



QNN with PennyLane and PyTorch

Stefano Markidis
KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Binary Classification - Breast Cancer Wisconsin Dataset

- We will train a QNN model to implement a **binary classifier**.
 - Dataset provided by the `scikit-learn` package: the "Breast cancer Wisconsin dataset".
- This dataset contains 569 samples, each with 30 numerical variables.
 - These variables describe features that can be used to characterize whether a breast mass is benign or malignant.
 - Each sample's label is either 0 (malignant) or 1 (benign).
- Dataset online at https://scikit-learn.org/stable/datasets/toy_dataset.html#

```
from sklearn.datasets import load_breast_cancer  
  
x, y = load_breast_cancer(return_X_y = True)
```

Training, Validation, and Test Dataset

- We can split our dataset into a training, validation, and test dataset as follows:

```
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

x_tr, x_test, y_tr, y_test = train_test_split(x, y, train_size = 0.8)
x_val, x_test, y_val, y_test = train_test_split(x_test, y_test, train_size = 0.5)
```

Dataset Normalization

- All the variables in the dataset are non-zero, but they are not normalized. To use them with any of our feature maps, we **normalize the training data between 0 and 1** using `MaxAbsScaler`.

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import MaxAbsScaler

scaler = MaxAbsScaler()
x_tr = scaler.fit_transform(x_tr)
```

- We normalize the test and validation datasets in the same proportions as the training dataset:

```
x_test = scaler.transform(x_test)
x_val = scaler.transform(x_val)
# Restrict all the values to be between 0 and 1.
x_test = np.clip(x_test, 0, 1)
x_val = np.clip(x_val, 0, 1)
```

Encoding Data into Quantum States

- Our dataset has 30 variables.
- Encoding options:
 - Use the amplitude encoding feature map on five qubits, which can accommodate up to $2^5 = 32$ variables
 - It is straightforward if you use the `qml.AmplitudeEmbedding` template that we studied for QSVM.
 - Use any of the other feature maps that we have used,
 - 30 Qubits > possible to simulate, but too long
 - In conjunction with a dimensionality reduction technique.
 - We will go for the latter choice.

Data Reduction Dimensionality

- We use principal component analysis to reduce the number of variables in our dataset to 4:

```
from sklearn.decomposition import PCA
pca = PCA(n_components = 4)

xs_tr = pca.fit_transform(x_tr)

xs_test = pca.transform(x_test)
xs_val = pca.transform(x_val)
```

QNN Encoding & Variational Form

- The ZZ feature map and the two-local variational form are not built into PennyLane
 - We provide the implementation of these variational circuits.

Encoding

```
from itertools import combinations
def ZZFeatureMap(nqubits, data):
    # Number of variables that we will load:
    # could be smaller than the number of qubits.
    nload = min(len(data), nqubits)
    for i in range(nload):
        qml.Hadamard(i)
        qml.RZ(2.0 * data[i], wires = i)
    for pair in list(combinations(range(nload), 2)):
        q0 = pair[0]
        q1 = pair[1]
        qml.CZ(wires = [q0, q1])
        qml.RZ(2.0 * (np.pi - data[q0]) * (np.pi - data[q1]),
              wires = q1)
        qml.CZ(wires = [q0, q1])
```

Variational Circuit

```
def TwoLocal(nqubits, theta, reps = 1):
    for r in range(reps):
        for i in range(nqubits):
            qml.RY(theta[r * nqubits + i], wires = i)
        for i in range(nqubits - 1):
            qml.CNOT(wires = [i, i + 1])
    for i in range(nqubits):
        qml.RY(theta[reps * nqubits + i], wires = i)
```

Observables and Measurements

- Observables are represented by Hermitian operators in quantum mechanics.
 - PennyLane allows us to work directly with these Hermitian representations.
- For instance, you may use `return qml.probs(wires = [0])` at the end of the definition of a circuit to get the probabilities of every possible measurement outcome on a computational basis.
- Additional possibilities:
 - Given any Hermitian matrix A (encoded as a numpy array A), we may retrieve **the expectation value of A on an array of wires w at the end of a circuit** with `return qml.expval(A, wires = w)`.
 - The dimensions of A must be compatible with the length of w . This is useful in our case,
 - To get the expectation value on the first qubit, we will have to compute the expectation value of the Hermitian

Expectation Value on the First Qubit

- To get the expectation value on the first qubit, we will just have to compute the expectation value of the Hermitian.

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- The matrix M can be constructed as follows:

