LAB 2 (Part 2): MULTI-LAYER PERCEPTRONS (MLP)

University of Washington, Seattle

Spring 2025

OUTLINE

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- Shallow vs Deep Networks
- Regression vs Classification
- Outputting Probabilities with Softmax Function

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- One-hot encoding

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- SGD, Mini-batch GD, Batch GD
- Implementing variants of Gradient Descent

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- Loss functions and Advanced Optimizers
- Regularizers
- Batch Normalization
- Weight initializations

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- Iris Classification Example

Lab Assignment

- MNIST Classification using MLP
- Tips for Training Your Model

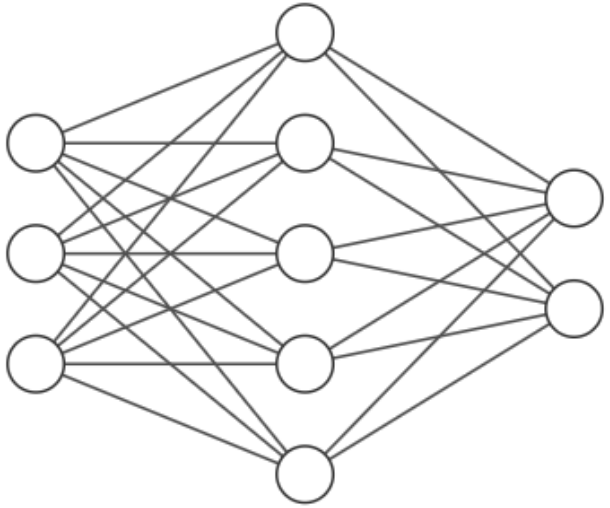
INTRODUCTION TO MLP

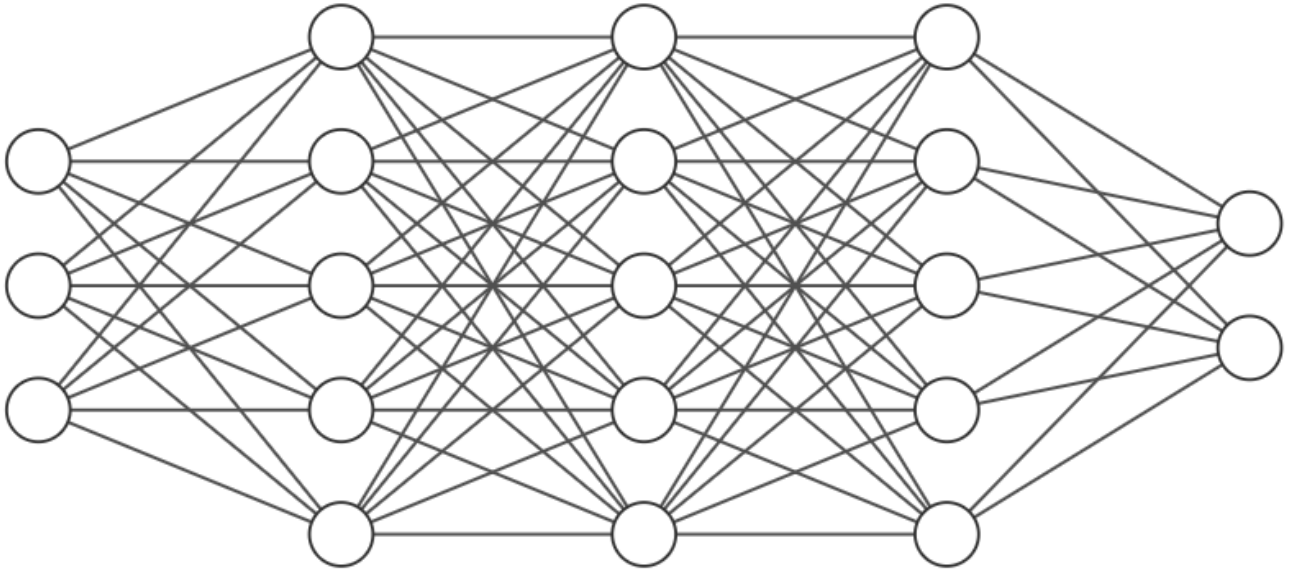
Shallow vs Deep Networks

Regression vs Classification

Outputting Probabilities with Softmax Function

Shallow vs Deep Networks





Shallow Networks

One hidden layer

Universal function approximator

(with enough hidden neurons)

Easier to train

Fit for simple problems

Deep Networks

>1 hidden layer

Upper hidden neurons reuse lower-level features

Can approximate more complex & general functions

Harder to train

Fit for more complex problems

Regression vs Classification

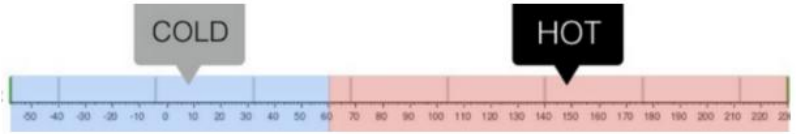
Regression

What will be the temperature tomorrow?

Fahrenheit

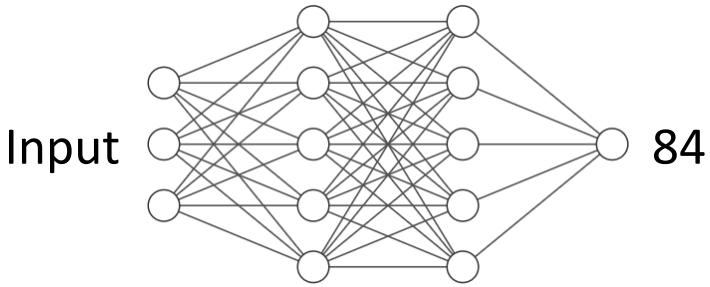
Classification

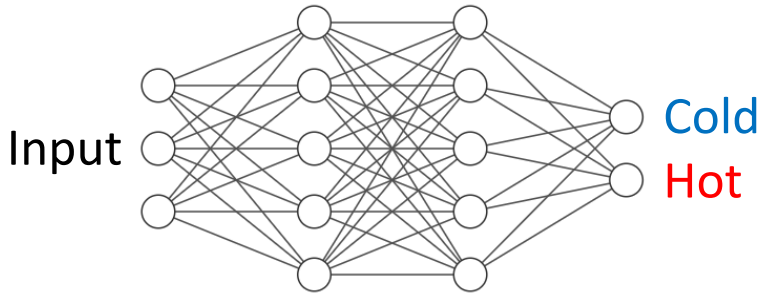
Will it be hot or cold tomorrow?



