

QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PROJECT REPORT

SESSION 2017/2018

Cryptographically Secure Pseudo-Random Number Generation using Generative Adversarial Networks

Student

Marcello DE BERNARDI

Supervisor

Dr. Arman KHOUZANI

Student email

m.e.debernardi@se15.qmul.ac.uk

Student phone number

07492 524132

April 18, 2018

Abstract

Abstract comes here!

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements come here!

Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Aims and Motivation	5
1.2	Report Structure	5
2	Background	7
2.1	Random Numbers Sequences and Generators	7
2.1.1	Random Bits, Random Numbers, and Entropy	7
2.1.2	Random Number Generators	8
2.1.3	Pseudo-Random Number Generators	9
2.2	Random Numbers and Cryptography	11
2.2.1	Cryptographic Applications of Random Numbers	11
2.2.2	Requirements for Cryptographic Security	11
2.2.3	Testing Number Sequences for Randomness	11
2.3	Artificial Neural Networks	12
2.3.1	Introduction to Neural Networks	12
2.3.2	Learning in Neural Networks	13
2.3.3	Activation Functions	14
2.3.4	Feed-Forward Networks	15
2.3.5	Convolutional Neural Networks	16
2.3.6	Generative Adversarial Networks	17
2.4	Related Work	19

2.4.1	Learning to Protect Communications with Adversarial Neural Cryptography	19
2.4.2	Papers on Using Neural Networks as Pseudo-Random Number Generators	19
2.4.3	Fast, Lean, and Accurate: Modeling Password Guessability Using Neural Networks	20
3	Design and Implementation	21
3.1	Conceptual Design	21
3.1.1	Generative Model	23
3.1.2	Discriminative and Predictive Models	24
3.1.3	Evaluation and Randomness Requirements	25
3.2	Implementation Technologies	25
3.2.1	Introduction to TensorFlow	25
3.3	Software Design	26
3.3.1	Generative Model	26
3.3.2	Discriminative and Predictive Models	27
3.3.3	Connecting the Models Adversarially	27
3.3.4	Obtaining Training Data	28
3.3.5	Training Procedure for the Discriminative GAN	28
3.3.6	Training Procedure for the Predictive GAN	28
3.3.7	Custom Tensor Operations	28
3.3.8	Utilities	28
4	Experiments	30
4.1	Training and Evaluation Procedure	30
4.2	Training and Evaluation Parameters	30
4.3	Neural Network Hyperparameters	30
4.4	Results	31
4.5	Discussion and Applications	31

5	Conclusion	32
6	Further Investigation	33
7	Bibliography	34
A	Training Data	37
B	Code Listings	38
B.1	Generator	38
B.2	Adversary, Convolutional Architecture	38
B.3	Adversary, LSTM Architecture	39
B.4	Adversary, Convolutional LSTM Architecture	39
B.5	Training of Discriminative GAN	40
B.6	Training of Predictive GAN	40

1. Introduction

From where we stand the rain
seems random. If we could stand
somewhere else, we would see the
order in it.

Tony Hillerman, Coyote Waits

A random number may informally be defined as a variable whose value is unpredictable, by virtue of the fact that all possible values are equally likely to appear [13, p. 7]. This notion of unpredictability, or randomness, is crucial to computer security, as it is a fundamental element of many cryptographic systems such as encryption algorithms, where security guarantees often rely on an adversary not knowing the value of some internal parameter [34, p. 169] [26, p. 1]. The task of obtaining unpredictable values for use in such applications is handled by systems known as “random number generators”, which may be implemented either as specialized hardware, software, or as a combination of both [34, p. 196, 172]. If the implementation is fundamentally deterministic, we refer to the system as a “pseudo-random number generator” [34, p. 169]. In many cryptographic systems, this “randomness source” is a single point of failure, which means that the generator’s implementation is a critical aspect of the overall design [26, p. 2]. Indeed, how to implement a good generator is a question considered by several books, from Donald Knuth’s seminal *The Art of Computer Programming, Volume II: Seminumerical Algorithms* [19] to textbooks such as Katz and Lindell’s *Introduction to Modern Cryptography* [25], as well as an active area of research.

Recent years have seen machine learning methods achieve a tremendous amount of success throughout all fields of human endeavor, including business, science, and engineering [36, p. 24-29]. This is particularly the case with “deep neural networks”, a parametric representation of a mathematical function consisting of computational units called “neurons”, usually arranged into layers [36, p. 731-732]. Major technology companies such as Google, Amazon, and Microsoft now provide plug-and-play machine learning solutions as part of their cloud platforms [30] [11] [14], and courses in machine learning are available at a vast number of universities as well as online. Indeed, public interest in machine learning is at an all-time high (figure 1.1) [5].

This work unites the two fields by seeking to apply a recently formulated deep learning method known as “generative adversarial networks” to the generation of seemingly random numbers for use in cryptosystems.

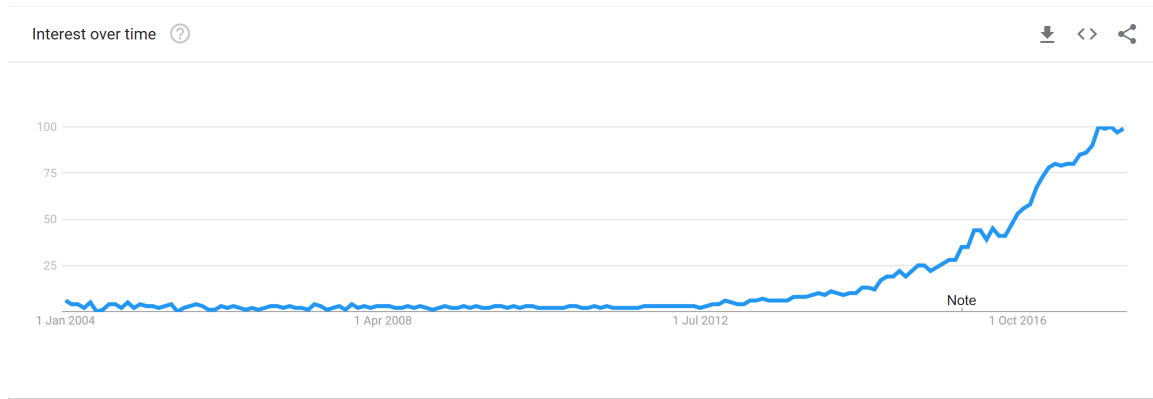


Figure 1.1: Search interest for “deep learning” as a simple metric of public interest in machine learning. Data source: Google Trends (www.google.com/trends) [31]

1.1 Aims and Motivation

The precise aim of this research is to determine whether **a neural network can be trained to output sequences of numbers which appear to be randomly generated**, and, by extension, whether **such a neural network could be used as a pseudo-random number generator in a cryptographic context**.

The motivation for this work is two-fold. On one hand, it presents a significant challenge from the perspective of deep learning. While neural networks have been extremely successful in supervised learning of regression and classification models, as well as in producing new data mimicing an existing dataset [23], attempts to produce seemingly random outputs have shown poor results. However, previous research efforts have often resorted to complex neural network architectures and contrived training procedures in an attempt to encourage chaotic behavior. This work undertakes the task differently; the similarly adversarial nature of generating random numbers for cryptographic use and of training generative adversarial networks results in an approach that is conceptually both simple and elegant.

On the other hand, this investigation is also motivated by the needs of computer security. A hypothetical neural-network-based pseudo-random number generator would have several desirable properties. This includes the ability to perform ad-hoc modifications to the generator by means of training, the ability to arbitrarily extend the length of generated number sequences without necessarily damaging their unpredictability by increasing the dimensionality of the network’s input, as well as the ability to easily recover from state compromise attacks.

1.2 Report Structure

The report is structured as outlined below, with additional appendices at the end of the document.

Section 2 outlines the theoretical background required to understand this research, as well as a literature review to capture the current state of the art in the field. The subsections

are written as cohesive, self-contained units, allowing the reader to skip subsections they are already familiar with.

Section 3 presents a detailed view of the system developed as part of this research, both at a conceptual level as well as in code. Each subsection deals with a component of the system.

Section 4 reports the experiments carried out on the implementation, including the full experimental setup as well each experiment's results. These results are then analyzed.

Finally, section 5 makes a conclusion on the central research question on the basis of the results.

2. Background

Any one who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin.

John Von Neumann, 1951

This work lies at the intersection of machine learning and computer security. In particular, by exploring the applications of neural networks to computer security, it falls into the field of neural cryptography [28]. This section provides an overview of the required background for pseudo-random number generation, including a definition of random number sequences, some of their applications in cryptography, and guidelines on how to evaluate their suitability for such use. It also covers the basics of artificial neural networks before moving to the specific neural network techniques used in this work. Lastly, an overview of the most relevant literature is provided.

2.1 Random Numbers Sequences and Generators

Of primary concern to this research are the nature of random number sequences and the means by which such sequences may be generated and evaluated. A consideration of the nature of randomness is sidestepped, since, as remarked by Donald Knuth, a philosophical discussion almost invariably ensues [19, p. 2]. Instead, a pragmatic set of definitions for the key terminology is provided.

2.1.1 Random Bits, Random Numbers, and Entropy

This section relies on ideas from basic probability theory, such as sample spaces, random variables, and probability distribution functions. As this work deals with sequences of numbers that are to be encoded in a fixed-digit format, whatever that format may be, it shall be implicit that all discussion of sample spaces and random variables refer to discrete sets and discrete probability distribution functions, respectively.

