The reconstruction loss $L(x, x^)

The former term encourages our model to be sensitive to inputs, and the latter discourages overfitting. A scaling parameter is typically included in front of the

\verb|torch.nn.Linear| has by default He/Kaiming uniform initialisation, as confirmed here.

As images are normalised between 0 and 1 by \verb|transforms.ToTensor|, a sigmoid activation has been added to the output layer to get values that match this input value range.

Binary cross-entropy was found to offer marginal improvements over mean-squared, though subjectively.

Spectral Normalisation was also trialled. It was found to improve the convergence rate slightly, from around $250$ epochs to $200$.

# Might want to graph those two. As proof, y’know.

The larger the compressed encoding of the image, the closer a combination of two encodings is to simply naively combining two images.

A successful approach therefore *must* find the latent space.

Using \verb|LeakyReLU| activation functions with a negative slope of 0.2 appears to be current best practice, with use in both ACAI and PIONEER.

Minor data augmentation also found to *decrease* performance of the model. Specifically, a random crop, and a random horizontal flip. The introduction of noise was deemed a complicating factor; it would have necessitated a re-design of the AE into a *denoising* AE.

Even with spectral normalisation and overtraining the discriminator, loss fluctuated wildly, though not in the typically sinusoidal fashion expected (in which, as the discriminator loss decreases, the autoencoder losses increases, and vice versa)