

Study of Activation Functions and its role.

22/08/25 Lab 9 :

Aim: To study the activation functions and its role

Objective :

- To understand why activation functions are necessary in neural network.
- To study commonly used activation fn: sigmoid, Tanh, ReLU, Leaky ReLU, softmax
- To compare their advantages, disadvantages and suitable application.

Pseudo code

- 1) Import required libraries.
- 2) Define mathematical functions for sigmoid, Tanh, ReLU, Leaky ReLU, softmax.
- 3) Generate a range of input values (x).
- 4) Compute outputs of all activation functions
- 5) Plot Graph of each activation functions
- 6) Compare their behaviours and note observation.

Observation

Formula :

1) Sigmoid = $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$

2) Tanh : $f(x) = \tanh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$

3) ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit)
 $f(x) = \max(0, x)$

4) Leaky ReLU
 $f(x) = \begin{cases} x & x > 0 \\ ax & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

5) Softmax
 $f(x_i) = \frac{e^{x_i}}{\sum_{j=1}^n e^{x_j}}$

Observation Table :

	Activation fn	Output Range	Advantage	Use Case
1)	Sigmoid	(0, 1)	Smooth, probabilistic output	Binary Classification
2)	Tanh	(-1, 1)	Centered around 0, better than sigmoid	Hidden Layer (old older networks)
3)	ReLU	$[0, \infty)$	Fast, reduce computation time	Hidden Layer (modern CNN/ANN)
4)	Leaky ReLU	$(-\infty, \infty)$	Fixes ReLU (dying) issues	Deep Hidden Layer
5)	Softmax	$(0, 1)$, sum=1	Give probability distribution	Output Layer for multi-class

- * ReLU and Leaky ReLU are most effective in hidden layers.
- * Sigmoid and Tanh are rarely used today due to vanishing gradient
- * Softmax for multiclass classification problems

Result

Studied different activation functions & their roles.

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Code

Notebook Python 3 (ipykernel)

```
[2]: import torch
import torch.nn.functional as F
```

```
Input: tensor([-2., -1.,  0.,  1.,  2.])
Sigmoid: tensor([0.1192, 0.2689, 0.5000, 0.7311, 0.8808])
Tanh: tensor([-0.9640, -0.7616,  0.0000,  0.7616,  0.9640])
ReLU: tensor([0., 0., 0., 1., 2.])
Leaky ReLU: tensor([-0.2000, -0.1000,  0.0000,  1.0000,  2.0000])
Softmax: tensor([0.0117, 0.0317, 0.0861, 0.2341, 0.6364])
```

```
x = torch.tensor([-2.0, -1.0, 0.0, 1.0, 2.0])...
```

```
[6]: sigmoid = torch.sigmoid(x)
tanh = torch.tanh(x)
relu = F.relu(x)
leaky_relu = F.leaky_relu(x, negative_slope=0.1)
softmax = F.softmax(x, dim=0) # Softmax over the tensor elements
```

```
[7]: print("Input:", x)
print("Sigmoid:", sigmoid)
print("Tanh:", tanh)
print("ReLU:", relu)
print("Leaky ReLU:", leaky_relu)
```




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Code

Notebook Python 3 (ipykernel)

```
leaky_relu = F.leaky_relu(x, negative_slope=0.1)
softmax = F.softmax(x, dim=0) # Softmax over the tensor elements
```

```
[7]: print("Input:", x)
      print("Sigmoid:", sigmoid)
      print("Tanh:", tanh)
      print("ReLU:", relu)
      print("Leaky ReLU:", leaky_relu)
      print("Softmax:", softmax)

      Input: tensor([-2., -1., 0., 1., 2.])
      Sigmoid: tensor([0.1192, 0.2689, 0.5000, 0.7311, 0.8808])
      Tanh: tensor([-0.9640, -0.7616, 0.0000, 0.7616, 0.9640])
      ReLU: tensor([0., 0., 0., 1., 2.])
      Leaky ReLU: tensor([-0.2000, -0.1000, 0.0000, 1.0000, 2.0000])
      Softmax: tensor([0.0117, 0.0317, 0.0861, 0.2341, 0.6364])
```

```
[ ]:
```