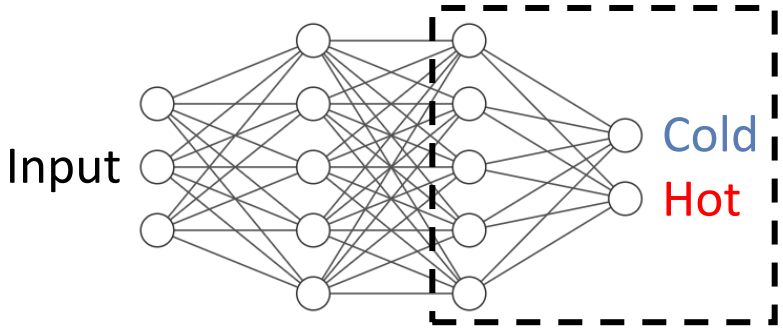
Fahrenheit

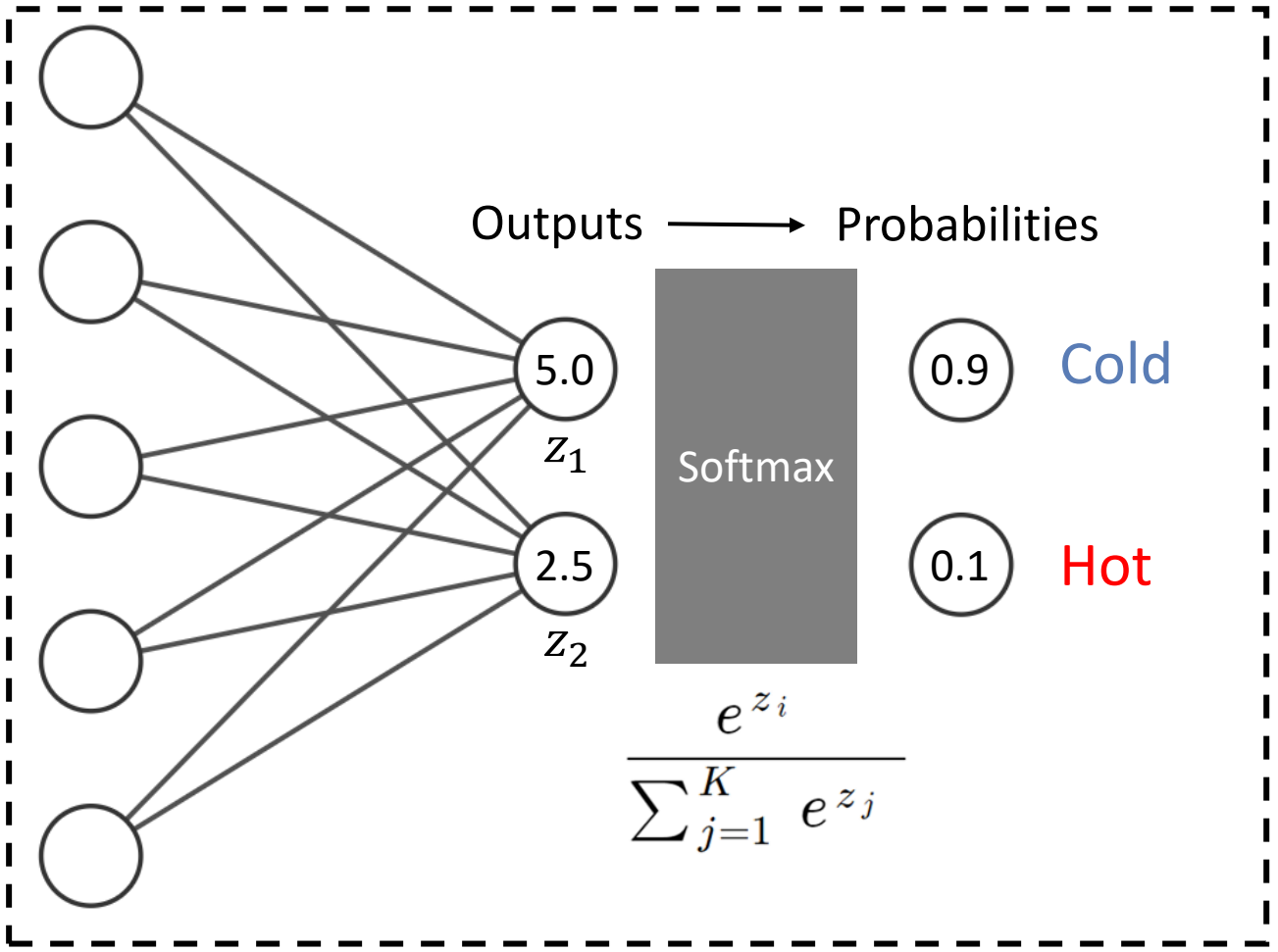
Image credit: Towards Data Science





Outputting Probabilities with Softmax Function





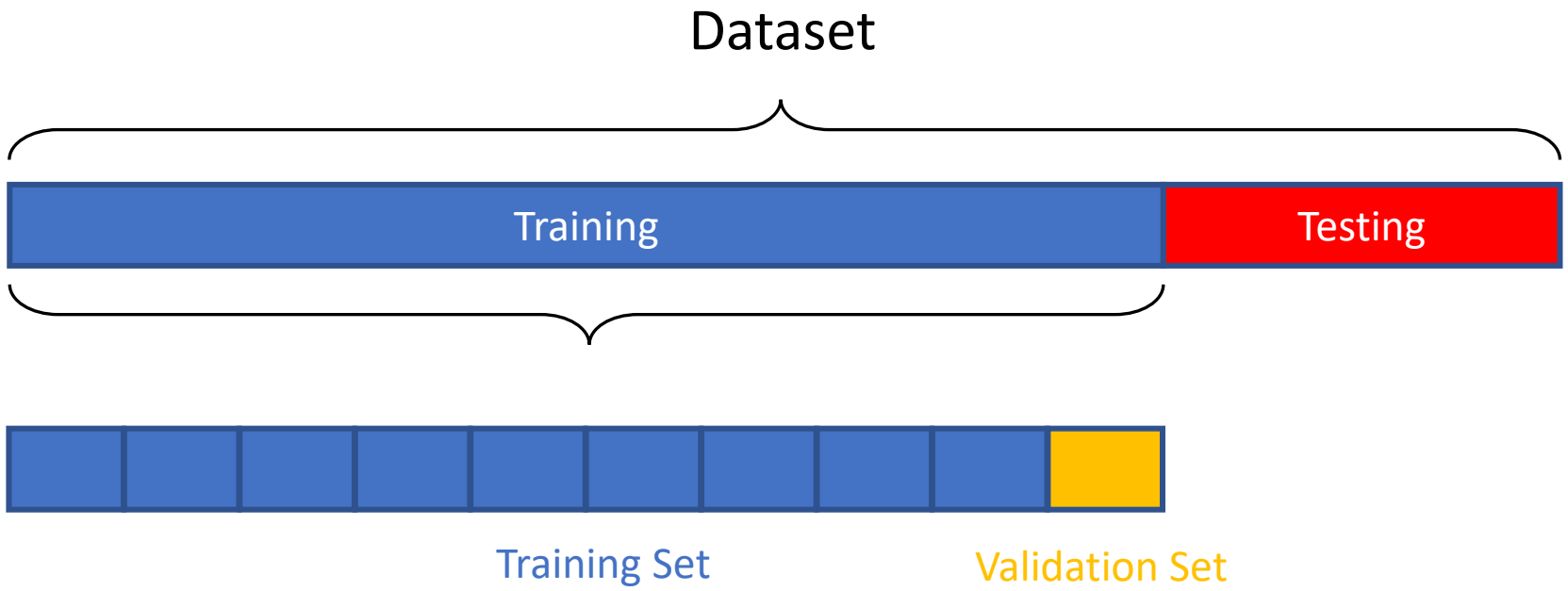
torch.nn.Softmax()

ADDITIONAL DATA PREP METHODS

Training/Validation/Test Sets

One-Hot Encoding

Train/Validation/Test Split



Common ratios

70, 15, 15

80, 10, 10

60, 20, 20

⋮

During training

Training loss ↓

Validation performance ↑

After training

Testing performance ↑

Train/Validation/Test Split

```python
from sklearn.datasets import load_iris
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

iris = load_iris()

X = iris['data']
y = iris['target']

scaler = StandardScaler()
X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X)

X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_scaled, y,
                                                    test_size=0.2,
                                                    random_state=2)

X_validation = X_train[:int(len(X_test))]
y_validation = y_train[:int(len(X_test))]

X_train = X_train[int(len(X_test)):]
y_train = y_train[int(len(X_test)):]
```

Testing data ratio (0.2 = 20%) ← test_size=0.2,

Random seed to use for splitting ← random_state=2)

Load Iris dataset

Extract features (X) and target labels (y)

Scale features using scikit-learn provided standard scaler

Split the dataset into Training (80%) and Testing (20%)

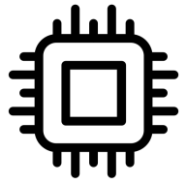
Assign subset of the training dataset as validation data (same size as testing)

Use the remaining dataset as training

Final split ratios = Training: 60%, Testing: 20%, Validation: 20%

One-hot Encoding

Human Readable		Machine Readable
Dog	→	1 0 0 0 0
Cat	→	0 1 0 0 0
Turtle	→	0 0 1 0 0
Fish	→	0 0 0 1 0
Snake	→	0 0 0 0 1



Categorical Data

One-hot vectors

One-hot Encoding

```
1 labels = torch.tensor([0,1,2])
2 print(labels)
```

```
tensor([0, 1, 2])
```

Original labels are 0, 1 and 2

```
1 labels_one_hot = torch.nn.functional.one_hot(labels)
2 print(labels_one_hot)
```

```
tensor([[1, 0, 0],
        [0, 1, 0],
        [0, 0, 1]])
```