```
state_0 = [[1], [0]]  
M = state_0 * np.conj(state_0).T
```

- **This will give us, as output, a value between 0 and 1**, which is perfect for constructing a classifier:
 - We will assign class 1 to every data instance with a value of 0.5 or higher and class 0 to all the rest.

QNN Combining Layers and Measurement

- A PennyLane quantum node has two arguments: inputs and theta.
 - Its first argument must accept an **array with all the inputs** to the network, and the **name of this argument must be input**.
 - After this argument, we provide the optimizable parameters in the variational form.

```
n_qubits = 4
reps = 2 # depth for TwoLocal
dev = qml.device("default.qubit", wires=n_qubits)

@qml.qnode(dev, interface="torch", diff_method="best")
def qnode(x, theta):

    ZZFeatureMap(n_qubits, x)

    TwoLocal(n_qubits, theta, reps=reps)

    return qml.expval(qml.PauliZ(0))
```

- **Note:** we have added the argument interface = "torch" to the quantum node initializer.
- Had we used the @qml.qnode decorator, we would've had to include the argument in its call.

Batched QNode Layer

- A `nn.Module` wrapper around a PennyLane QNode.
- Trainable quantum parameters:
 - Uses a `nn.ParameterDict` driven by `weight_shapes` to register learnable angles (e.g., `theta`).
- Forward pass (batched):
 - Casts inputs to `float64`, ensures a batch dimension, then calls the QNode per sample.
 - Each QNode returns $\langle Z \rangle \in [-1, 1]$, which is mapped to a probability via $(ev + 1) / 2$

```
class BatchedQNodeLayer(nn.Module):  
    def __init__(self, qnode, weight_shapes):  
        super().__init__()  
        ...  
  
    def forward(self, x):  
        x = x.to(dtype=torch.float64)  
        for i in range(x.shape[0]):  
            ...  
        ...
```

Integrating PyTorch with PennyLane

- Thanks to PennyLane's interoperability, **we train our QNN with PyTorch**

```
import torch.nn as nn
weight_shapes = {"theta": ((reps + 1) * n_qubits,)} # flat vector for TwoLocal
model = nn.Sequential(BatchedQNodeLayer(qnode, weight_shapes)).double()
print(model)
```

- ~~Tell the quantum layer how many trainable params it needs:~~
 - `weight_shapes = {"theta": ((reps + 1) * n_qubits,)}` defines a flat vector of parameters for the TwoLocal ansatz: reps RY layers + one final RY layer, each with n_qubits angles → total $(\text{reps} + 1) * n_{\text{qubits}}$ learnable angles stored in theta.
- Build the model as a single quantum layer:
 - `model = nn.Sequential(BatchedQNodeLayer(qnode, weight_shapes)).double()` creates a model consisting of one custom layer that runs the QNode per sample and outputs a probability;

Training

- Run for 15 epochs with Adam ($lr=5e-3$) and binary cross-entropy
- Training step (per epoch):
 1. `model.train()`
 2. For each batch:
 1. `opt.zero_grad()`
 2. forward (`preds = model(xb)`)
 3. `loss(criterion(preds, yb))`
 4. backprop (`loss.backward()`)
 5. update (`opt.step()`)