Definition 1. A **random number** x is a numeric value selected at random from an equiprobable sample space Ω . That is, the probability $\mathbb{P}(x)$ of the value being chosen from Ω is equal to that of all other possible values in Ω [13, p. 7] [35, s. 1.1.1]. It follows that a discrete random variable X defined as the outcome of a selection from Ω has the **discrete uniform distribution**.

Definition 2. A **random bit** b is a special case of a random number, such that the equiprobable sample space is $\Omega = \{0, 1\}$ [35, s. 1.1.1].

Definition 3. A **random sequence** $s = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$, as defined by Barker et al, is a sequence of random values x_i resulting from a sequence of independent selections. In other words, a random sequence consists of random numbers such that the probability distribution for any particular selection is entirely unaffected by previous selections. The random sequence has the same probability of being sampled as all other sequences of the same length [13, p. 7] [35, s. 1.1.1].

Every binary sequence represents, in some particular encoding scheme, a unique numerical value. For example, the binary sequence 101 is the unsigned integer representation of the number 5. This results in an equivalence between random binary sequences and random numbers, in that the probability of randomly sampling any particular binary sequence of length l from the set $\{0, 1\}$ is the same as that of selecting any particular number from the set of 2^l numbers representable in the binary encoding scheme used. As observed by Menezes et al, we can therefore regard the task of producing a random number as equivalent to the task of producing a random binary sequence of the appropriate length [34, p. 170].

Lastly, to quantify the randomness of a number sequence, the information theory concept of entropy is introduced. We view entropy as a measure of the uncertainty of a random variable, and define it as follows.

Definition 4. Let X be a discrete random variable over a sample space Ω with a probability distribution function $p(x) = \mathbb{P}\{X = x\}, x \in \Omega$. The **entropy** $H(X)$ of the discrete random variable X is defined as

$$H(X) = - \sum_{x \in \Omega} p(x) \lg p(x) \quad (2.1)$$

Entropy is measured in bits, and the base of the logarithm in the defining equation is 2 [15, p. 12-13].

Ferguson et al give the following intuition for the concept: entropy can thought of as the average number of bits one would need in order to specify some (partially) unknown value under an ideal compression scheme. It is a subjective quantity, in the sense that it depends on the amount of knowledge available about the value of interest. The entropy of an arbitrary number is different for an observer that knows the number, and for one that only knows the value is one of 2^{32} possible values. The more uncertain we are about the value, the higher the entropy [20, p. 137].

2.1.2 Random Number Generators

In order to obtain sequences of random numbers for use in applications such as those mentioned above, random number generators are used.

Definition 5. Menezes et al define a **random number generator** as a software or hardware system that outputs random number (or bit) sequences. Key components of such a system are the **entropy source**, which gives rise to the randomness in the output, and the **entropy distillation** process, which is a function applied to the inputs to improve the quality of the output sequence [34].

According to Ferguson et al and Menezes et al, entropy sources are commonly implemented in software, hardware, or both. Examples of entropy sources that are harnessed by software means include the timings of keystrokes on a computer user's keyboard, the current value of the system clock, the content of an I/O buffer, or any other measurable quantity in a computer system that is conjectured to exhibit random behavior. This conjecture does not always hold; for example, the time elapsed between keystrokes may not be accurately described by a uniform distribution, as an experienced typist may manage to keep their typing rate remarkably constant (with fluctuations on the order of several milliseconds). Care has to be taken to not overestimate the amount of entropy that can be derived from a source [20, p. 138-139] [34, p. 171-172].

Ferguson et al and Menezes et al also discuss hardware entropy sources. These rely on physical processes that behave randomly. Commonly cited examples are emission times of particles during radioactive decay or thermal noise in a resistor. While there are very many such processes (in particular in the "quantum realm"), physically based entropy sources are not necessarily secure either. Even if a process behaves randomly, the outputs may nonetheless be biased or correlated, possibly due to manipulation on the attacker's part. Furthermore, an attacker may be able to observe the physical entropy source, meaning that while the data may still be random, it will have no entropy from the adversary's perspective [20, p. 138-139] [34, p. 172].

According to Ferguson, Schneier, and Kohno, there are several problems related to the practical use of truly random numbers. Real random data may not always be available, and even if available it is nonetheless always limited in quantity. For example, for an RNG relying on a user's keystrokes, it may be the case that the user has not been typing sufficiently. Waiting for more real random data to be acquired in order to receive random numbers is not a viable option for a number of applications [20, p. 139]. Furthermore, it is difficult to ascertain how much entropy one is really getting from the source, not to mention that the source, in particular if implemented in hardware, may fail unexpectedly and become predictable [20].

2.1.3 Pseudo-Random Number Generators

A solution to many of the problems inherent to the use of truly random number generators is to use a pseudo-random number generator [20, p. 140].

Definition 6. A **pseudo-random number generator** is a deterministic algorithm that outputs number sequences that are statistically indistinguishable from random sequences [34]. A PRNG has an internal state S_i , which is secret [26], and takes an input value, referred to as the **seed**, which is randomly selected as well as unknown [35, s. 1.1.4]. Since the outputs of the PRNG are a function of the seed and the internal state [26] [35, s 1.1.4], we can formalize a PRNG as a function $f(s, S_i)$, where s is the input seed and S_i is the internal state (see figure 2.1).

stuff
about
how
PRNG
state
changes
based
on
pre-

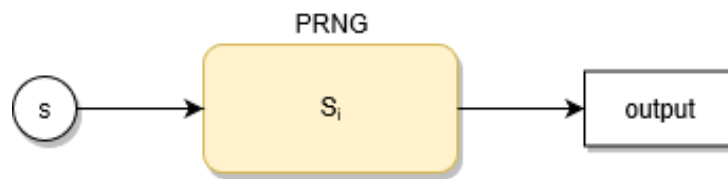


Figure 2.1: A high-level view of the operation of a PRNG [26].

2.2 Random Numbers and Cryptography

Random numbers have several important applications in computing, primarily in cryptography, where many algorithms make use of randomness, [20, p. 137] and in science, where simulations of random processes are frequently used[16]. A few important examples are considered here.

The **RSA (Rivest-Shamir-Adleman) algorithm**, as explained by Anderson [p. 171][12], is the most commonly used algorithm for performing public-key encryption and digital signatures. The RSA algorithm relies on two randomly chosen large prime numbers p and q , which act as the private keys used by the two communicating parties. As these values must be kept secret from any third parties, they need to be selected randomly in such a manner than an attacker cannot predict them.

The **HTTP digest access authentication protocol**

find
RFC

Monte Carlo methods

MCTS

2.2.1 Cryptographic Applications of Random Numbers

2.2.2 Requirements for Cryptographic Security

- next bit test and shit

2.2.3 Testing Number Sequences for Randomness

The **National Institute of Standards and Technology**, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, sets out guidelines for the testing of RNGs and PRNGs in its publication 800-22, *A Statistical Test Suite for Random and Psuedorandom Number Generators for Cryptographic Applications*, by Rukhin et al. This work refers to revision 1a of the publication.

Rukhin et al point out that, since the properties of random sequences can be described in probabilistic terms, their degree of “randomness” can be evaluated by various statistical tests, as the likely outcome of such a test is known a priori. These tests search for particular patterns in sequences which would indicate non-randomness. No set of statistical tests can be considered complete, as there is an infinite number of tests [35, p. 1-2].

Also according to Rukhin et al, statistical tests are formulated to test for the **null hypothesis** H_0 that the sequence under review is random. Each test either accepts the null hypothesis, or rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the **alternative hypothesis** H_a that the sequence is not random. Under the assumption of randomness, any statistical metric has a theoretical reference distribution which can be determined mathematically [35, p. 1.3]. For example, for a random sequence, the ratio of 1s to 0s has the probability distribution shown in figure 2.2.

From such a distribution, a **critical value** is determined. This value acts as a threshold

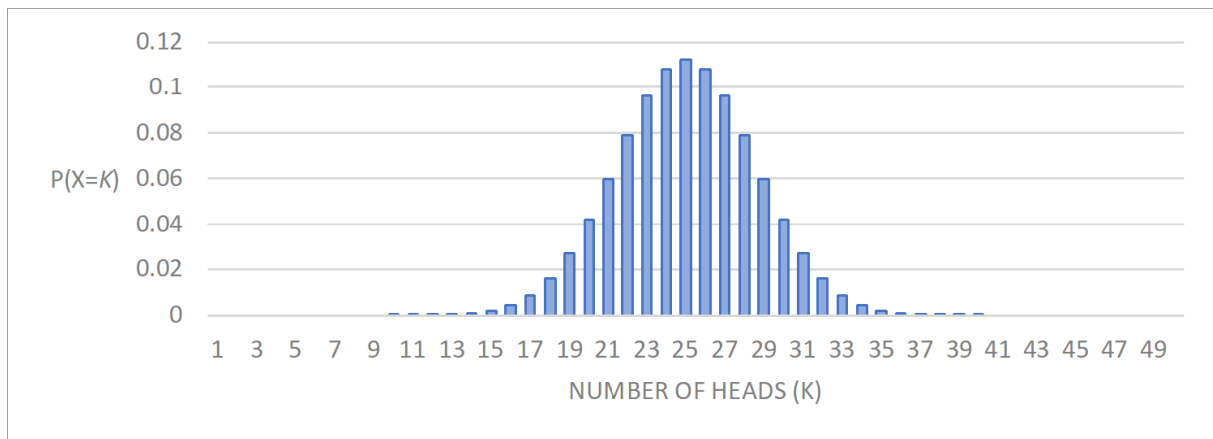


Figure 2.2: The probability distribution of a random variable representing the number of heads in a repeated fair coin-tossing experiment, which is equivalent to repeated random sampling from 0, 1. Image from [38].

to which the value of a metric computed on a sequence is compared. If the computed value exceeds the critical value, we assert that the test rejects the null hypothesis. Intuitively, the idea is that we consider a value above the critical value to be so unlikely to occur (though not impossible) under the assumption of randomness, that we can confidently reject the randomness hypothesis [35, p. 1.3].