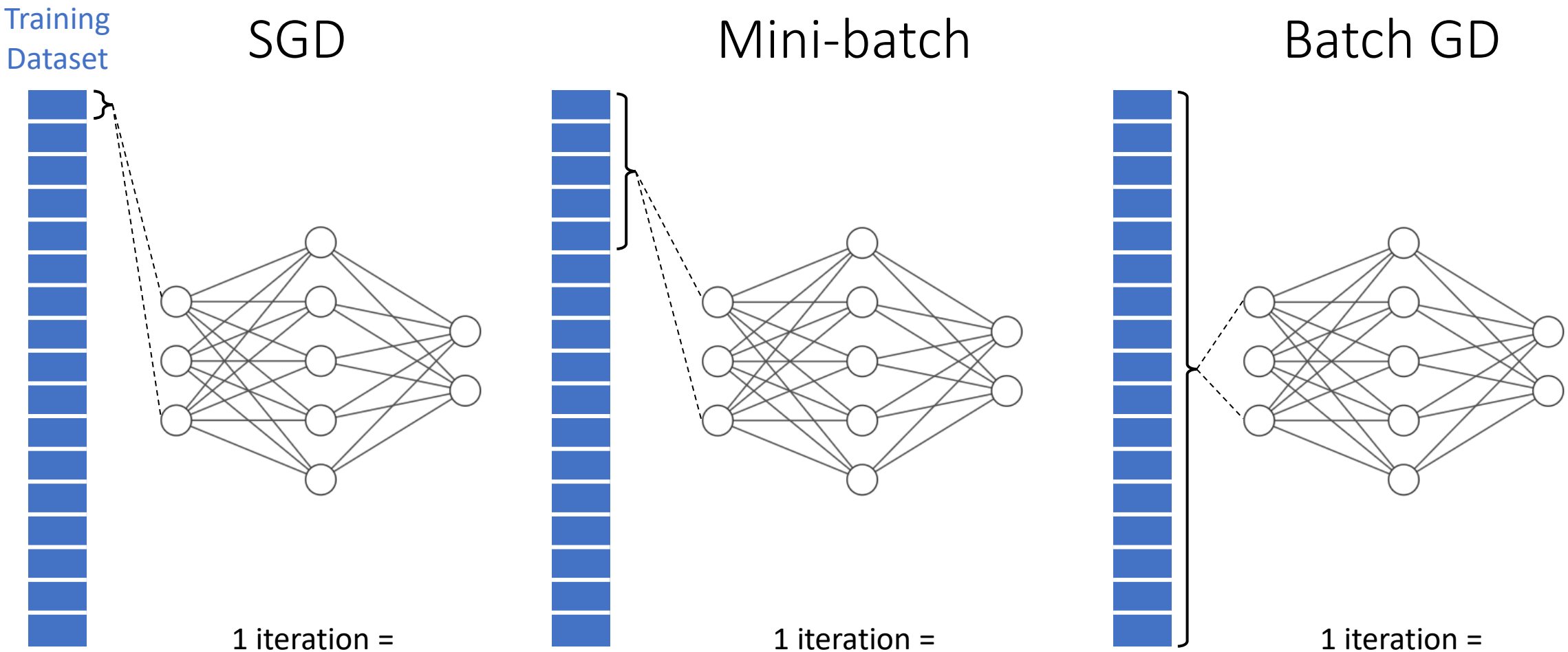
Labels after one-hot encoding (torch.nn.functional.one_hot())

Official function documentation:
https://pytorch.org/docs/stable/generated/torch.nn.functional.one_hot.html

STOCHASTIC GRADIENT DESCENT

SGD, Mini-batch GD, Batch GD

Variants of Gradient Descent



1 iteration =
Fwd/bwd pass 1 training sample

1 iteration =
Fwd/bwd pass n-training samples
(n < total # of training samples)

1 iteration =
Fwd/bwd pass full training samples

Implementing Variants of Gradient Descent

SGD

For epoch in range(epochs)

For sample in train

Training loop
- zero_grad
- fwd pass input
- compute loss
- backpropagation
- update weights/biases

Mini-batch

For epoch in range(epochs)

For mini-batch in train

Training Loop

Batch GD

For epoch in range(epochs)

Training Loop

Total # of iterations	Epochs × m (m =total # of samples in training)	Epochs × R (R = m/mini-batch size)	Epochs

ADDITIONAL HYPER-PARAMETERS & REGULARIZERS

Activation Functions

Loss Functions and Advanced Optimizers

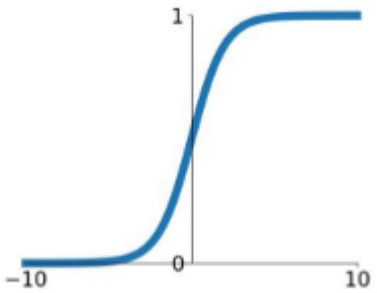
Regularizers

Batch Normalization

Network Initialization

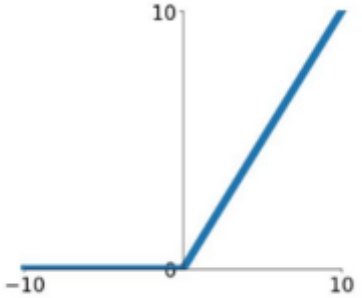
Activation Functions

Sigmoid



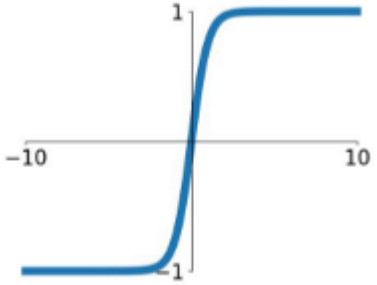
torch.nn.functional.sigmoid()

ReLU



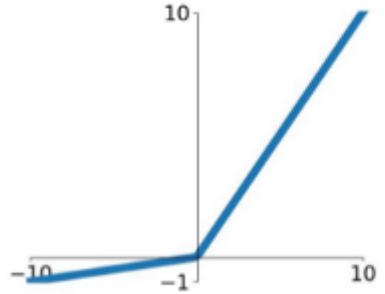
torch.nn.functional.relu()

Tanh



torch.nn.functional.tanh()

Leaky ReLU



torch.nn.functional.leaky_relu()

Activation Functions

```
1  class Model(torch.nn.Module):
2
3      def __init__(self, input_dim, output_dim):
4
5          super(Model, self).__init__()
6
7          self.layer1 = torch.nn.Linear(input_dim, 5)
8          self.layer2 = torch.nn.Linear(5, 5)
9          self.layer3 = torch.nn.Linear(5, output_dim)
10
11     def forward(self, x):
12
13         out1 = torch.nn.functional.relu(self.layer1(x))
14         out2 = torch.nn.functional.relu(self.layer2(out1))
15         output = torch.nn.functional.softmax(self.layer3(out2), dim=1)
16
17         return output
```

Apply ReLU activation function to outputs of layer1 and 2

Loss Functions

Regression

Mean Squared Error $\mathrm{MSE} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}(y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$ torch.nn.MSELoss()

Classification

Cross Entropy $L_{\mathrm{CE}} = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} t_i \log(p_i)$ torch.nn.CrossEntropyLoss()

NOTE: **torch.nn.CrossEntropyLoss()** automatically implements **one-hot encoding** and **softmax** when providing integer labels as targets.

