

# Character RNN Classification Demo

Adapted from PyTorch tutorial

[https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/char\\_rnn\\_classification\\_tutorial.html](https://pytorch.org/tutorials/intermediate/char_rnn_classification_tutorial.html)

Originally accessed on 03-28-2023

David I. Inouye



# NLP From Scratch: Classifying Names with a Character-Level RNN

**Original Author:** [Sean Robertson](#)

- We will be building and training a basic character-level RNN to classify words.
- Specifically, we'll train on a few thousand surnames from 18 languages of origin, and predict which language a name is from based on the spelling:

```
$ python predict.py Hinton  
(-0.47) Scottish  
(-1.52) English  
(-3.57) Irish
```

```
$ python predict.py Schmidhuber  
(-0.19) German  
(-2.48) Czech  
(-2.68) Dutch
```



# Download and extract name data

```
1 import urllib.request
2 import zipfile
3 import os
4
5 # Check if data directory already exists
6 if os.path.exists('data/names') and os.listdir('data/names'):
7     print("Data already exists, skipping download.")
8 else:
9     # Download the data
10    url = "https://download.pytorch.org/tutorial/data.zip"
11    filename = "data.zip"
12
13    print("Downloading and extracting data...")
14    urllib.request.urlretrieve(url, filename)
15    with zipfile.ZipFile(filename, 'r') as zip_ref:
16        zip_ref.extractall('.')
17    os.remove(filename)
18    print("Data downloaded and extracted successfully!")
```

Data already exists, skipping download.

- We'll end up with a dictionary of lists of names per language, `{language: [names ...]}`.
- The generic variables “category” and “line” (for language and name in our case) are used for later extensibility.



# Check the data and setup possible characters

```
1 from __future__ import unicode_literals, print_function, division
2 from io import open
3 import glob
4 import os
5 import unicodedata
6 import string
7
8 def findFiles(path): return glob.glob(path)
9
10 print(findFiles('data/names/*.txt'))
11
12 all_letters = string.ascii_letters + " .,;"
13 n_letters = len(all_letters)
14
15 # Turn a Unicode string to plain ASCII, thanks to https://stackoverflow.com/a/518232/2809427
16 def unicodeToAscii(s):
17     return ''.join(
18         c for c in unicodedata.normalize('NFD', s)
19         if unicodedata.category(c) != 'Mn'
20         and c in all_letters
21     )
22
23 print(unicodeToAscii('Ślusàrski'))
```

```
['data/names/Czech.txt', 'data/names/German.txt', 'data/names/Arabic.txt', 'data/names/Japanese.txt', 'data/names/Chinese.txt',
'data/names/Vietnamese.txt', 'data/names/Russian.txt', 'data/names/French.txt', 'data/names/Irish.txt', 'data/names/English.txt',
'data/names/Spanish.txt', 'data/names/Greek.txt', 'data/names/Italian.txt', 'data/names/Portuguese.txt', 'data/names/Scottish.txt',
'data/names/Dutch.txt', 'data/names/Korean.txt', 'data/names/Polish.txt']
```

Slusarski

# Build dictionary of names

```
1 # Build the category_lines dictionary, a list of names per language
2 category_lines = {}
3 all_categories = []
4
5 # Read a file and split into lines
6 def readLines(filename):
7     lines = open(filename, encoding='utf-8').read().strip().split('\n')
8     return [unicodeToAscii(line) for line in lines]
9
10 for filename in findFiles('data/names/*.txt'):
11     category = os.path.splitext(os.path.basename(filename))[0]
12     all_categories.append(category)
13     lines = readLines(filename)
14     category_lines[category] = lines
15
16 n_categories = len(all_categories)
17 print(category_lines['Italian'][:5])
```

```
['Abandonato', 'Abatangelo', 'Abatantuono', 'Abate', 'Abategiovanni']
```

- Now we have `category_lines`, a dictionary mapping each category (language) to a list of lines (names). We also kept track of `all_categories` (just a list of languages) and `n_categories` for later reference.



# Turning Names into Tensors

- To represent a single letter, we use a “one-hot vector” of size  $\langle 1 \times n\_letters \rangle$ .
  - A one-hot vector is filled with 0s except for a 1 at index of the current letter, e.g. "b" =  $\langle 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \dots \rangle$ .
- To make a word we join a bunch of those into a 2D matrix  $\langle line\_length \times 1 \times n\_letters \rangle$ .
  - That extra 1 dimension is because PyTorch assumes everything is in batches - we're just using a batch size of 1 here.