```
epochs = 15
opt = torch.optim.Adam(model.parameters(), lr=5e-3)
criterion = nn.BCELoss()


history = {"loss": [], "val_loss": []}

for epoch in range(1, epochs+1):
    model.train()
    train_loss = 0.0
    for xb, yb in train_loader:
        opt.zero_grad()
        preds = model(xb)
        loss = criterion(preds, yb)
        loss.backward()
        opt.step()
        train_loss += loss.item() * xb.size(0)

    train_loss /= len(train_loader.dataset)
    model.eval()
    val_loss = 0.0
```

Training Execution

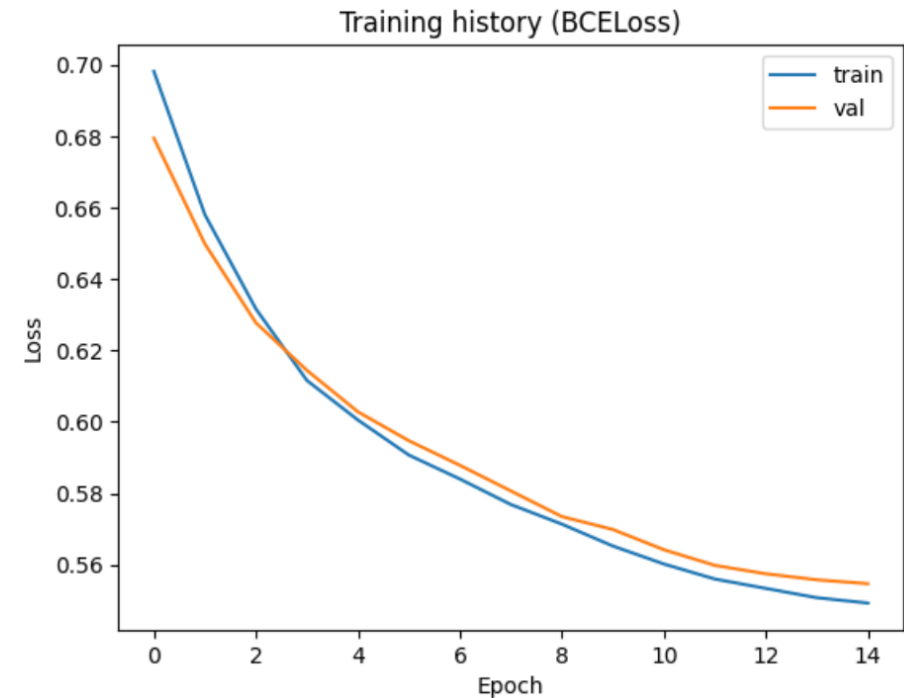
Epoch 01/15	- loss: 0.6981	- val_loss: 0.6794
Epoch 02/15	- loss: 0.6580	- val_loss: 0.6498
Epoch 03/15	- loss: 0.6316	- val_loss: 0.6277
Epoch 04/15	- loss: 0.6116	- val_loss: 0.6144
Epoch 05/15	- loss: 0.6005	- val_loss: 0.6028
Epoch 06/15	- loss: 0.5907	- val_loss: 0.5947
Epoch 07/15	- loss: 0.5840	- val_loss: 0.5878
Epoch 08/15	- loss: 0.5768	- val_loss: 0.5806
Epoch 09/15	- loss: 0.5713	- val_loss: 0.5735
Epoch 10/15	- loss: 0.5652	- val_loss: 0.5698
Epoch 11/15	- loss: 0.5602	- val_loss: 0.5642
Epoch 12/15	- loss: 0.5560	- val_loss: 0.5598
Epoch 13/15	- loss: 0.5533	- val_loss: 0.5574
Epoch 14/15	- loss: 0.5507	- val_loss: 0.5558
Epoch 15/15	- loss: 0.5492	- val_loss: 0.5547

A large blue arrow points downwards along the right side of the table, indicating the progression of epochs and the corresponding decrease in loss values.

The model is learning because the training and validation losses are dropping.

Plotting the QNN Losses

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
plt.figure()
plt.plot(history['loss'], label='train')
plt.plot(history['val_loss'], label='val')
plt.xlabel('Epoch')
plt.ylabel('Loss')
plt.title('Training history (BCELoss)')
plt.legend()
plt.show()
```



Evaluating the Performance