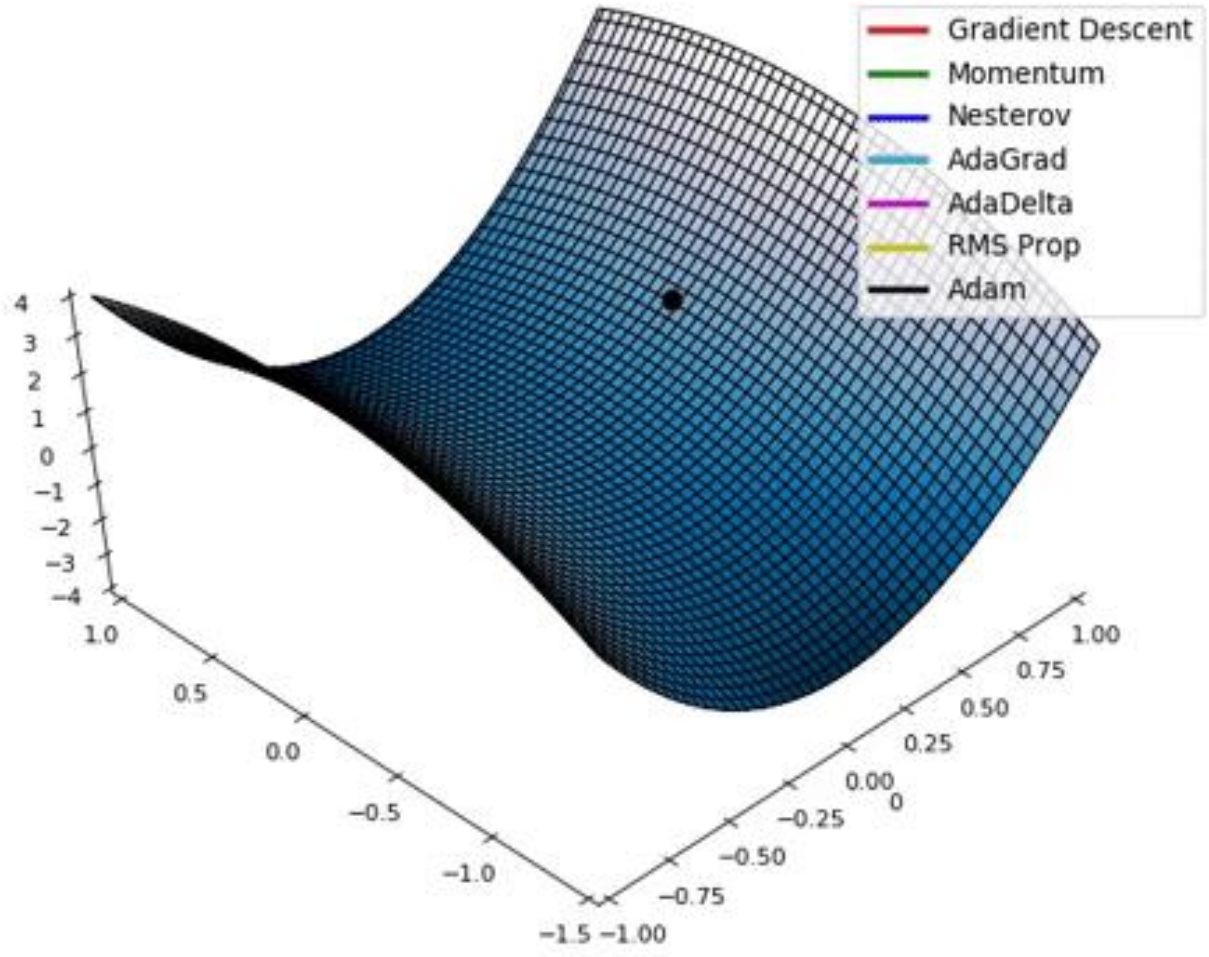
Advanced Optimizers

Gradient Descent
torch.optim.SGD()

Adam
torch.optim.Adam()

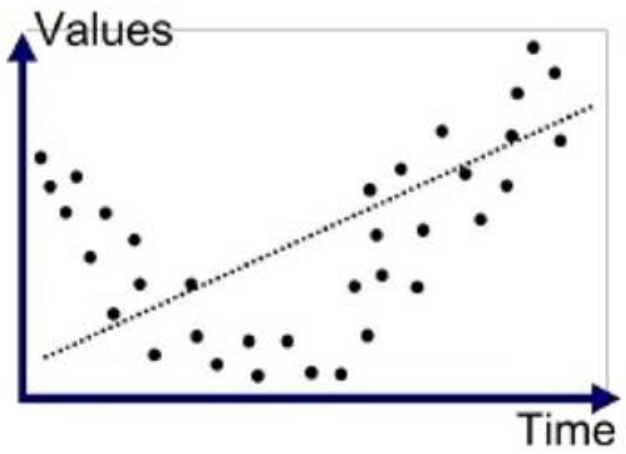
RMS Prop
torch.optim.RMSprop()

Ada Delta
torch.optim.Adadelta()



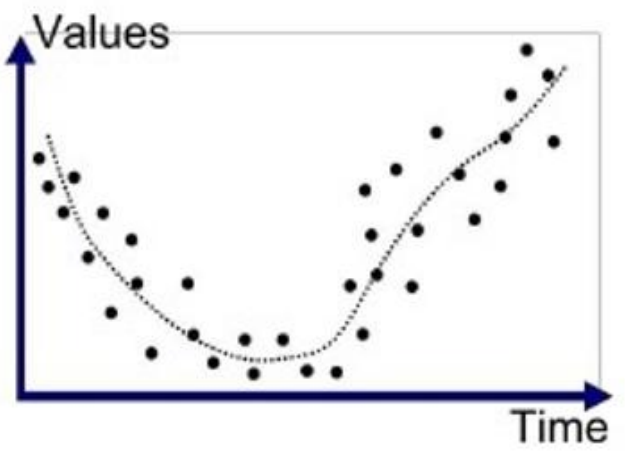
More Optimizers: https://pytorch.org/docs/stable/optim.html

Avoiding Overfitting with Regularization



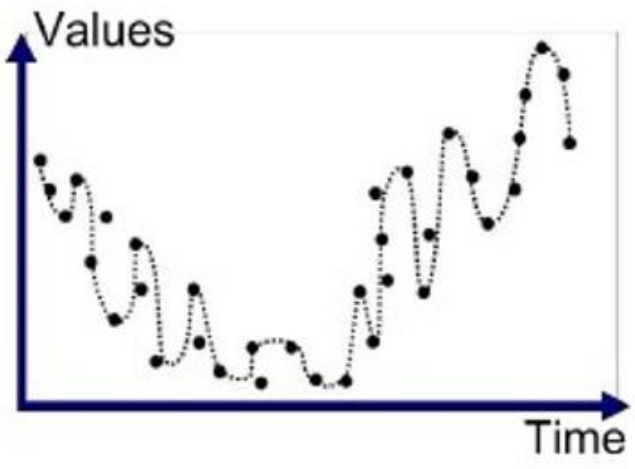
Underfitted

Bad training accuracy
Bad testing accuracy



Good Fit/Robust

Good training accuracy
Good testing accuracy



Overfitted

Great training accuracy
Bad testing accuracy

L1, L2 Regularizations in PyTorch

L1 Regularization

$$Loss = Error(y, \hat{y}) + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{N} |w_i|$$

Penalizes sum of absolute values of weights

Results in a sparse model

Not suitable for learning complex patterns

Robust to outliers

L2 Regularization

$$Loss = Error(y, \hat{y}) + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i^2$$

Penalizes sum of squared values of weights

Results in a dense model

Learns complex patterns

Sensitive to outliers

L1, L2 Regularizations in PyTorch

L1

```
l1_penalty = torch.nn.L1Loss(size_average=False)
reg_loss = 0

for param in model.parameters():

    reg_loss += l1_penalty(param)

lambda_ = 0.9

loss += lambda_ * reg_loss
```

Loop through model parameters to compute L1 regularization term

Pick the lambda value

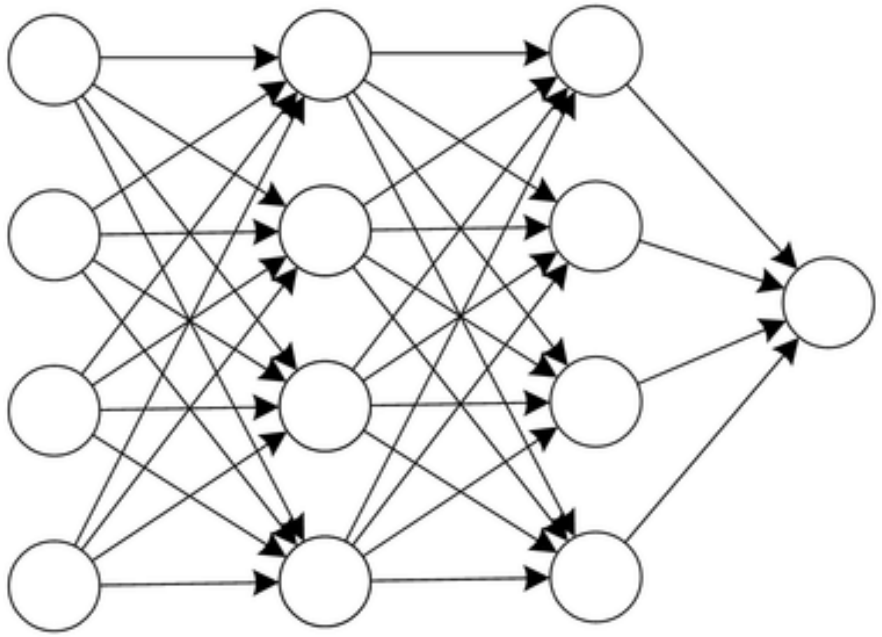
Add the L1 term to loss during training

L2

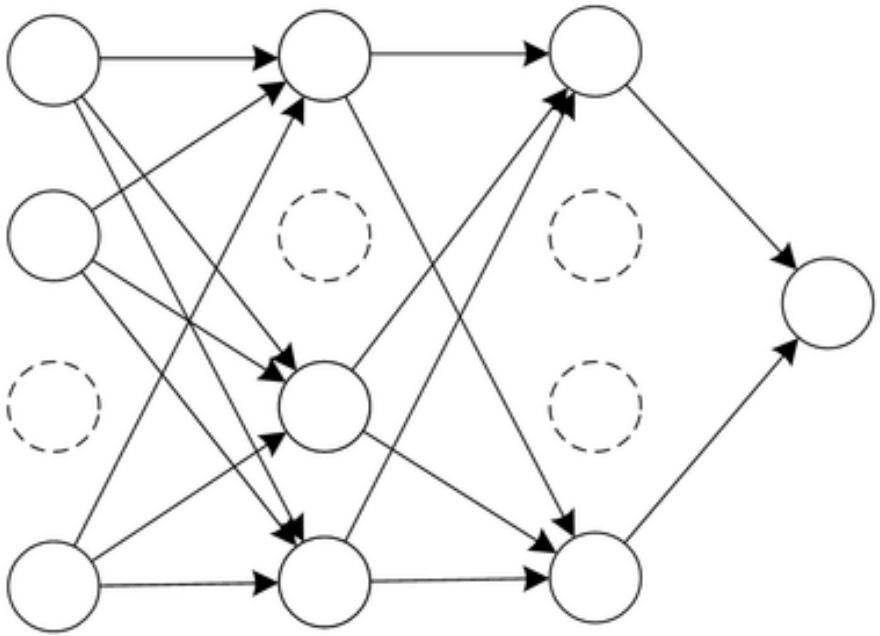
```
optimizer = torch.optim.SGD(model.parameters(), lr=0.001, weight_decay=0.9)
```

weight_decay sets lambda value for L2 regularization term

Dropout Regularization in PyTorch



Standard Neural Network



Network with Dropout

Srivastava et al 2014 (~35000 citations!)

Dropout forces the network to learn more robust features + different random subsets of other neurons

Dropout Regularization in PyTorch

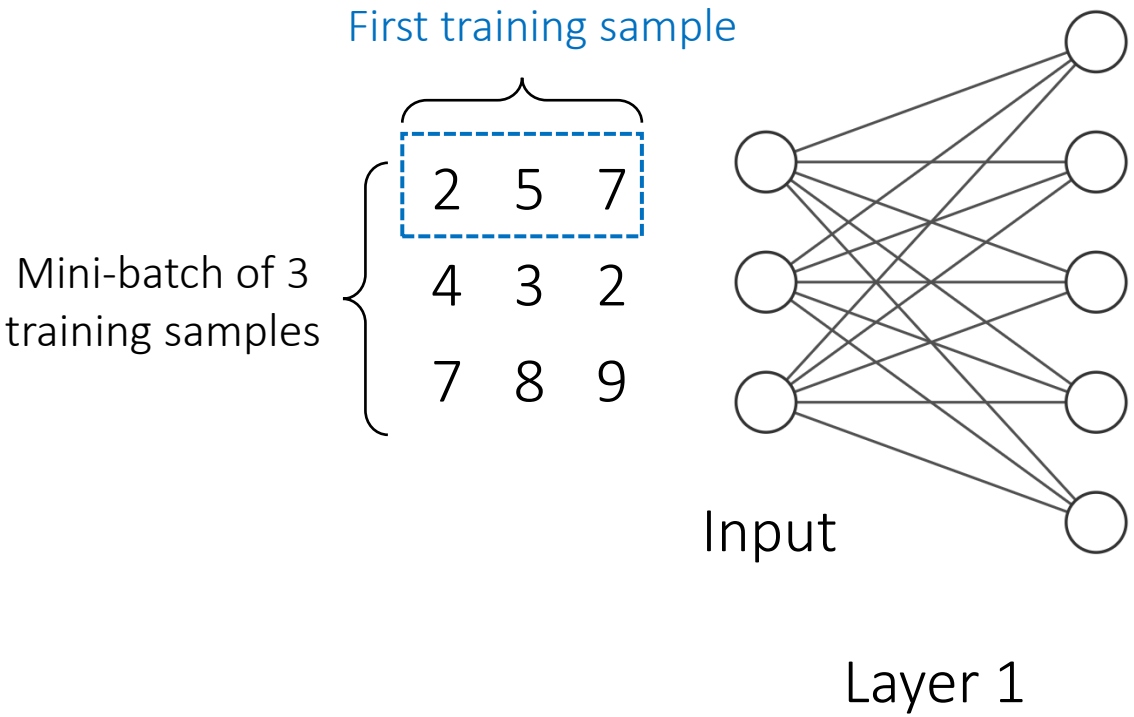
```
1  class Model(torch.nn.Module):
2
3      def __init__(self, input_dim, output_dim):
4
5          super(Model, self).__init__()
6
7          self.layer1 = torch.nn.Linear(input_dim, 5)
8          self.layer2 = torch.nn.Linear(5, output_dim)
9          self.dropout = torch.nn.Dropout(p = 0.25)
10
11     def forward(self, x):
12
13         out1 = self.layer1(x)
14         out1 = self.dropout(out1)
15         output = self.layer2(out1)
16
17         return output
```

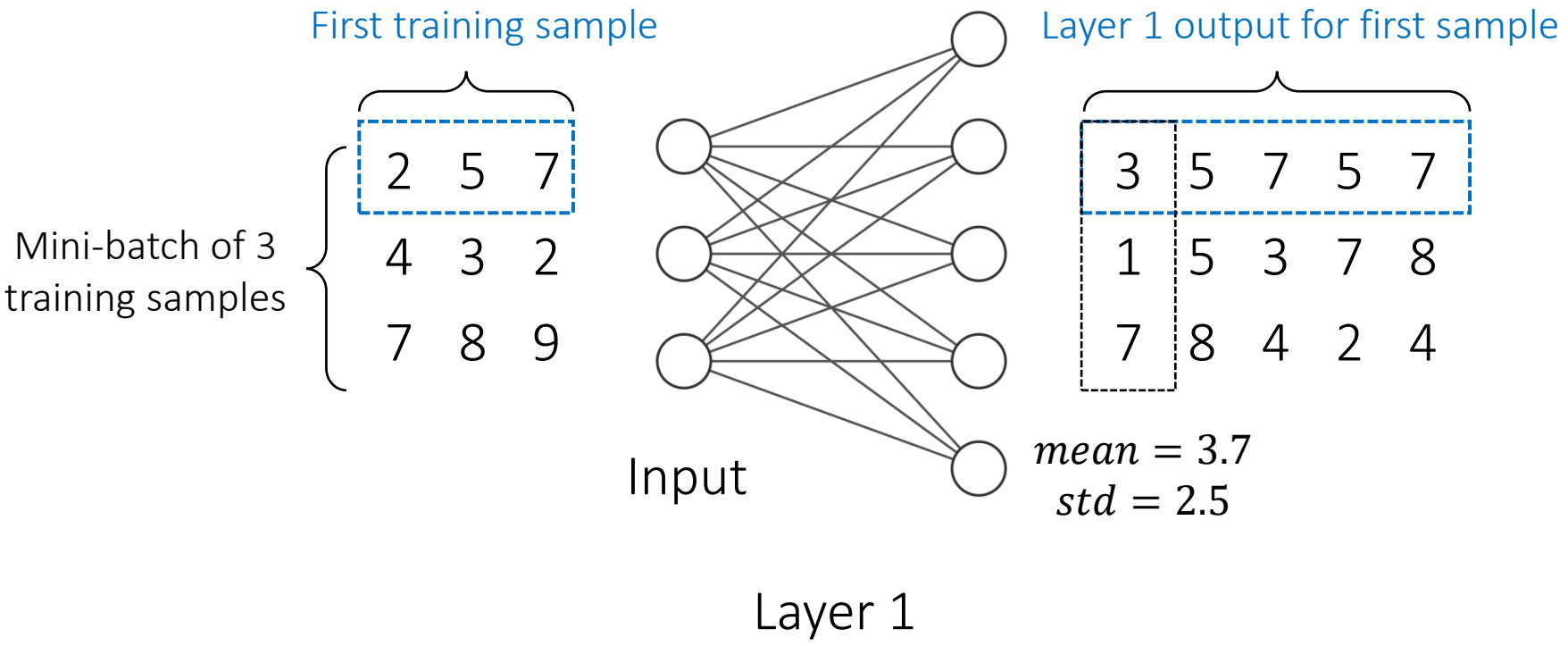
Add the dropout in __init__ with
p = probability of neuron state is set to 0

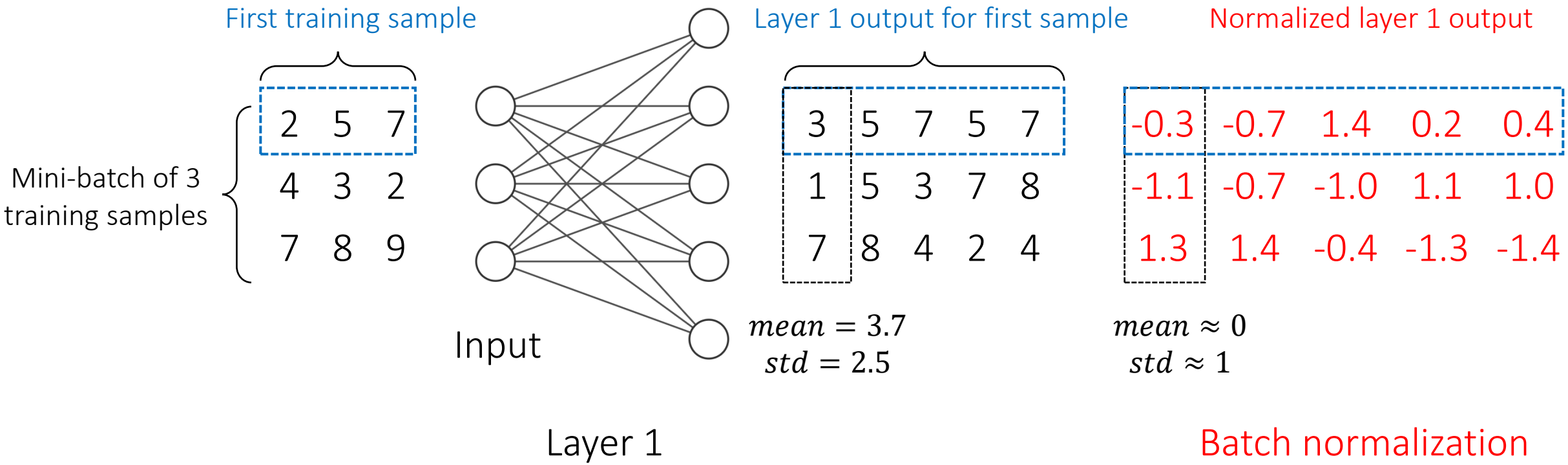
Apply dropout to the output of the desired layer

Preventing Vanishing/Exploding Gradients: Batch Normalization

Loffe et al 2015 (>35000 citations)




First training sample
Layer 1 output for first sample
Mini-batch of 3 training samples
2 5 7
4 3 2
7 8 9
3 5 7 5 7
1 5 3 7 8
7 8 4 2 4
Input
mean = 3.7
std = 2.5
Layer 1


First training sample
Layer 1 output for first sample
Normalized layer 1 output
Mini-batch of 3 training samples
2 5 7
4 3 2
7 8 9
Input
3 5 7 5 7
1 5 3 7 8
7 8 4 2 4
mean = 3.7
std = 2.5
-0.3 -0.7 1.4 0.2 0.4
-1.1 -0.7 -1.0 1.1 1.0
1.3 1.4 -0.4 -1.3 -1.4
mean ≈ 0
std ≈ 1
Layer 1
Batch normalization

Batch Normalization in PyTorch

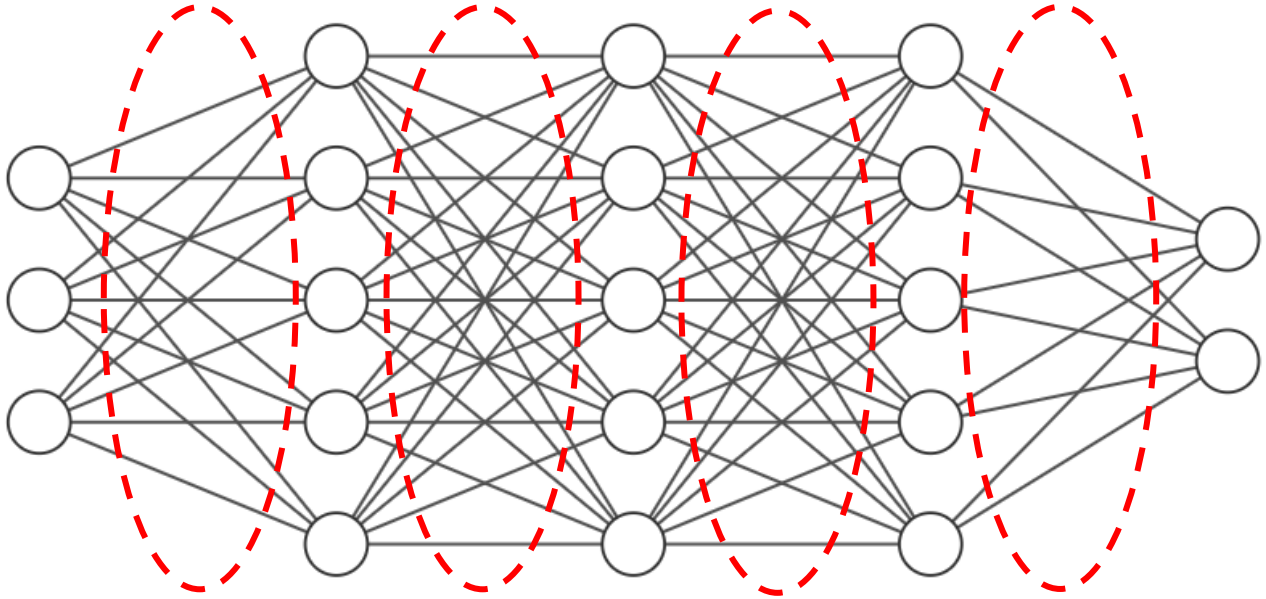
```
1  class Model(torch.nn.Module):
2
3      def __init__(self, input_dim, output_dim):
4
5          super(Model, self).__init__()
6
7          self.layer1 = torch.nn.Linear(input_dim, 5)
8          self.layer2 = torch.nn.Linear(5, output_dim)
9          self.bn1 = torch.nn.BatchNorm1d(5)
10
11     def forward(self, x):
12
13         out1 = self.layer1(x)
14         out1 = self.bn1(out1)
15         out1 = torch.nn.functional.relu(out1)
16         output = self.layer2(out1)
17
18         return output
```

Add BatchNorm1D in __init__ with number of features in desired layer output

Apply batch normalization to the output of the desired layer.

NOTE: Batch normalization is done **BEFORE** feeding into activation function

Preventing Vanishing/Exploding Gradients: Weight Initialization



Proper weight initialization plays essential roles in preventing exploding/vanishing gradients

↓

Faster convergence

Weight Initialization Methods

Uniform	Uniform distribution	torch.nn.init.uniform_()
Normal	Gaussian distribution	torch.nn.init.normal_()
Xavier	Suitable for tanh() activation	torch.nn.init.xavier_uniform_()
Kaiming	Suitable for ReLU() activation	torch.nn.init.kaiming_uniform_()

Xavier et al 2010

He et al 2015

More initializations: https://pytorch.org/docs/stable/nn.init.html

Weight Initialization in PyTorch

```
1  class Model(torch.nn.Module):
2
3      def __init__(self, input_dim, output_dim):
4
5          super(Model, self).__init__()
6
7          self.layer1 = torch.nn.Linear(input_dim, 5)
8          self.layer2 = torch.nn.Linear(5, output_dim)
9          torch.nn.init.kaiming_uniform_(self.layer2.weight)
10
11     def forward(self, x):
12
13         out1 = torch.nn.functional.relu(self.layer1(x))
14         output = torch.nn.functional.relu(self.layer2(out1))
15
16         return output
```

Manually apply Kaiming He Initialization to layer2

NOTE: PyTorch already applies good default initialization for most layers.
We suggest using manual initialization for experimental purposes

TRAINING MULTI-LAYER PERCEPTRONS

Iris Classification Example

Neural Network Workflow in PyTorch

Prepare Data

Define Model

Select Hyperparameter

Identify Tracked Values

Train Model

Visualization and Evaluation

Prepare Data

```
1  from sklearn.datasets import load_iris
2  from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
3  from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
4
5  iris = load_iris()
6
7  X = iris['data']
8  y = iris['target']
9
10 scaler = StandardScaler()
11 X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X)
12
13 X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X_scaled, y,
14                                     test_size=0.2,
15                                     random_state=2)
16
17 X_validation = X_train[:int(len(X_test))]
18 y_validation = y_train[:int(len(X_test))]
19
20 X_train = X_train[int(len(X_test)):]
21 y_train = y_train[int(len(X_test)):]
```

Testing data ratio (0.2 = 20%) ← test_size=0.2,

Random seed to use for splitting ← random_state=2)

Load Iris dataset

Extract features (X) and target labels (y)

Scale features using scikit-learn provided standard scaler

Split the dataset into Training (80%) and Testing (20%)

Assign subset of the training dataset as validation data (same size as testing)

Use the remaining dataset as training

Final split ratios = Training: 60%, Testing: 20%, Validation: 20%

Define Model

```
class irisClassificationFCN(torch.nn.Module):

    def __init__(self, input_dim, output_dim, hidden1_dim, hidden2_dim):

        super(irisClassificationFCN, self).__init__()

        self.layer1 = torch.nn.Linear(input_dim, hidden1_dim)
        self.layer2 = torch.nn.Linear(hidden1_dim, hidden2_dim)
        self.layer3 = torch.nn.Linear(hidden2_dim, output_dim)

    def forward(self, x):

        out1 = torch.nn.functional.relu(self.layer1(x))
        out2 = torch.nn.functional.relu(self.layer2(out1))
        output = self.layer3(out2)

        return output
```

Input layer (input_dim = 4)

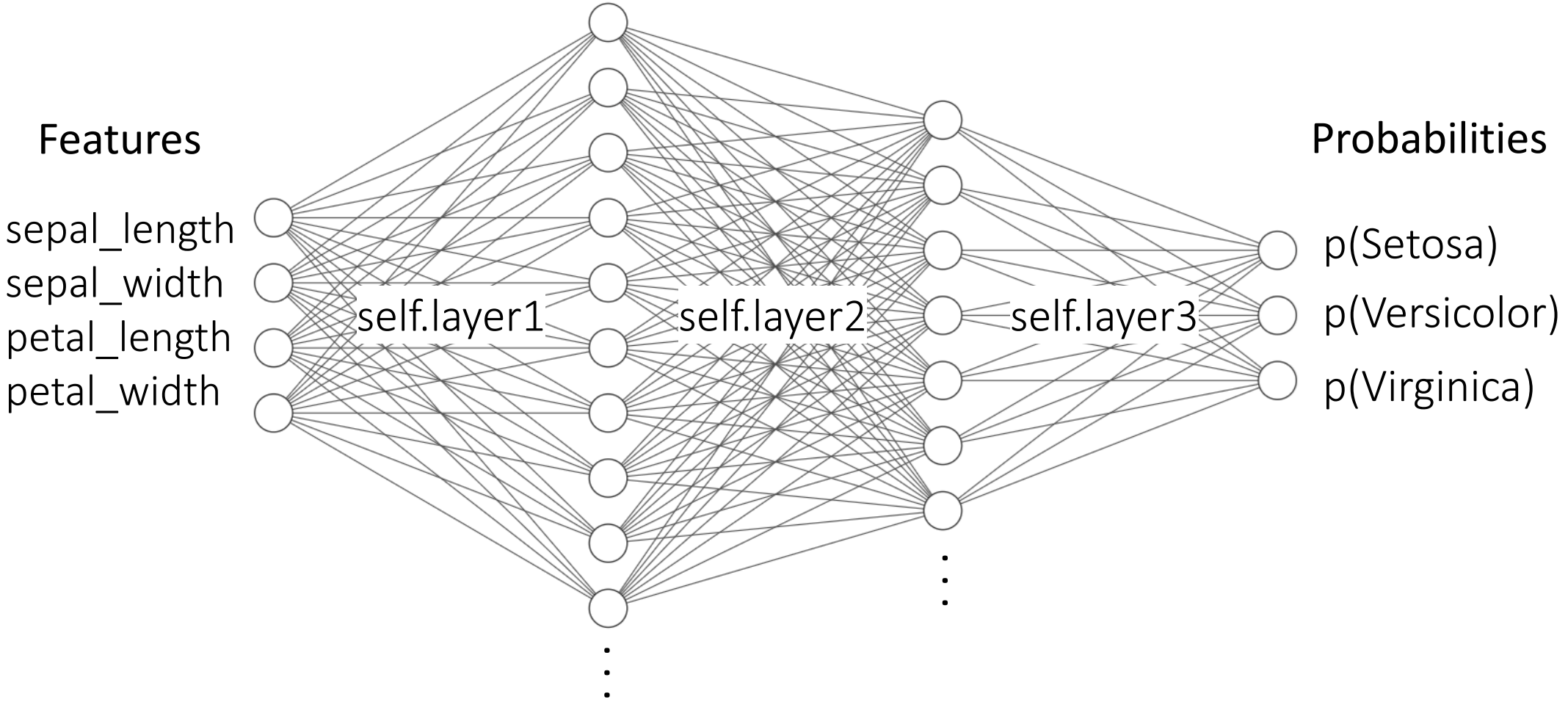
2 hidden layers (hidden1_dim = 30, hidden2_dim = 10)

output layer (output_dim = 3)

ReLU activation for the outputs of each hidden layer

Return raw final output

Define Model



Select Hyperparameter

```
1  model = irisClassificationFCN(input_dim = 4, output_dim = 3,
2                                hidden1_dim = 30, hidden2_dim = 10)
3
4  learning_rate = 0.025
5  epochs = 25
6
7  loss_func = torch.nn.CrossEntropyLoss()
8  optimizer = torch.optim.Adam(model.parameters(), lr = learning_rate)
9
10 model
```

```
irisClassificationFCN(
  (layer1): Linear(in_features=4, out_features=30, bias=True)
  (layer2): Linear(in_features=30, out_features=10, bias=True)
  (layer3): Linear(in_features=10, out_features=3, bias=True)
)
```

Initialize the model with **input_dim** = 4, **output_dim** = 3, **hidden1_dim** = 30, **hidden2_dim** = 10

Using learning rate of 0.025 and 25 as epochs

Using Cross Entropy Loss and Adam Optimizer

Model variable correctly shows our network structure

Identify Tracked Values

```
1  train_loss_list = np.zeros((epochs,))
2  validation_accuracy_list = np.zeros((epochs,))
```

Create empty list or NumPy arrays to hold training loss and validation accuracy

Train Model

```
1  import tqdm
2
3  train_inputs = torch.from_numpy(X_train).float()
4  train_targets = torch.from_numpy(y_train).long()
5
6  validation_inputs = torch.from_numpy(X_validation).float()
7  validation_targets = torch.from_numpy(y_validation).long()
8
9  testing_inputs = torch.from_numpy(X_test).float()
10 testing_targets = torch.from_numpy(y_test).long()
11
```

Import tqdm to visualize the progress of your training

Convert training/validation/testing datasets into PyTorch Tensors

Convert the targets into int64 form via .long()

Train Model

```
14 # Training Loop ----------------------------------------------
15
16 for epoch in tqdm.trange(epochs):
17
18     optimizer.zero_grad()
19
20     train_outputs = model(train_inputs)
21
22     loss = loss_func(train_outputs, train_targets)
23
24     train_loss_list[epoch] = loss.item()
25
26     loss.backward()
27
28     optimizer.step()
29
30     # Compute Validation Accuracy ----------------------------
31
32     with torch.no_grad():
33
34         validation_outputs = model(validation_inputs)
35
36         correct = (torch.argmax(validation_outputs, dim=1) ==
37                    validation_targets).type(torch.FloatTensor)
38
39         validation_accuracy_list[epoch] = correct.mean()
```

Training loop

- Empty gradient buffer
- Forward propagation
- Compute loss
- Save loss value to a list
- Backward propagation
- Update weights/biases

Compute Validation accuracy per epoch

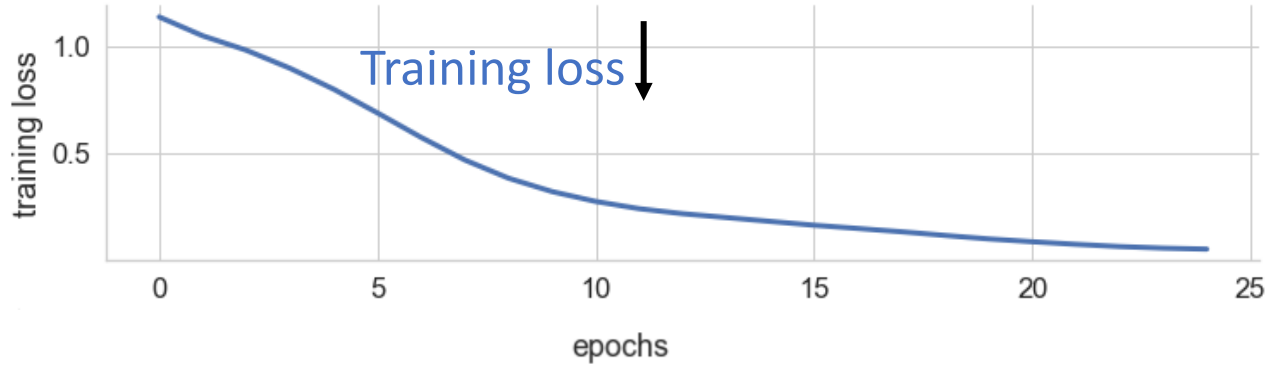
- Forward pass validation inputs to network
- Compare the outputs (index with the highest probability) against the validation target
- Compute and append the validation accuracy

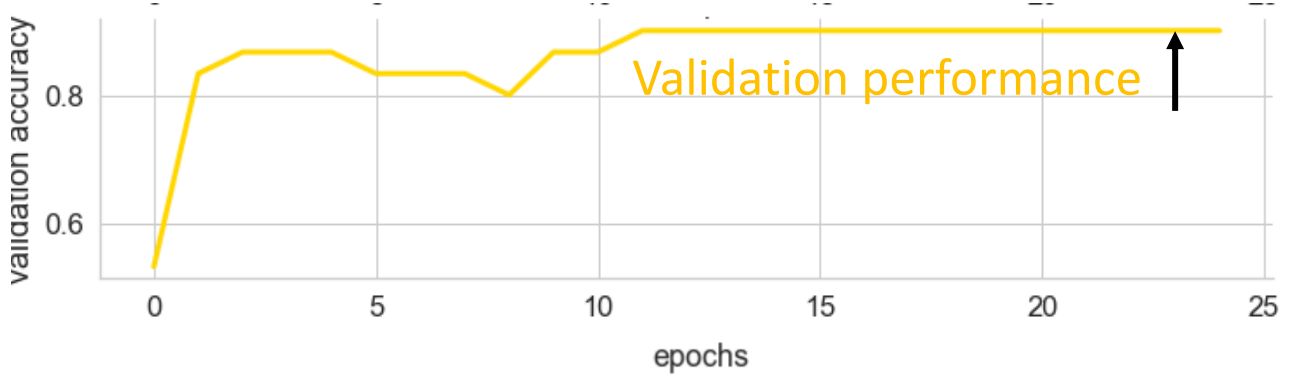
Visualization and Evaluation

```
plt.subplot(2, 1, 2)
plt.plot(train_loss_list, linewidth = 3)
plt.ylabel("training loss")
plt.xlabel("epochs")
sns.despine()
```

```
plt.figure(figsize = (12, 6))

plt.subplot(2, 1, 1)
plt.plot(validation_accuracy_list, linewidth = 3, color = 'gold')
plt.ylabel("validation accuracy")
```






```
with torch.no_grad():

    # Pass the testing feature data (30 samples) to the network to produce model predictions
    y_pred_test = model(testing_inputs)

    # Use the same technique as above to commpute the testing classification accuracy
    correct = (torch.argmax(y_pred_test, dim=1) == testing_targets).type(torch.FloatTensor)

    print("Testing Accuracy: " + str(correct.mean().numpy()*100) + '%')
```

```
Testing Accuracy: 93.33333373069763%
```

93% classification accuracy

Testing performance ↑

LAB 2 ASSIGNMENT:

MNIST Classification using multi-layer perceptron

MNIST Dataset

Handwritten digits 0-9

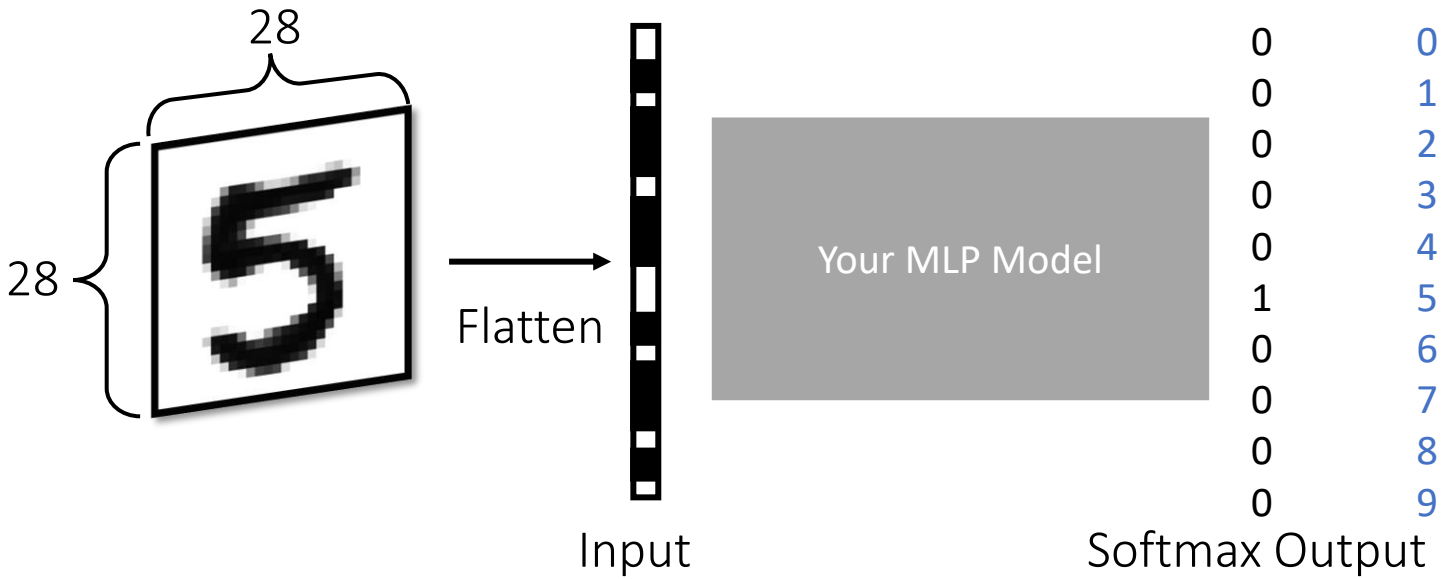
Target labels are the correct values of the digit

Data consists of grayscale images of fixed size (28x28) – flattens to 784

Canonical dataset for machine learning

1000 training samples, 100 testing samples

MNIST Classification with MLP



In this exercise, you will classify handwritten digits (28 x 28) using your own **Fully Connected Network Architecture.**

Prior to training your neural net, 1) Flatten each digit into 1D array of size 784, 2) Normalize the dataset using standard scaler and 3) Split the dataset into train/validation/test.

Design your own neural net architecture with your choice of hidden layers, activation functions, optimization method etc.

Your goal is to **achieve a testing accuracy of >90%**, with no restrictions on epochs. Use **cross-validation** during training to shuffle training and validation set each epoch.

Demonstrate the performance of your model via plotting the **training loss, validation accuracy** and printing out the **testing accuracy.**

Plot the testing samples where your model failed to classify correctly and print your model's best guess for each of them

Tips for Training Your Model

First things to decide

- Number of layers
- Neurons in each layer
- Activation function
  (ReLU, Tanh, sigmoid)
- Training batch size
  (SGD, Mini-batch, Batch Gradient)
- Learning rate
- Optimizer
  (SGD, Adam, RMS Prop etc)
- Number of training epochs

If your model is overfitting
(high training performance but low validation/testing performance)

- Add dropout layers
- Add regularization terms
- Stop training early
- Make network smaller (fewer layers or neurons)