The NIST Test Suite is the accepted standard for testing random and pseudo-random bit generators [29]. It consists of a battery of statistical tests performed on file containing large binary sequences. Each test in the suite either accepts or rejects the null hypothesis [35]. The NIST suite was found to be used throughout the majority of papers on PRNGs reviewed at the start of this investigation.

2.3 Artificial Neural Networks

This section provides an introduction to neural networks, covering basic concepts such as the functioning of individual neurons in a network, how a neural network's parameters are updated to enable learning, and some common network topologies.

2.3.1 Introduction to Neural Networks

According to Russel and Norvig, an **artificial neural network** is a directed graph composed of **units** or **neurons** connected by directed **links**. Each unit computes an arbitrary function g , called the **activation function**, over a weighted sum of the unit's inputs. A link from unit i to a unit j carries the output of i 's activation function to j . Each such link has an associated **weight** w_{ij} , which is a coefficient applied to the activation value [36, p. 727-731].

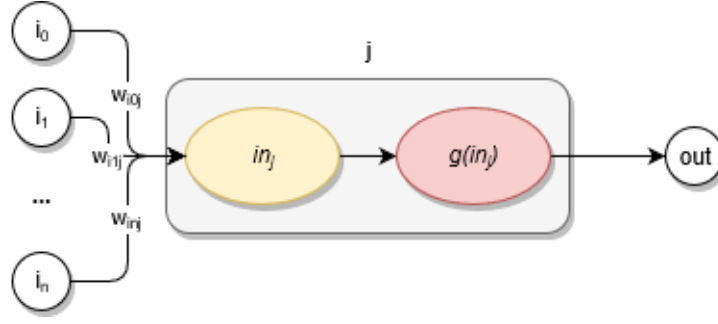


Figure 2.3: Schematic of the computation performed by a unit, drawn in accordance to the definitions given by Russel and Norvig [36, p.728]. A weighted sum in_j of the unit's inputs is computed, and the resulting value becomes the argument of the activation function g . The activation's output is the node's output. This schematic corresponds to equation 2.2.

Russel and Norvig define the function represented by a neuron j as

$$a_j = g(in_j) = g\left(\sum_{i=0}^n w_{ij}a_i\right) \quad (2.2)$$

where a_j is the neuron's output, g is the neuron's activation function, and j has n input neurons i with outputs a_i and weights w_{ij} [36, p. 728]. This can also be formulated in vector form as the inner product of inputs \mathbf{a}_i and input weights \mathbf{w}_{ij} :

$$a_j = g(\mathbf{w}_{ij} \cdot \mathbf{a}_i) \quad (2.3)$$

A neural network as a whole, as explained by Russel and Norvig, thus computes a highly non-linear vector function $\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x})$ parameterized by its weights \mathbf{w} [36, p. 731, 732]. The function \mathbf{f} is the composition of i functions $\mathbf{f}^{(i)}$ [22, p. 164], which can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{w}_{i-1}}^{(i-1)}(\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{w}_{i-2}}^{(i-2)}(\dots \mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{w}_0}^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}))) \quad (2.4)$$

where \mathbf{w}_i is the output weight vector for the units computing the function $\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{w}_i}^{(i)}$ [22].

According to Russel and Norvig, a neural network of sufficient size can represent any continuous function to an arbitrary degree of accuracy, and, under certain conditions, can even represent discontinuous functions. However, difficulties arise in determining, for any particular network architecture, the set of functions it can represent [36, p. 732]. The particular properties of the network are determined by the topology and behavior of its units, which form the basis for the naming and categorization of networks [36, p. 729].

2.3.2 Learning in Neural Networks

Training an artificial neural network is an optimization problem which entails searching for a combination parameters \mathbf{w} which results in the network approximating the desired function $f(x)$ as closely as possible [36, p. 718]. The most important related concepts are loss functions, gradient descent, and backpropagation.

Russel and Norvig define loss as “the amount of utility lost” by the network producing $f_{pred}(x) = y'$ as its output when the correct output on an input x is $f_{true}(x) = y$. A neural

network’s loss function $L(y, y')$ computes the loss for an output y' and its corresponding correct output y' [36]. Intuitively, a loss function provides a quantitative assessment of how closely the neural network approximates the desired function (a good model will have low loss). The objective of learning is to find the parameters which minimize the loss function [24, Linear classification: Support Vector Machine, Softmax].

This is performed using an optimization algorithm known as gradient descent. The parameters of the network are iteratively changed into the direction opposite to the loss function’s gradient, as computed with respect to the parameters [24, Optimization: Stochastic Gradient Descent]. Gradient descent is currently ubiquitous in the optimization of neural network loss functions. A high-level expression of gradient descent, from [24], is as follows:

```
while True:
    weights_grad = evaluate_gradient(loss_fun, data, weights)
    weights += - step_size * weights_grad  # parameter update
```

An important design choice, according to Karpathy, is the number of inputs over which the loss is computed in order to perform a single update to the network’s parameters. In batch gradient descent, the loss is computed over the entire training dataset; in mini-batch gradient descent the dataset is split into subsets, and a parameter update is performed using each subset [24, Optimization: Stochastic Gradient Descent].

Lastly, backpropagation is an efficient algorithm for computing the partial derivative of a function of many variables by repeated application of the chain rule of derivation [24, Backpropagation, Intuitions]. It is crucial as it enables efficient computation of the gradient of the loss function with respect to each parameter in the neural network [24, Backpropagation, Intuitions]. Backpropagation is a core component of all modern machine learning software libraries.

These three components enable learning in neural networks: the loss function quantifies the quality of the current parameters, gradient descent is the general optimization algorithm for modifying the parameters, and backpropagation enables efficient computation of gradients, making gradient descent on large networks practically feasible [24, Optimization: Stochastic Gradient Descent].

2.3.3 Activation Functions

The concept of an **activation function** was briefly introduced in 2.3.1, as an arbitrary scalar function applied to the weighted sum of a unit’s inputs to produce the unit’s output. There are a number of standard activation functions that are commonly used [24, Neural Networks Part 1: Setting up the Architecture], of which two are considered here.

The rectified linear unit activation, or ReLU, is a function with the following expression form:

$$ReLU(x) = \max(0, x) \tag{2.5}$$

Karpathy states that the ReLU activation function works well in practice on a large number of problems, and is rather popular. However, it is possible for a ReLU unit to

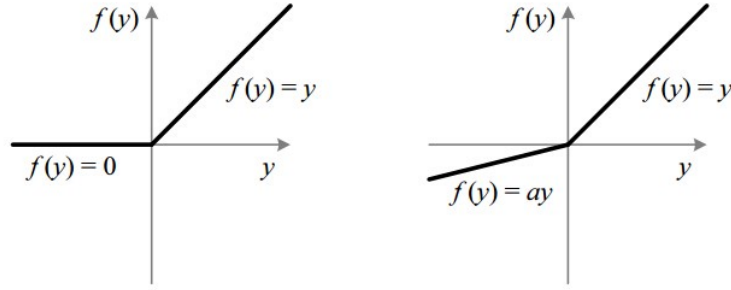


Figure 2.4: Left: the ReLU function. Right: the LeakyReLU function. Note the zero gradient for negative inputs on the left, and how this problem is addressed on the right. Image courtesy of [37].

have its weights updated in a way that causes them to never be updated again, due to the 0 gradient for all negative inputs [24, Neural Networks Part 1: Setting up the Architecture]. This issue is addressed by the leaky ReLU activation, a function with the following expression form:

$$\text{LeakyReLU}(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ \alpha x & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

where α is a (small) non-zero constant. For negative inputs close to 0, the outputs of the leaky ReLU are approximately equal to the outputs of ReLU; however, a leaky ReLU unit cannot “die” due to getting stuck in a zero gradient [24, Neural Networks Part 1: Setting up the Architecture].

2.3.4 Feed-Forward Networks

Arguably the simplest form of an artificial neural network is called a feed-forward neural network, or multilayer perceptron. Feed-forward networks are characterized by the fact that the directed graph representing them is acyclic; that is, information strictly flows from the network’s input units towards its output units [22, p. 164].

Goodfellow et al [22] explain that feed-forward networks are typically arranged into fully connected layers of units, where we refer to the number of layers as the depth of the network. The first layer of the network is referred to as the input layer, within which each unit corresponds to a single scalar in the model’s input vector. The last layer is referred to as the output layer of the network, where each unit corresponds to a scalar in the model’s output vector. The number of units in the input and output layers are thus bound by the dimensionality of the input data and the dimensionality of the expected outputs. Finally, we refer to the intermediate layers as hidden layers, and to the number of units in the largest of these layers as the width of the model [22, p. 164-165]. This information is conveyed pictorially in figure 2.5.

