Introduction

The objective of this session is to illustrate on a 2D synthetic toy data-set how poorly a naive weight initialization procedure performs when a network has multiple layers of different sizes.

You can get information about the practical sessions and the provided helper functions on the course’s website.

https://fleuret.org/ee559/

1 Toy data-set

Write a function

\[ \text{generate\_disc\_set}(nb) \]

that returns a pair \( \text{torch.Tensor}, \text{torch.LongTensor} \) of dimensions respectively \( nb\times2 \) and \( nb \), corresponding to the input and target of a toy data-set where the input is uniformly distributed in \( [-1,1] \times [-1,1] \) and the label is 1 inside the disc of radius \( \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \) and 0 outside.

Create a train and test set of 1,000 samples, and normalize their mean and variance to 0 and 1.

A simple sanity check is to ensure that the two classes are balanced.

**Hint:** My version of \( \text{generate\_disc\_set} \) is 172 characters.

2 Training and test

Write functions

\[ \text{train\_model}(\text{model}, \text{train\_input}, \text{train\_target}) \]

\[ \text{compute\_nb\_errors}(\text{model}, \text{data\_input}, \text{data\_target}) \]

The first should train the model with cross-entropy and 250 epochs of standard sgd with \( \eta = 0.1 \), and mini-batches of size 100.

The second should also use mini-batches, and return an integer.

**Hint:** My versions of \( \text{train\_model} \) and \( \text{compute\_nb\_errors} \) are respectively 512 and 457 characters.
3 Models

Write

create_shallow_model()

that returns a mlp with 2 input units, a single hidden layer of size 128, and 2 output units, and

create_deep_model()

that returns a mlp with 2 input units, hidden layers of sizes respectively 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, and 2 output units.

**Hint:** You can use the nn.Sequential container to make things simpler. My versions of these two functions are respectively 132 and 355 characters long.

4 Benchmarking

Compute and print the train and test errors of these two models when they are initialized either with the default pytorch rule, or with a normal distribution of standard deviation $10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-1}, 1,$ and $10$.

The error rate with the shallow network for any initialization should be around 1.5%. It should be around 3% with the deep network using the default rule, and around 50% most of the time with the other initializations.

**Hint:** My version is 562 characters long.