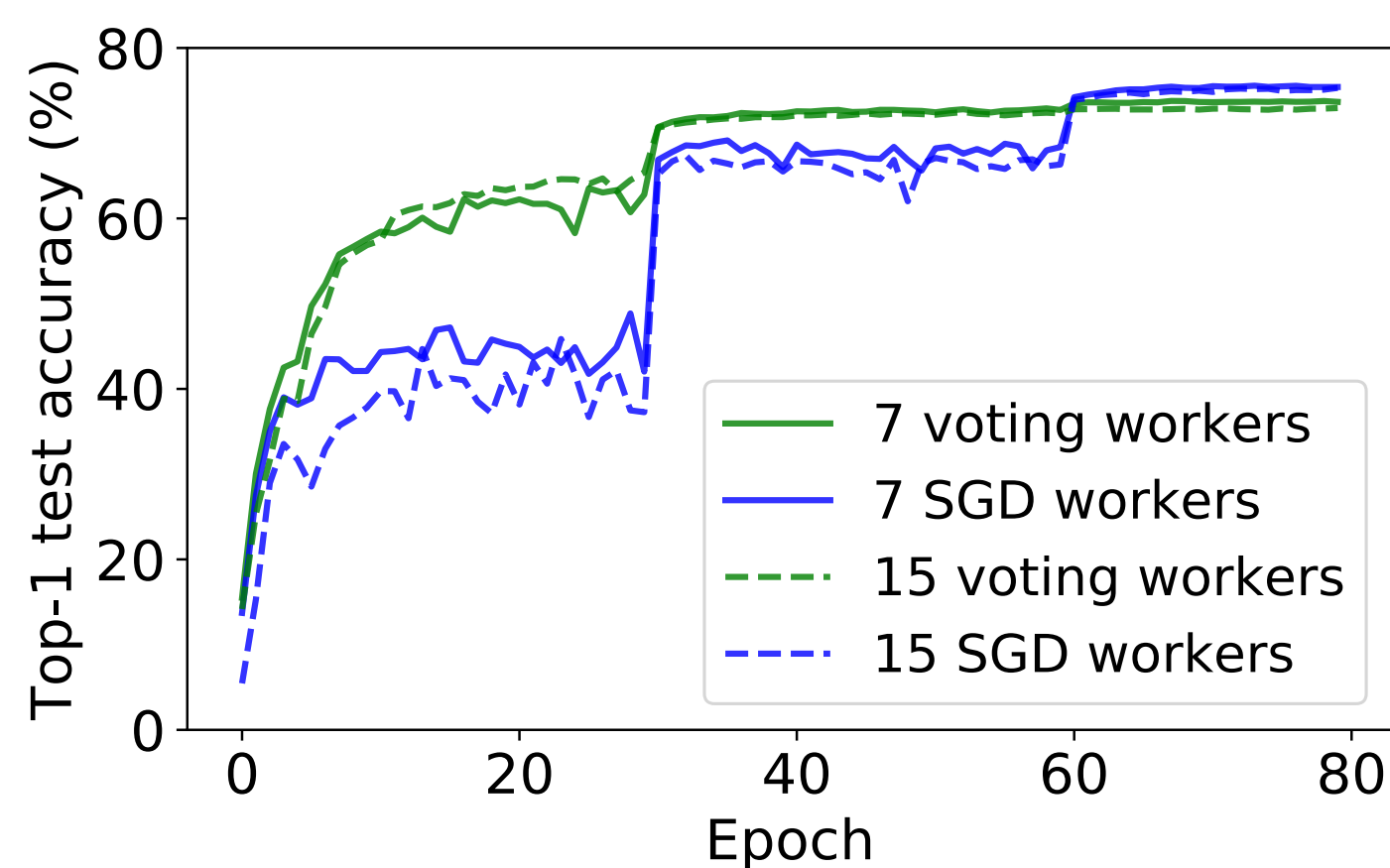
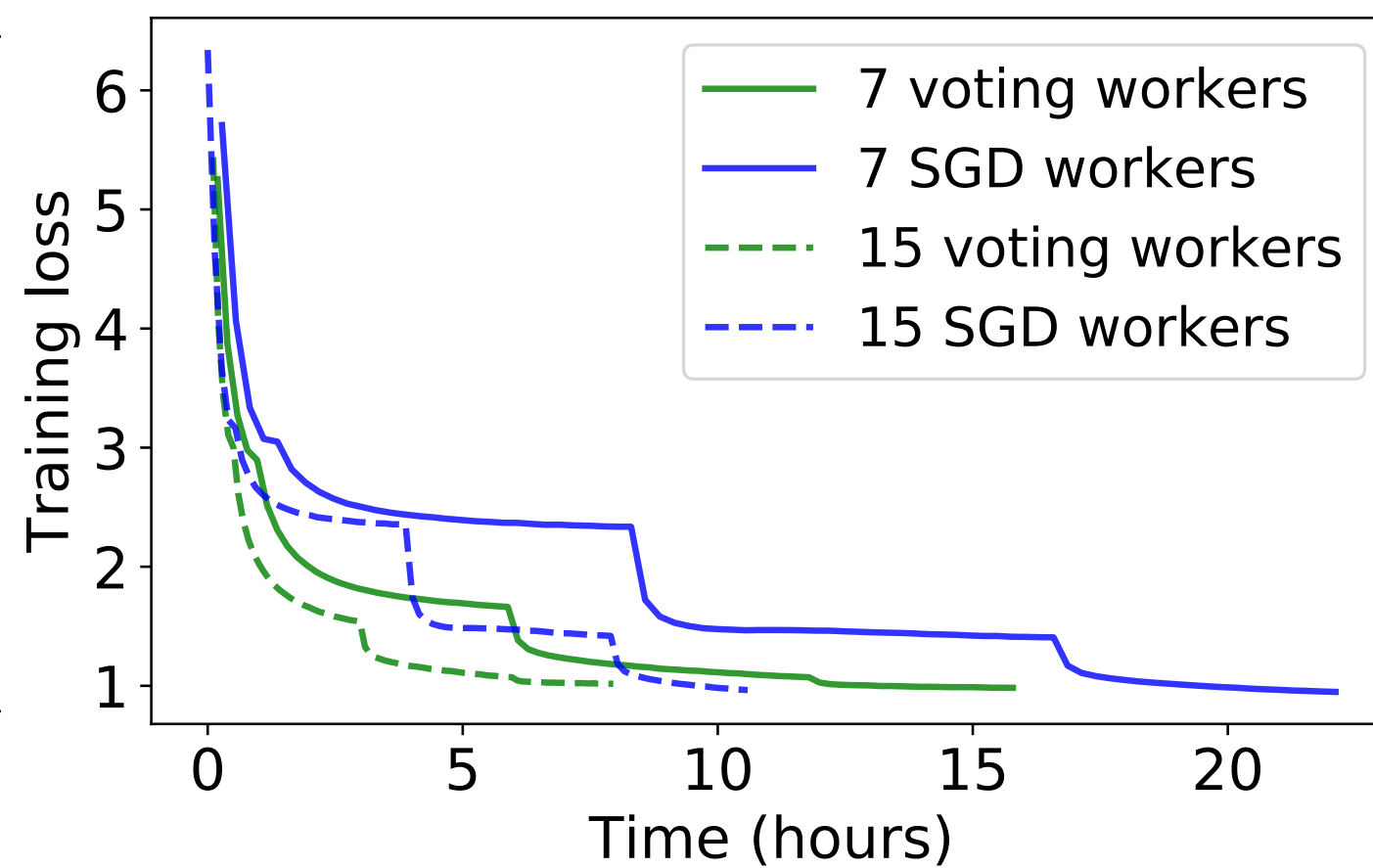
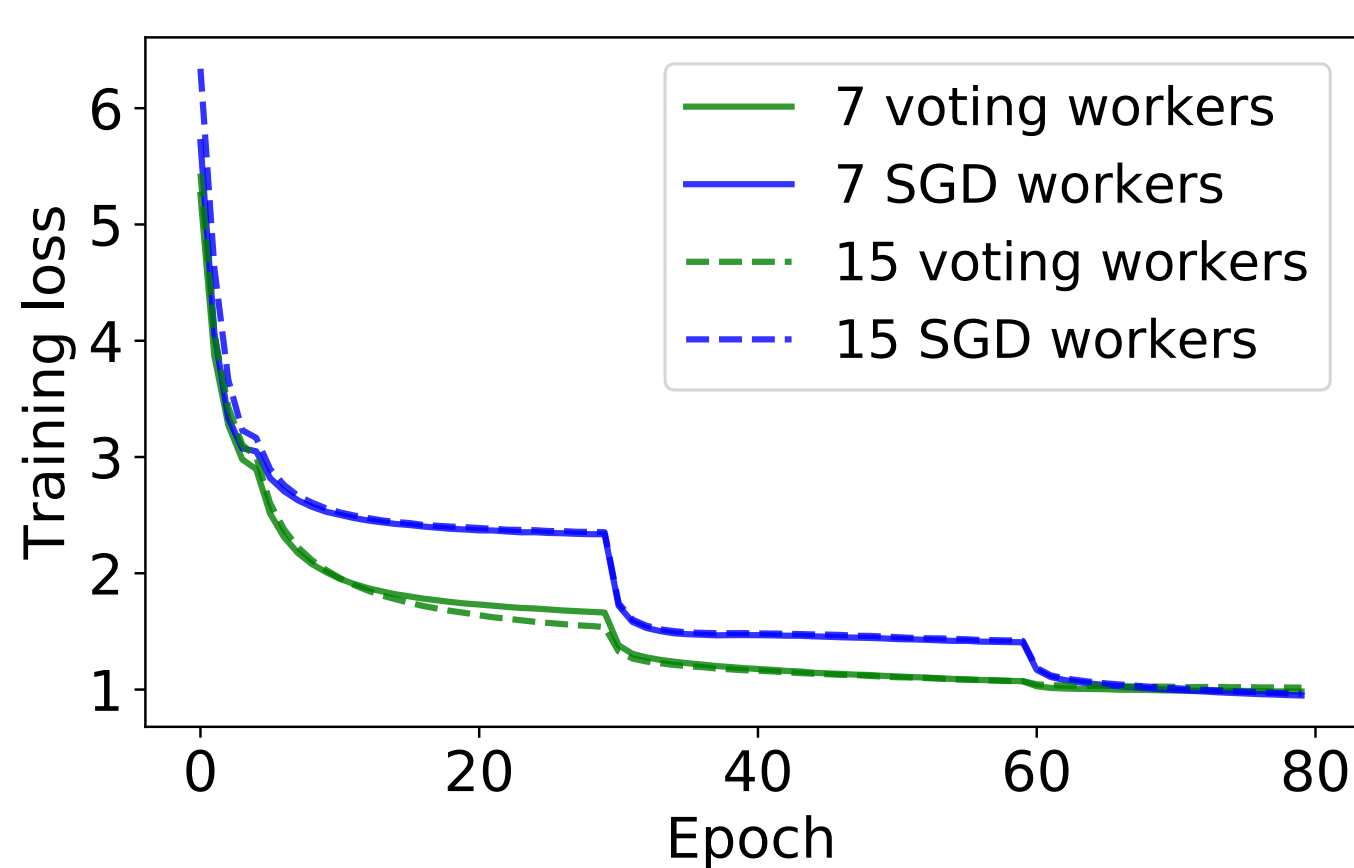
Server → Workers:

$$\text{sign}[\sum \text{sign}(g)]$$



3. ImageNet communication experiments

We built our distributed training system in **PyTorch**. We **benchmarked against NCCL** (the state of the art collective communications library).



4. ImageNet robustness experiments

Adversarial workers invert their sign gradient estimate. We are **robust to < 50% adversaries**.