In a fully connected feed-forward network, the operation of each layer can be characterized as a simple matrix operation, whereby the input vector received from the previous layer is first transformed by element-wise application of the activation function, and then matrix-multiplied with the weight vector of the current layer [22, p. 170-171]. Thus the network

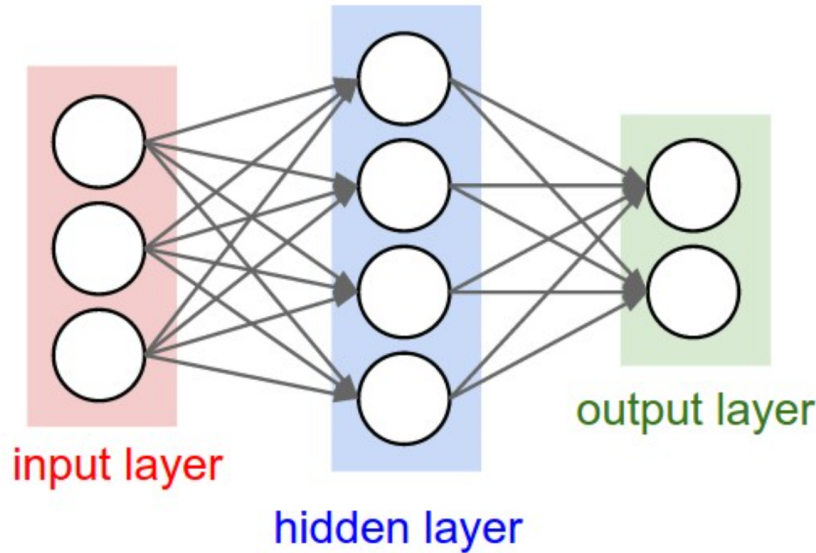


Figure 2.5: Simple example of the structure of a feedforward network, from the CS231n lecture notes by Andrej Karpathy [24, Neural Networks Part 1 : Setting up the Architecture]

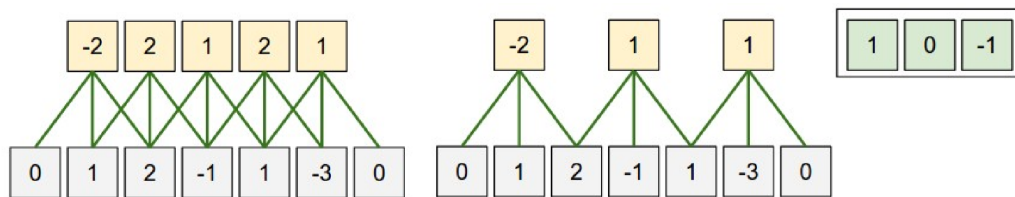


Figure 2.6: A representation of the connectivity between the units of a 1-dimensional input layer (white) and a single filter in a convolutional layer (yellow), with each neuron's weights in the upper right corner. In both images, each unit in the convolutional layer has a receptive field (or kernel size) of 3. The inputs have a width of 5, with zero-padding of 1. The two images demonstrate different strides for the convolutional layer (stride 1 on the left, stride 2 on the right). Image courtesy of the CS231n lecture notes by Andrej Karpathy [24, Convolutional Neural Networks: Architectures, Convolution / Pooling Layers].

as a whole is a sequence of matrix multiplications and element-wise applications of non-linearity.

2.3.5 Convolutional Neural Networks

A more specialized form of artificial neural network is the **convolutional neural network**, which is characterized by the fact that there is at least one pair of layers between which a **convolution** is performed, rather than a general matrix multiplication [22, p. 326]. A description of the convolution operation is given in appendix ???. Convolutional neural networks are the state of the art for classification of signals and images [22, p. 326].

A convolutional layer is a collection of units, further subdivided into collections referred to

as **filters**. The number of filters in the layer is referred to as the **depth** of the layer, while the dimensions of each individual filter are referred to as the **width** and **height** of the layer (for filters operating on 1-dimensional inputs only the width is of relevance). With respect to the previous layer in the network, each filter has the same connection topology [24, Convolutional Neural Networks: Architectures, Convolution / Pooling Layers].

Filters in a convolutional layer are not fully connected to the previous layer. Rather, each unit in the filter is connected to F consecutive units in the previous layer. F is referred to as the **receptive field**, or **kernel size**, of the convolutional layer. A further parameter, called the **stride** of the layer, S , determines the sparsity of the connections between the filters and the previous layer [24, Convolutional Neural Networks: Architectures, Convolution / Pooling Layers]. The nature of this connectivity for a single filter is shown in figure 2.6. The figure also demonstrates the use of zero-padding, i.e. expanding the input vector with 0s on either side in order to make it fit the convolutional layer's size requirements.

Each unit in the convolutional layer will produce larger outputs for some inputs in its receptive field than others. For example, a unit with receptive field $F = 3$ may compute a larger value for an input $[1, 1, 1]$ than an input $[0, 0, 0]$. Each unit will therefore "activate" upon finding some specific pattern (in this case a sequence of three 1s). An important optimization in convolutional layers is **parameter sharing**: each unit within the same filter shares the same weights. This optimization arises from the assumption that, if some pattern in the input is of interest at one location in the input sequence, it will be at any other location as well. Thus the parameters of every unit in each filter are trained together [24, Convolutional Neural Networks: Architectures, Convolution / Pooling Layers].

As a result, each filter in the layer can be seen as looking for a specific pattern in the input received from the previous layer. The depth of the convolutional layer, i.e. the number of filters, determines the number of patterns being looked for. The dimensionality of a convolutional layer's output is $d + 1$, where d is the dimensionality of the output of the previous layer: with N filters, the convolutional layer outputs N matrices of the same size as the layer's input. Convolutional layers are usually followed by **pooling layers**, which are non-parametric layers that perform a down-sampling of the convolutional layer's outputs. This expansion along the depth-dimension, followed by down-sampling in the width and height dimensions, is shown in figure 2.7.

2.3.6 Generative Adversarial Networks

We may classify machine learning models as either being *discriminative* or *generative*. Examples of discriminative models are neural networks that map images to class labels [23, p. 1]. Generative models, on the other hand, rather than mapping inputs from a training set to class labels, learn to mimic the training set. That is, for a training set of data points drawn from a distribution p_{data} , a generative model learns to represent p_{model} , an approximation of p_{data} [21].

Goodfellow et al introduced **generative adversarial networks** (GANs) in 2014, succinctly defining them as a "framework for estimating generative models via an adversarial process", where a discriminative model is used to train a generative model by scrutinizing its outputs [23].

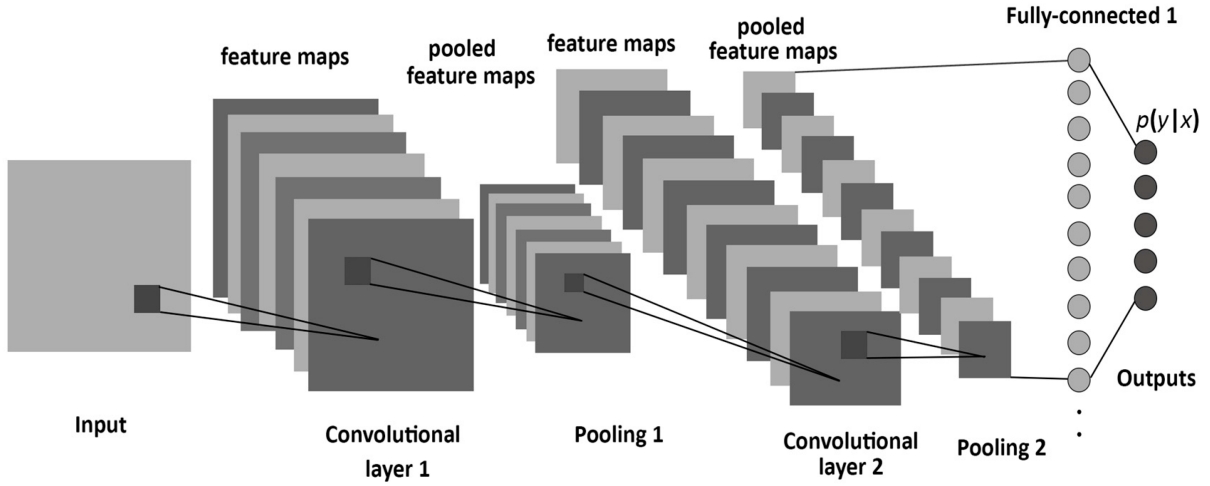


Figure 2.7: A convolutional layer preserves the dimensions of its input matrix, but produces an output with a larger depth dimensions depending on the number of filters. This is followed by pooling layers, which down-sample the data in the width and height dimensions. Image courtesy of [10].

Definition 7. A generative adversarial network (GAN) consists of two artificial neural networks, a **generator** G and a **discriminator** D . The generator represents a function $G_{\theta_g}(\mathbf{z})$ parameterized by weights θ_g , which maps inputs drawn from a distribution $p(\mathbf{z})$ to outputs in the sample space of $p_{model}(\mathbf{x})$. The discriminator represents a function $D_{\theta_d}(\mathbf{x})$ that outputs a single scalar representing the probability that \mathbf{x} came from the original distribution rather than the generator.

The discriminator is trained to maximize the probability of assigning correct label to both training examples and samples from the generator. In turn, the generator is trained to minimize $\log 1 - D(G(\mathbf{z}))$. Goodfellow et al [23, p. 3] showed that this is equivalent to saying that, during training, D and G engage in a two-player minimax game with value function $V(G, D)$, formulated as follows:

$$\min_G \max_D V(G, D) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{data}(\mathbf{x})} [\log D(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z})} [\log 1 - D(G(\mathbf{z}))] \quad (2.7)$$

A mini-batch stochastic gradient descent training algorithm for a GAN, as given by Goodfellow et al but in simplified form, is shown below.

```

for i in range(training_iterations):
    for k in range(steps):
        sample mini-batch of samples from data distribution
        sample mini-batch of examples from generator
        updated discriminator by gradient descent
        sample mini-batch of noise from noise distribution
        update generator by gradient descent

```

Goodfellow et al also showed that, provided G and D have sufficient capacity, and at each step of the above algorithm D is allowed to reach its optimum given the current

G , and the generator’s weights are updated to decrease the discriminator’s performance, then p_{model} converges to p_{data} [23, p. 5].