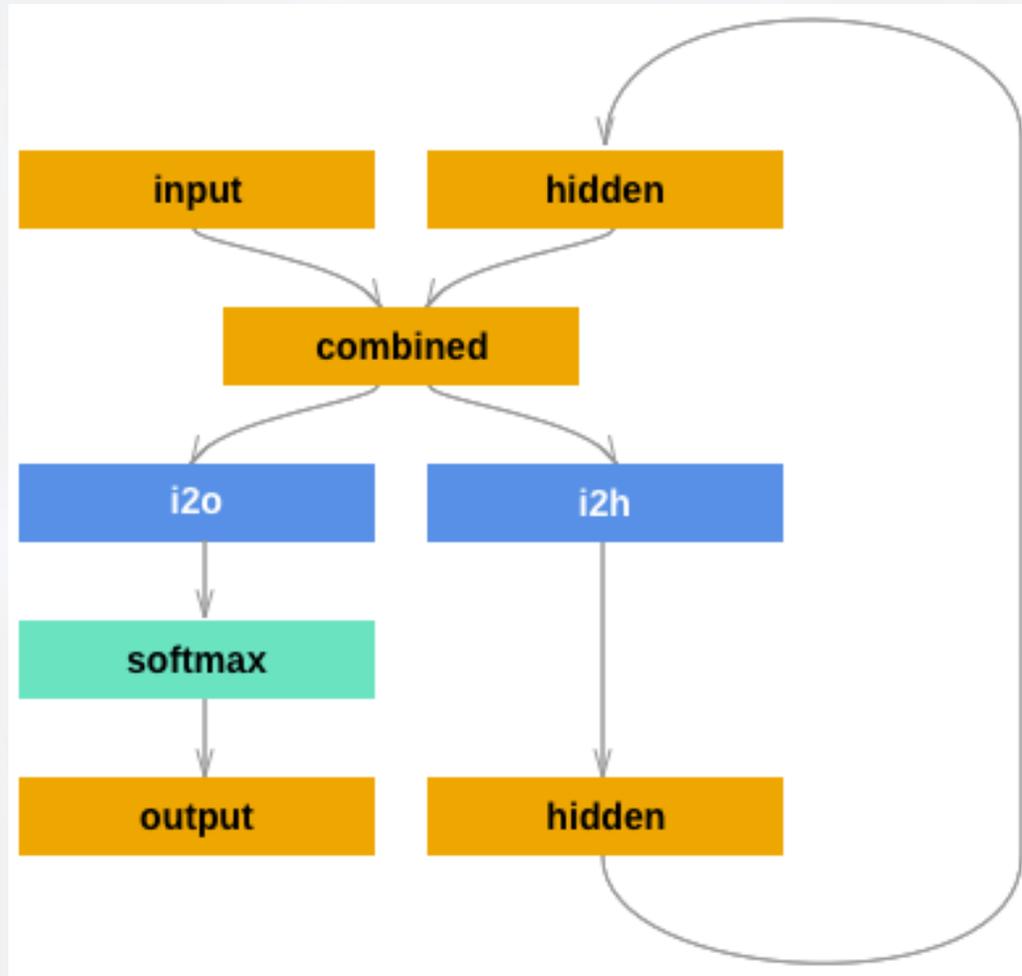


# Turning Names into Tensors

```
1 import torch
2
3 # Find letter index from all_letters, e.g. "a" = 0
4 def letterToIndex(letter):
5     return all_letters.find(letter)
6
7 # Just for demonstration, turn a letter into a <1 x n_letters> Tensor
8 def letterToTensor(letter):
9     tensor = torch.zeros(1, n_letters)
10    tensor[0][letterToIndex(letter)] = 1
11    return tensor
12
13 # Turn a line into a <line_length x 1 x n_letters>,
14 # or an array of one-hot letter vectors
15 def lineToTensor(line):
16    tensor = torch.zeros(len(line), 1, n_letters)
17    for li, letter in enumerate(line):
18        tensor[li][0][letterToIndex(letter)] = 1
19    return tensor
20
21 print(letterToTensor('J'))
22 print(lineToTensor('Jones').size())
```

```
tensor([[0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.,
         0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.,
         0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0., 0.,
         0., 0., 0.]])
torch.Size([5, 1, 57])
```

# Creating the Network



```
1 import torch.nn as nn
2
3 class RNN(nn.Module):
4     def __init__(self, input_size, hidden_size, output_size):
5         super(RNN, self).__init__()
6
7         self.hidden_size = hidden_size
8         self.i2h = nn.Linear(input_size + hidden_size, hidden
9         self.i2o = nn.Linear(input_size + hidden_size, output
10        self.softmax = nn.LogSoftmax(dim=1)
11
12    def forward(self, input, hidden):
13        combined = torch.cat((input, hidden), 1)
14        hidden = self.i2h(combined)
15        output = self.i2o(combined)
16        output = self.softmax(output)
17        return output, hidden
18
19    def initHidden(self):
20        return torch.zeros(1, self.hidden_size)
21
22 n_hidden = 128
23 rnn = RNN(n_letters, n_hidden, n_categories)
```

# Running this RNN

- To run a step of this network we need to pass an input (in our case, the Tensor for the current letter) and a previous hidden state (which we initialize as zeros at first). We'll get back the output (probability of each language) and a next hidden state (which we keep for the next step).

```
1 input = lineToTensor('Albert')
2 hidden = torch.zeros(1, n_hidden)
3 output, next_hidden = rnn(input[0], hidden)
4 print(output)
```

```
tensor([[ -3.0221, -2.9742, -2.7722, -2.9694, -2.8877, -2.9467, -2.8103, -2.8843,
          -2.8492, -2.9065, -2.9260, -2.7864, -2.8880, -3.0160, -2.8762, -2.8945,
          -2.8255, -2.8367]], grad_fn=<LogSoftmaxBackward0>)
```

- As you can see the output is a `<1 x n_categories>` Tensor, where every item is the likelihood of that category (higher is more likely).



# Preparing for Training

- Before going into training we should make a few helper functions. The first is to interpret the output of the network, which we know to be a likelihood of each category. We can use `Tensor.topk` to get the index of the greatest value:

```
1 def categoryFromOutput(output):
2     top_n, top_i = output.topk(1)
3     category_i = top_i[0].item()
4     return all_categories[category_i], category_i
5
6 print(categoryFromOutput(output))
```

```
('Arabic', 2)
```



# