# REVISE SATURATED ACTIVATION **FUNCTIONS**

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# INTRODUCTION

Motivation

The motivation was to contradict the conclusion of some previous work that the saturation property is the cause of slow convergence.

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## INTRODUCTION

**Objectives** 

- The objective was to review two commonly used saturated functions, the logistic sigmoid and the hyperbolic tangent (tanh).
- We show that, with appropriate rescaling, the logistic sigmoid achieves comparable results to the tanh function.
- Then, following the same argument, we improve tahn by penalizing the negative part.
- We show that "penalized tanh" is comparable and even outperforms unsaturated functions

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# WHY TRAINING DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS IS HARD WITH THE LOGISTIC SIGMOID

- its slope in the linear regime is 1/4 rather than 1, so we need to initialize the weight is a 16 times smaller variance to keep the variance of the gradient of each layer the same.
- it has a non-zero mean, so the output variance increases linearly with the layer.

Rescale the logistic sigmoid to match the coefficient of the first two degrees with tanh and relu, In other words, we transform the logistic sigmoid by

scaled sigmoid(x) = 
$$4 * sigmoid(x) - 2 = \frac{4}{1 + e^x} - 2$$

# WHY TRAINING DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS IS HARD WITH THE LOGISTIC SIGMOID

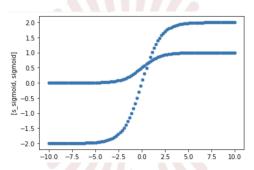


Figure: Scaled sigmoid and sigmoid

# PENALIZED SATURATED ACTIVATION FUNCTIONS

the "leaky ReLU", which is presented as follows,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if if } x > 0 \\ a * x & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

the leaky ReLU can be seen as an improvement over the simple identical activation function f(x) = x that penalizes the gradient of the negative part. We propose the function "penalized tanh" which takes the form of

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} tanh(x) & \text{if if } x > 0 \\ a * tanh(x) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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# Comparison

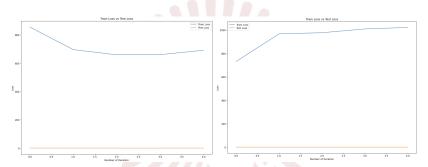


Figure: sigmoid and Scaled sigmoid

# Comparison

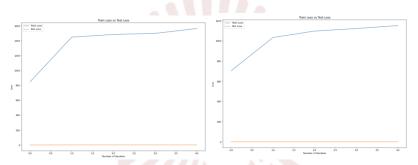


Figure: Tanh and penalized Tanh

# Comparison

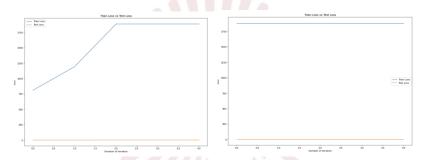


Figure: ReLu and Leaky ReLu

## CONCLUSION

The outcome of the paper was to study the differences in network performance between using saturated activation functions and using unsaturated functions. The result found suggests that using the penalty on the negative part, the saturation of the activation function is comparable to ReLU and Leaky ReLU.

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