2.4 Related Work

Literature review found that few efforts have been made to train neural networks to act as pseudo-random number generators. Research on this topic has garnered very little attention, most likely due to the lack of promising results. In this section, we review the findings of some key papers relevant to this project. The first to be considered, *Learning to Protect Communications with Adversarial Neural Cryptography* provided the inspiration and impetus behind this work.

2.4.1 Learning to Protect Communications with Adversarial Neural Cryptography

The 2016 paper by Google Brain researches Martin Abadi and David Andersen investigates the ability of neural networks in a multiagent environment to learn some form of symmetric-key encryption scheme, enabling some agents to communicate securely. The paper’s abstract states:

“We ask whether neural networks can learn to use secret keys to protect information from other neural networks. Specically, we focus on ensuring condentiality properties in a multiagent system, and we specify those properties in terms of an adversary. Thus, a system may consist of neural networks named Alice and Bob, and we aim to limit what a third neural network named Eve learns from eavesdropping on the communication between Alice and Bob. We do not prescribe specic cryptographic algorithms to these neural networks; instead, we train end-to-end, adversarially. We demonstrate that the neural networks can learn how to perform forms of encryption and decryption, and also how to apply these operations selectively in order to meet condentiality goals.” [9]

The paper’s conclusion mentions pseudo-random number generation as a possible avenue of further investigation, giving origin to this work.

2.4.2 Papers on Using Neural Networks as Pseudo-Random Number Generators

Overall, literature review carried out for this investigation showed that little research has been carried out on the subject of using neural networks as pseudo-random number generators. A small number of such papers was identified, but all were relatively obscure and presented rather poor results.

For example, a 2012 paper by Veena Desai et al from the Gogte Institute of Technology, *Pseudo random number generator using time delay neural network*, failed to produce a viable neural network-based PRNG, and identified the computational complexity of training networks with thousands of neurons as one of the key challenges [18].

Other publications include Desai’s earlier 2011 paper the 2010 paper *Pseudo random number generator using Elman neural network*, as well as the 2010 paper *Hopfield Neural Networks as Pseudo-Random Number Generators*, by Ryverson University’s Tirdad and Sadeghian. In all cases the conclusions were mixed at best [17] [39]. Judging on the difficulty to find material on the topic, and for the meager number of citations for the above paper, one may safely argue that work on this subject has not obtained much attention.

2.4.3 Fast, Lean, and Accurate: Modeling Password Guessability Using Neural Networks

This 2016 paper by Carnegie Mellon University researchers William Melicher et al proposes the use of artificial neural networks as a way of modeling the resistance of passwords. The parts of the paper’s abstract that are of direct relevance to this investigation are given below:

“Human-chosen text passwords [...] are vulnerable to guessing attacks. [...] We propose using artificial neural networks to model text passwords resistance to guessing attacks and explore how different architectures and training methods impact neural networks guessing effectiveness. We show that neural networks can often guess passwords more effectively than state-of-the-art approaches [...]. We also show that our neural networks can be highly compressed - to as little as hundreds of kilobytes - without substantially worsening guessing effectiveness [...]” [33].

The paper is of relevance to this investigation due to the similarities between the core machine learning task tackled in both works. In Melicher et al’s paper, a neural network is trained to predict the next character in a sequence of characters. The ability to perform this prediction with a better-than-random-chance probability hinges on the assumption there is a correlation between the characters seen so far, and the next character. This correlation exists due to the fact that the characters in human-chosen passwords are not selected randomly.

Analogously, one aspect of this investigation is the ability to predict the next number in a sequence. Under the assumption of true randomness in the number sequence, no predictive model should be able to perform better than random chance over a sufficiently large number of trials. However, given that each value in the sequence is not *statistically* independent of all other values, this investigation conjectures that a neural network should be capable of learning to predict such a value. The results presented in the paper by Melicher et al arguably supports this conjecture, and informed some architectural design choices for the neural networks involved in this research.

3. Design and Implementation

This section provides an in-depth explanation of the conceptual design of the system and how it relates to the research hypothesis, the technologies used to implement it, and the details of the implementation.

3.1 Conceptual Design

As stated, the aim of this investigation is to determine whether it is possible to train a neural network to output pseudo-random number sequences. Previous work has attempted to answer this question by using recurrent architectures to encourage chaotic behavior (see section 2.4). In contrast, this investigation takes a more intuitive approach, conjecturing that a simple fully-connected feed-forward network of sufficient size can learn a function whose inputs appear random.

For simplicity, we view a pseudo-random number generator as a system implementing some function

$$prng(s) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \quad (3.1)$$

where s is a truly random seed value, n is a very large value, and the outputs of $prng$ fulfill a set of criteria for randomness. In regards to each individual output value, we can characterize a PRNG as a function

$$prng(s, S_i) : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (3.2)$$

where S_i is the current state of the generator, and X is the set of all tuples (s, S_i) . That is, a PRNG is fundamentally a function which maps a single seed value to a very large (unique) output sequence, such each element of the sequence is determined by the generator's state. A generator neural network, G , should learn a function which approximates $prng$.

We can abstract the complexity of the internal state of PRNGs by using a stateless neural network, and equivalently representing the generator's "state" as a component of the network's input instead. This conceptual difference is demonstrated in figure 3.1. Thus the neural network should learn a function

$$G_{\theta_G}(s, o_t) : \mathbb{R}^i \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \quad (3.3)$$

where s is a truly random seed value, o_t model's a PRNG's internal state and can be seen as an "offset" into the full output sequence for s , and i is the dimensionality of the network input.

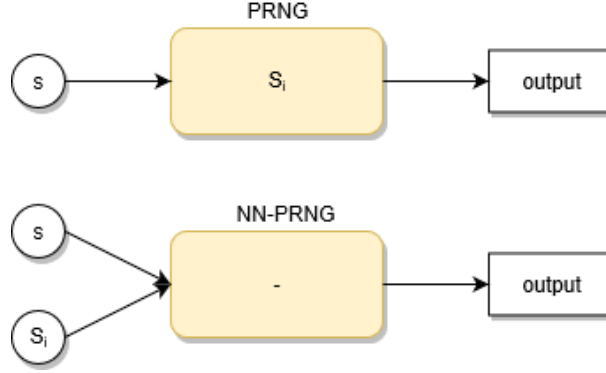


Figure 3.1: The conceptual difference in the common implementation of PRNGs (top) and the implementation using GANs in this work (bottom). Image produced using draw.io [32].

This work views the generation of pseudo-random numbers in a cryptographic setting as a fundamentally adversarial task: the goal of good CSPRNG design is to minimize the probability of an intelligent adversary correctly guessing future outputs. This is analogous to the generative adversarial network framework, where a discriminator attempts to find patterns in the generator’s output, and the generator minimizes its probability of doing so correctly. Thus it is natural to formulate the task of generating pseudo-random number sequences using a GAN. Two distinct approaches are considered, termed the *discriminative approach* and the *predictive approach*, respectively (figure 3.2).

In the discriminative approach, the adversary is a standard discriminator network, which receives number sequences as inputs both from the generator and a source of true randomness, and outputs the probability that a sequence is truly random. The input sequences are labeled as truly random or not random, and the discriminator is trained to better discern the two classes. In order to prevent the discriminator from performing better than it would by making random guesses, the generator has to learn to mimic the truly random sequences.

The predictive approach is loosely based on the idea of the theoretical next bit test, outlined in section 2.2.2. Each sequence of length n produced by the generator is split, such that the first $n - 1$ values are passed to the adversary as input, and the n th value is used as the corresponding label; the predictor is trained to output the n th value in the generator’s output sequence based on all previous values. Again, the generator’s goal is to modify its behavior in order to minimize the probability of the predictor making a correct guess.

Both approaches are elegantly intuitive. The former is a direct application of the standard GAN framework, which requires the generator to learn the uniform probability distribution characteristic of truly random number sequences. The latter models closely the actual goals of a PRNG and its adversary in a cryptographic setting. Unlike previous work, this investigation follows an important guideline given by Russel and Norvig: “*As a general rule, it is better to design performance measures according to what one actually wants in the environment, rather than according to how one thinks the agent should behave*” [36, p. 37].

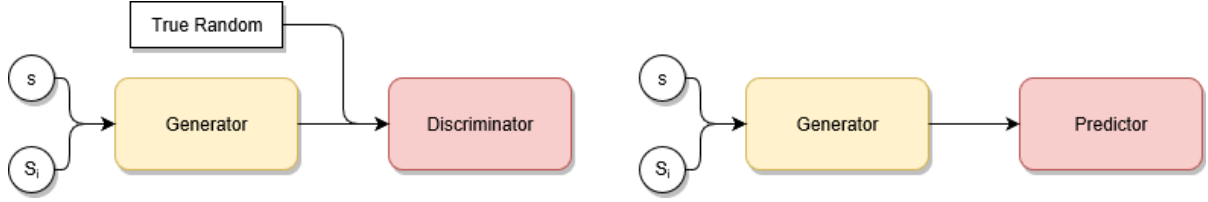


Figure 3.2: The two approaches differ at the conceptual level in the the discriminative approach (left) requires a source of true randomness which it attempts to emulate, while the predictive approach (right) is an even purer “game” between the two networks, with no side inputs. Image produced using draw.io [32].

