

Dr. Alberto Testolin,

Dr. Federico Chiariotti (chiariot@dei.unipd.it)

The pytorch dataloader

- The torch.utils.DataLoader class can import a dataset
 - Customizable order
 - Automatic batches
 - Multi-process and GPU loading
- Options are configured by the constructor
 - DataLoader(dataset, batch_size=1, shuffle=False, sampler=None, batch_sampler=None, num_workers=0, collate_fn=None, pin_memory=False, drop_last=False, timeout=0, worker_init_fn=None)

Dataset types

- 1. Map-style datasets (keys are mapped to data samples)
- 2. Iterable datasets (stream-like)

Map-style: load an image file depending on the index

Iterable: read a feed in real time or from a remote server

Batching

The dataloader performs automatic batching using the Sampler class, but users can specify a batch_sampler for map-style datasets

Memory pinning

Tensors can be memory pinned by passing pin_memory=True

Memory pinning only works for Tensors and maps and iterables that contain tensors, and makes it a lot faster to transfer data to the GPU