FIELD NOTE · AI INFRASTRUCTURE

PyTorch 2.15 rollback has has two boundaries.

Only one is a setting.

Based on the PyTorch 2.15 release notes

RACK2CLOUD
THINK LIKE AN ARCHITECT.
BUILD LIKE AN ENGINEER.

BOUNDARY 1 · NCCL BACKEND

The NCCL fallback exists for one release release

THIS RELEASE

backend="nccl"
now the rewritten implementation

nccl-legacy
TORCH_DIST_USE_NCCL2=0

NEXT RELEASE

Both legacy options removed

per the release notes

A temporary configuration fallback.

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The checkpoint writer has no old-format switch

DCP metadata now records tensor strides
optional strides field in the pickled .metadata

2.14 and earlier cannot load 2.15-written
CheckpointException: "too many values to unpack (expected 5)"

No flag writes the old format.

THE ASYMMETRY

One boundary is a setting. One is state. state.

	NCCL BACKEND	CHECKPOINT FORMAT
Type	**Configuration**	**State compatibility**
Reverse by	**Changing a setting**	**Needs a checkpoint 2.14 2.14 can read**
Window	**This release only**	**From the writer switch**

DERIVED READING, NOT A PYTORCH TABLE

WHO CAN READ WHAT

2.15 reads both. 2.14 reads only its own own

	2.14-WRITTEN	2.15-WRITTEN
2.15 LOADER	READS	READS
2.14 LOADER	READS	FAILS

DERIVED READING, NOT A PYTORCH TABLE

The notes state 2.15 loads 2.14 and 2.15 checkpoints.

THE DIAGNOSTIC

What a rollback actually preserves

Which is your newest checkpoint a 2.14 loader can read, and when was it last test-loaded?

Answer it before you upgrade.

UPGRADE SEQUENCING

Plan the upgrade around the second second boundary

1. Retain a pre-upgrade checkpoint
2. Test-load it on 2.14
3. Set rollback criteria before the writer switches

WHAT THE NOTES DO NOT ESTABLISH

Not stated in the release notes

NOT STATED

A conversion path for 2.15-written checkpoints

NOT STATED

A flag that writes the old checkpoint format

Verify in your own environment.

THE TAKEAWAY

Within this release, a setting can be changed on the day you need it.

A checkpoint has to exist before that day.

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