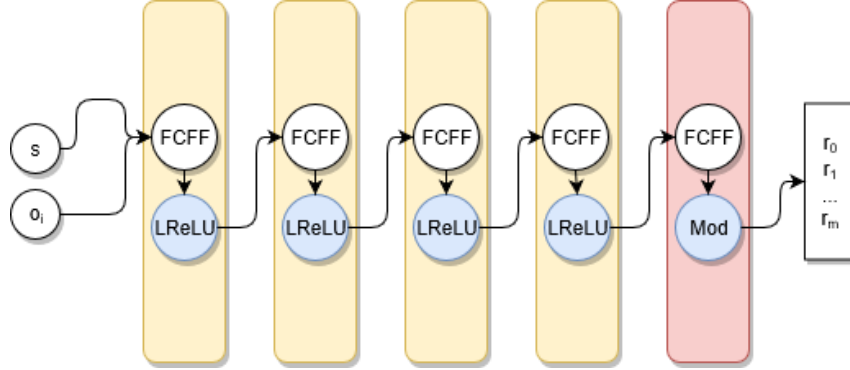


Figure 3.3: Architecture of the generator. Each fully connected feed-forward layer’s activation function (blue) is shown; the output layer (red) differs from the other layers in that it does not use the leaky ReLU activation, but rather a modulus function. Image produced using draw.io [32].

3.1.1 Generative Model

The generator is a fully connected feed-forward neural network implementing the function $G_{\theta_G}(s, o_t) : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$. It takes two input values, where the first is a truly random seed, and the second is a representation of the PRNG state; the output is a 1D real vector of length m . For any specific seed s , the complete pseudo-random sequence produced by the generator is given by the concatenation of all the output sequences $\forall o_t G_{\theta_G}(s, o_t)$, where s is fixed.

The generator consists of five fully connected feed-forward layers (figure 3.3). The input layer, as well as the hidden layers, use the leaky ReLU activation function which is currently the general recommendation for generic application [24, Neural Networks Part 1: Setting up the Architecture]. The output layer uses an activation function which computes a modulus operation on every element in the output vector, squeezing the values into a desired range. A popular variant of the stochastic gradient descent algorithm called Adam is used, which adaptively computes separate learning rates for each parameter [27] [24, Optimization: Stochastic Gradient Descent].

Two slightly different variants of the generator are implemented, referred to as **jerry** and **janice**. The former uses a “squared difference” loss function and is trained using the discriminative approach, while the latter uses an “absolute difference” loss function and is trained using the predictive approach. The two implementations are identical otherwise.

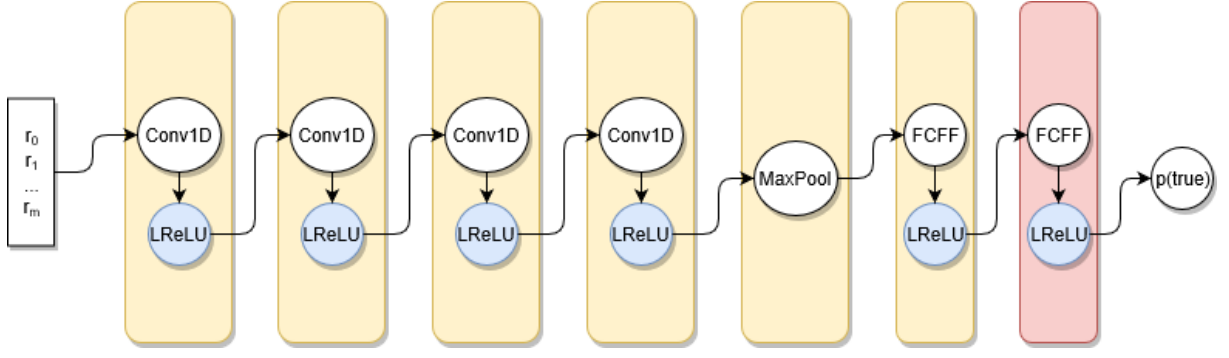


Figure 3.4: Convolutional discriminator architecture. The output of the generator is convolved multiple times in order to extract higher-level features from the sequence; this is followed by pooling to reduce the output size, and fully connected feed-forward layers to produce the final classification output. Image produced using draw.io [32].

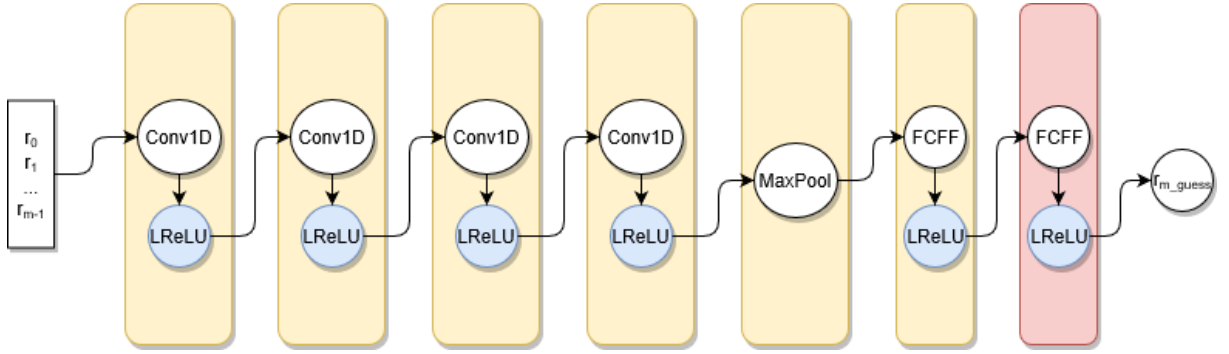


Figure 3.5: Convolutional predictor architecture. The design is shared with the discriminator, but the size of the input sequence and the meaning of the output scalar are different. The predictor produces a guess for the last value in the generator’s output based on the previous values. Image produced using draw.io [32].

3.1.2 Discriminative and Predictive Models

The discriminator and the predictor are convolutional neural networks implementing the functions

$$disc(\mathbf{r}) : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow [0, 1] \quad (3.4)$$

$$pred(\mathbf{r}_{split}) : \mathbb{R}^{m-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (3.5)$$

respectively, where \mathbf{r} is the generator’s output vector, \mathbf{r}_{split} is the output vector without the last element, and m is the output vector’s size. The discriminator takes as inputs sequences of length m and outputs a scalar representing the probability the sequence is truly random. The predictor’s inputs are sequences of length $m - 1$ produced by the generator, using which the network attempts to guess the m th value in the sequence.

Apart from the input size and the meaning of the output, the discriminator and the predictor share the same architecture. The input first passes through four convolutional layers for 1-dimensional inputs.

3.1.3 Evaluation and Randomness Requirements

The randomness requirements of a cryptographically secure pseudo-random number generator, as well as techniques for assessing whether a potential CSPRNG fulfills them, were discussed in subsections 2.2.2 and 2.2.3, respectively.

3.2 Implementation Technologies

The system was developed using version 3.6 of the Python programming language, which is popular in the machine learning field due to its conciseness and the large ecosystem of software libraries for numerical computing [4]. In addition to NumPy, which is ubiquitous in numerical computation using Python [4], the main software library used for this project is TensorFlow. The latter is an “open source library for numerical computation” released by Google, which is commonly used for machine learning [6]. Most of the code in the implementation deals with abstractions defined in the TensorFlow API.

While Python and the TensorFlow library are popular in the machine learning community, alternatives abound. Programming languages considered for the project included Java and C++, both of which have popular deep learning libraries. Furthermore, TensorFlow is not the only machine learning library available for Python: viable options include Theano, PyTorch, CNTK, and scikit-learn.

Choosing a language, a software library, or a software framework for a particular task is not always straightforward. In this case, Python and TensorFlow were selected due to Python’s legibility and simplicity, which supports rapid prototyping, as well as TensorFlow’s popularity in the machine learning field, which ensures the availability of abundant documentation, tutorials, and more [3]. The use of these particular technologies is not a critical aspect of this research.

Development of the project was carried out using a mix of free as well as proprietary tools, including the JetBrains PyCharm integrated development environment and Microsoft’s free code editor VSCode. Early tests of the implementation’s performance were executed on virtual machines in Google’s, Amazon’s, and Digital Ocean’s cloud services, with a mix of CPU-focused and GPU-focused instance types.

Training of the model was carried out on an HPC cluster, access to which was provided by the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London. The cluster consists of 5 machines, each with 64 CPU cores, 256 GB RAM, and no GPUs. The code was executed within a Docker container.

3.2.1 Introduction to TensorFlow

An introductory guide to the central concepts and functionality of TensorFlow is provided on the software library’s website [8]. The TensorFlow version used in this project is 1.6.

The central concept is that of the *tensor*, an n -dimensional generalization of vectors and matrices. Tensors have properties such as *rank* and *shape*, which specify the number of

dimensions of a tensor as well as its size in each dimension [8]. TensorFlow programs perform a series of operations on tensors.

At the highest level of abstraction, a TensorFlow program consists of a *Computational Graph* and a *Session*. The former is a directed graph consisting of tensor operations applied to a set of inputs, and defines the topology of a machine learning model. The operations specified in the graph are not computed by the Python interpreter, but rather are first compiled and then executed in TensorFlow’s C++ runtime. The Python application interface to the runtime is defined by a TensorFlow Session [7]. When interacting with a session, the act of passing specific inputs to a model for a particular session is referred to as *feeding*, while retrieving the value of a tensor in the graph at a particular time during execution is referred to as *fetching* [8].

The package `tf.contrib.gan` in TensorFlow’s Python API enables the programmer to easily define generative adversarial networks.

3.3 Software Design

This section outlines the design and implementation of the actual software. The design broadly follows the examples shown by Robin Ricard [2] and Rowel Atienza [1], and implement the concepts explained in section 3.1.

3.3.1 Generative Model

The generator G , known in the code as `jerry` or `janice`, has the same implementation for both the discriminative and predictive approaches. The model’s architecture is defined in TensorFlow as follows:

```
input_layer = tf.reshape(noise, [-1, 2])
outputs = fully_connected(input_layer, GEN_WIDTH, activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = fully_connected(outputs, GEN_WIDTH, activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = fully_connected(outputs, GEN_WIDTH, activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = fully_connected(outputs, GEN_WIDTH, activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = fully_connected(outputs, OUTPUT_SIZE, activation=modulo(MAX_VAL))
return outputs
```

`GEN_WIDTH` parameterizes the number of units in each layer. The `reshape` operation is used to cast input tensors to an appropriate size. The second argument specifies the shape to which input tensors are cast, where the first value is the tensor’s size in the *batch dimension*, and any following values represent the dimensionality of the input samples. The batch dimension refers to the number of input samples in a single batch. In TensorFlow `-1` is a special flag signifying dynamic batch size, which allows the model to process its inputs in batches of any size, rather than a fixed size.

The last fully connected layer’s `modulo` activation function is detailed in subsection 3.3.7.

3.3.2 Discriminative and Predictive Models

The discriminator D , `diego`, and the predictor P , `priya`, share the same architecture with the exception of the width of the input layer (`OUTPUT_SIZE` for `diego`, `OUTPUT_SIZE - 1` for `priya`). This is explained in section 3.1.

The convolutional architecture of the adversaries is implemented as follows:

```
input_layer = tf.reshape(inputs, [-1, size])
outputs = tf.expand_dims(input_layer, 2)
outputs = conv1d(outputs, filters=4, kernel_size=2, strides=1,
                  padding='same', activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = conv1d(outputs, filters=4, kernel_size=2, strides=1,
                  padding='same', activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = conv1d(outputs, filters=4, kernel_size=2, strides=1,
                  padding='same', activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = conv1d(outputs, filters=4, kernel_size=2, strides=1,
                  padding='same', activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = max_pooling1d(outputs, pool_size=2, strides=1)
outputs = flatten(outputs)
outputs = fully_connected(outputs, 4, activation=leaky_relu)
outputs = fully_connected(outputs, 1, activation=leaky_relu)
return outputs
```

The operations `flatten` and `reshape` are used to modify the shape of tensors in order to connect layers with different shapes. Unlike the generator, where a custom activation function is used in order to introduce more non-linearity, all layers in the adversary model use the popular leaky rectified linear unit activation.

3.3.3 Connecting the Models Adversarially

Keras allows entire models to be treated as layers, and thus models can be composed of other models. Having defined the generator and discriminator/predictor models, they can be combined into a single model.

```
# define the connected GAN
discgan_output = jerry(jerry_input)
discgan_output = diego(discgan_output)
discgan = Model(jerry_input, discgan_output)
```

In this model, the input layer is `jerry_input`, i.e. the generator's input layer. The model's stack of layers consists of the generator followed by the discriminator. Crucially, the generator and discriminator are still individually utilizable, but can also be operated on together.

3.3.4 Obtaining Training Data

TODO: how the utility functions work and how the training data is structured

3.3.5 Training Procedure for the Discriminative GAN

TODO: the training procedure

3.3.6 Training Procedure for the Predictive GAN

TODO: the training procedure

3.3.7 Custom Tensor Operations

The `models` package contains modules implementing functionality that is not a part of the TensorFlow API, including custom activation functions and tensor operations. A few notable examples are highlighted here.

`drop_last_value(original_size, batch_size)` is a closure returning a callable function `layer(x: tf.Tensor)`, which in turn can be used as part of TensorFlow's computational graph. The function defines an operation which drops the last value in a tensor's second dimension, and is used to connect the generator's output layer to the predictor's input layer in the predictive GAN.

`modulo(divisor, withActivation=None)` is a closure returning a custom activation function that computes the modulus `mod divisor` of its input. It is also possible to use it in conjunction with another activation function, which can be passed to the second parameter.

3.3.8 Utilities

A number of utility modules are defined to abstract the details of auxiliary procedures, such as logging, producing plots of training results, or generating samples of pseudo-random numbers for training the neural networks. An overview of the role of each utility module within the system is given below. A more detailed view of the functionality of these modules can be obtained from the source code and its documentation.

The `utils.input_utils.py` module defines functions for the **generation of training data**. Provided functionality includes generation of a single real-valued pseudo-random scalar, of a one-dimensional list of such scalars, or of matrices of inputs suitable for supervised training of either network in the adversarial models.

The `utils.operation_utils.py` module provides **common operations on tensors or Numpy arrays**. These include element-wise logarithms on tensors in an arbitrary base,

flattening multidimensional lists with irregular internal structure, splitting the output of the generator into an $(input, label)$ pair for training the predictor, and setting the trainability of parameters in Keras model.

The `utils.vis_utils.py` module handles the creation and storage of **graphical visualizations**. This includes primarily drawing plots of training loss or histograms of output distributions, as well as graphs of neural network structures.

The remaining modules provide miscellaneous functionality such as error printing and logging information to text files.

4. Experiments

This section outlines the training and evaluation procedure followed in order to test this work’s hypothesis. A large number of ”throwaway” tests was performed over an extended period of time to empirically identify good training setups, ranging from parameters such as learning rate to major design choices in neural network architecture. Finally, the models were trained multiple times in order to produce output samples, which were evaluated using the dieharder test suite.

4.1 Training and Evaluation Procedure

The general experimental procedure entails adversarially training the generator and the opponent for a fixed number of iterations, and producing a text file of output samples from the generator, both before training and when training is complete. These text files are analyzed by dieharder in order to assess whether training improved the generator’s performance in the statistical randomness tests.

- alternating training in general - first pretrain (ON WHAT DATA - then main train (ON WHAT DATA) - evaluate periodically (HOW, ON WHAT DATA) - final evaluation

4.2 Training and Evaluation Parameters

4.3 Neural Network Hyperparameters

The learning algorithm’s hyperparameters were selected by running a number of shorter tests, in order to identify how different hyperparameters affected the performance of the model. This process relied entirely on the author’s intuition and exploratory testing. Automated hyperparameter optimization was not performed.

Some of the most significant hyperparameters include the networks’ learning rate and their degree of decay, the generator width, the adversary width, the input batch size, and the generator output size. Their values, and the heuristics by which they were chosen, are given below.

1. `LEARNING_RATE`: 0.02 -

2. OPTIMIZER_DECAY_ALPHA: 0.999 -
3. OPTIMIZER_DECAY_BETA: 0.999 -
4. GEN_WIDTH: 30 -
5. CONV_WIDTH -
6. -
7. -

A number of other hyperparameters, in particular those parameterizing the convolutional layers, are not considered here.

4.4 Results

4.5 Discussion and Applications

5. Conclusion

TODO: if generator works, conclude that work backs the conjecture that a discrete uniform distribution can be learned by a neural network. If it doesn't, conclusion should state why. In either case probably more experimentation is required as these experiments were constrained due to a number of reasons.

6. Further Investigation

TODO: more formal treatment of the problem, such as cryptanalysis if the generator works, or an in-depth analysis of failure if it doesn't. Further attempts with better training procedure, i.e. hyperparameter optimization, cross-validation of architectures, etc? There are quite many training improvements that could be implemented, list them.

7. Bibliography

- [1] Gan by example using keras on tensorflow backend. <https://towardsdatascience.com/gan-by-example-using-keras-on-tensorflow-backend-1a6d515a60d0>. Accessed: 15/10/2017.
- [2] Generative adversarial networks part 2 - implementation with keras 2.0. <http://www.rricard.me/machine/learning/generative/adversarial/networks/keras/tensorflow/2017/04/05/gans-part2.html>. Accessed: 15/10/2017.
- [3] Google's tensorflow gaining popularity. why? <https://analyticsindiamag.com/googles-tensorflow-gaining-popularity/>. Accessed: 04/11/2018.
- [4] Numpy - the fundamental package for scientific computing with python. <http://www.numpy.org>. Accessed: 25/02/2018.
- [5] A short history of machine learning – every manager should read. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2016/02/19/a-short-history-of-machine-learning-every-manager-should-read/#29b44c5c15e7>. Accessed: 17/03/2018.
- [6] Tensorflow: an open-source software library for machine intelligence. www.tensorflow.org. Accessed: 12/08/2017.
- [7] Tensorflow: Graphs and sessions. https://www.tensorflow.org/programmers_guide/graphs. Accessed: 11/04/2018.
- [8] Tensorflow: Introduction. https://www.tensorflow.org/programmers_guide/low_level_intro. Accessed: 11/04/2018.
- [9] Martín Abadi and David G Andersen. Learning to protect communications with adversarial neural cryptography. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1610.06918*, 2016.
- [10] Saleh Albelwi and Ausif Mahmood. A framework for designing the architectures of deep convolutional neural networks. *Entropy*, 19(6):242, 2017.
- [11] Inc. Amazon.com. Machine learning on aws. <https://aws.amazon.com/machine-learning/>. Accessed: 17/03/2018.
- [12] Ross J Anderson. *Security engineering: a guide to building dependable distributed systems*. John Wiley & Sons, 2010.

- [13] Elaine B Barker and John Michael Kelsey. *Recommendation for random number generation using deterministic random bit generators (revised)*. US Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Computer Security Division, Information Technology Laboratory, 2007.
- [14] Microsoft Corporation. Azure machine learning - open and elastic ai development spanning the cloud and the edge. <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-gb/overview/machine-learning/>. Accessed: 17/03/2018.
- [15] Thomas M Cover and Joy A Thomas. *Elements of information theory*. John Wiley & Sons, 2012.
- [16] Lih-Yuan Deng and Dale Bowman. Developments in pseudo-random number generators. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Computational Statistics*, 9(5), 2017.
- [17] VV Desai, VB Deshmukh, and DH Rao. Pseudo random number generator using elman neural network. In *Recent Advances in Intelligent Computational Systems (RAICS), 2011 IEEE*, pages 251–254. IEEE, 2011.
- [18] VV Desai, Ravindra T Patil, VB Deshmukh, and DH Rao. Pseudo random number generator using time delay neural network. *World*, 2(10):165–169, 2012.
- [19] Knuth Donald et al. The art of computer programming, volume 2: Semi numerical algorithms, 1998.
- [20] Niels Ferguson, Bruce Schneier, and Tadayoshi Kohno. *Cryptography engineering. Design Principi*, 2010.
- [21] Ian Goodfellow. Nips 2016 tutorial: Generative adversarial networks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1701.00160*, 2016.
- [22] Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio, and Aaron Courville. *Deep Learning*. MIT Press, 2016. <http://www.deeplearningbook.org>.
- [23] Ian Goodfellow, Jean Pouget-Abadie, Mehdi Mirza, Bing Xu, David Warde-Farley, Sherjil Ozair, Aaron Courville, and Yoshua Bengio. Generative adversarial nets. In *Advances in neural information processing systems*, pages 2672–2680, 2014.
- [24] Andrej Karpathy. Lecture notes for cs231n convolutional neural networks for visual recognition, 2017.
- [25] Jonathan Katz and Yehuda Lindell. *Introduction to modern cryptography*. CRC press, 2014.
- [26] John Kelsey, Bruce Schneier, David Wagner, and Chris Hall. Cryptanalytic attacks on pseudorandom number generators. In *Fast Software Encryption*, pages 168–188. Springer, 1998.
- [27] Diederik P Kingma and Jimmy Ba. Adam: A method for stochastic optimization. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1412.6980*, 2014.
- [28] Alexander Klimov, Anton Mityagin, and Adi Shamir. Analysis of neural cryptography. In *International Conference on the Theory and Application of Cryptology and Information Security*, pages 288–298. Springer, 2002.

- [29] A Lavasani and T Eghlidos. Practical next bit test for evaluating pseudorandom sequences. *Scientia Iranica. Transaction D, Computer Science & Engineering, Electrical*, 16(1):19, 2009.
- [30] Google LLC. Cloud automl alpha - train high quality custom machine learning models with minimum effort and machine learning expertise. <https://cloud.google.com/automl/>. Accessed: 17/03/2018.
- [31] Google LLC. Google trends. <https://trends.google.com/trends/>. Accessed: 17/03/2018.
- [32] JGraph Ltd. draw.io. <https://www.draw.io/>. Accessed: 20/03/2018.
- [33] William Melicher, Blase Ur, Sean M Segreti, Saranga Komanduri, Lujo Bauer, Nicolas Christin, and Lorrie Faith Cranor. Fast, lean, and accurate: Modeling password guessability using neural networks. In *USENIX Security Symposium*, pages 175–191, 2016.
- [34] Alfred J Menezes, Paul C Van Oorschot, and Scott A Vanstone. *Handbook of applied cryptography*. CRC press, 1996.
- [35] Andrew Rukhin, Juan Soto, James Nechvatal, Miles Smid, and Elaine Barker. A statistical test suite for random and pseudorandom number generators for cryptographic applications. Technical report, Booz-Allen and Hamilton Inc Mclean Va, 2001.
- [36] Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig. *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach*. Prentice Hall Press, Upper Saddle River, NJ, USA, 3rd edition, 2009.
- [37] Sagar Sharma. Activation functions: Neural networks. <https://towardsdatascience.com/activation-functions-neural-networks-1cbd9f8d91d6>. Accessed: 19/03/2018.
- [38] David Terr. mathamazement.com. <http://www.mathamazement.com/>. Accessed: 19/03/2018.
- [39] Kayvan Tirdad and Alireza Sadeghian. Hopfield neural networks as pseudo random number generators. In *Fuzzy Information Processing Society (NAFIPS), 2010 Annual Meeting of the North American*, pages 1–6. IEEE, 2010.

A. Training Data

TODO: currently being trained as of draft submission. Data will be outputted to files so can easily be extracted, tabled, graphed, etc.

B. Code Listings

B.1 Generator

```
inputs = Input(shape=(2,))
outputs = Dense(GEN_WIDTH)(inputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(GEN_WIDTH)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(GEN_WIDTH)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(GEN_WIDTH)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(OUTPUT_SIZE)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
generator = Model(inputs, outputs, name=name)
```

B.2 Adversary, Convolutional Architecture

```
inputs = Input((input_size,))
outputs = Reshape(target_shape=(input_size, 1))(inputs)
outputs = Conv1D(filters=2, kernel_size=2, strides=1, padding='same')(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Conv1D(filters=2, kernel_size=2, strides=1, padding='same')(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = MaxPooling1D(2)(outputs)
outputs = Conv1D(filters=4, kernel_size=2, strides=1, padding='same')(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Conv1D(filters=4, kernel_size=2, strides=1, padding='same')(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = MaxPooling1D(2)(outputs)
outputs = Flatten()(outputs)
outputs = Dense(2)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(1)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
discriminator = Model(inputs, outputs)
```

B.3 Adversary, LSTM Architecture

```
inputs = Input((input_size,))
outputs = Reshape(target_shape=(input_size, 1))(inputs)
outputs = LSTM(1, return_sequences=True)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = LSTM(1, return_sequences=True)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = LSTM(1, return_sequences=True)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Flatten()(outputs)
outputs = Dense(int(input_size / 2))(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(2)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(1)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
discriminator = Model(inputs, outputs)
discriminator.compile(optimizer, loss)
```

B.4 Adversary, Convolutional LSTM Architecture

```
inputs = Input((input_size,))
outputs = Reshape(target_shape=(input_size, 1))(inputs)
outputs = Conv1D(filters=2, kernel_size=2, strides=1, padding='same')(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Conv1D(filters=2, kernel_size=2, strides=1, padding='same')(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Flatten()(outputs)
outputs = Reshape(target_shape=(input_size, 2))(outputs)
outputs = LSTM(1, return_sequences=True)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = LSTM(1, return_sequences=True)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = LSTM(1, return_sequences=True)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Flatten()(outputs)
outputs = Dense(4)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(2)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
outputs = Dense(1)(outputs)
outputs = LeakyReLU(ALPHA)(outputs)
discriminator = Model(inputs, outputs)
```

B.5 Training of Discriminative GAN

```
# main training procedure
jerry_loss, diego_loss = np.zeros(EPOCHS), np.zeros(EPOCHS)
try:
    for epoch in range(EPOCHS):
        # training data for this epoch
        seeds, offsets, jerry_labels = get_inputs(BATCH_SIZE * BATCHES, MAX_VAL)
        jerry_inputs = np.array([seeds, offsets]).transpose()

        for batch in range(BATCHES):
            # generate batch data
            jerry_x = extract_batch(jerry_inputs, batch, int(BATCH_SIZE / 2))
            jerry_y = extract_batch(jerry_labels, batch, int(BATCH_SIZE / 2))
            diego_x, diego_y = get_sequences(jerry, jerry_x, OUTPUT_SIZE, MAX_VAL)

            # alternate train
            set_trainable(diego, DIEGO_OPT, DIEGO_LOSS, RECOMPILE)
            for i in range(ADV_MULT):
                diego_loss[epoch] += diego.train_on_batch(diego_x, diego_y)
            set_trainable(diego, DIEGO_OPT, DIEGO_LOSS, RECOMPILE, False)
            jerry_loss[epoch] += discgan.train_on_batch(jerry_x, jerry_y)

        # log debug info to console
        diego_loss[epoch] /= (BATCHES * ADV_MULT)
        jerry_loss[epoch] /= BATCHES
        if not HPC_TRAIN or epoch % LOG_EVERY_N == 0:
            print_epoch(epoch, gen_loss=jerry_loss[epoch], opp_loss=diego_loss[epoch])
        # check for NaNs
        if math.isnan(jerry_loss[epoch]) or math.isnan(diego_loss[epoch]):
            raise ValueError()

except ValueError:
    traceback.print_exc()
```

B.6 Training of Predictive GAN

```
# main training procedure
janice_loss, priya_loss = np.zeros(EPOCHS), np.zeros(EPOCHS)
try:
    for epoch in range(EPOCHS):
        # get data for this epoch
        janice_inputs = np.array(get_inputs(BATCH_SIZE * BATCHES, MAX_VAL)[: -1]).transpose()

        for batch in range(BATCHES):
            # generate predictions for this batch
            janice_x = extract_batch(janice_inputs, batch, BATCH_SIZE)
```

```

priya_x, priya_y = detach_all_last(janice.predict_on_batch(janice_x))

# train both networks on entire dataset
set_trainable(priya, PRIYA_OPT, PRIYA_LOSS, RECOMPILE)
for i in range(ADV_MULT):
    priya_loss[epoch] += priya.train_on_batch(priya_x, priya_y)
    set_trainable(priya, PRIYA_OPT, PRIYA_LOSS, RECOMPILE, False)
    janice_loss[epoch] += predgan.train_on_batch(janice_x, priya_y)

# update and log loss value
priya_loss[epoch] /= (BATCHES * ADV_MULT)
janice_loss[epoch] /= BATCHES
if epoch % LOG_EVERY_N == 0:
    print_epoch(epoch, gen_loss=janice_loss[epoch], opp_loss=priya_loss[epoch])
# check for NaNs
if math.isnan(janice_loss[epoch]) or math.isnan(priya_loss[epoch]):
    raise ValueError()

except ValueError:
    traceback.print_exc()

```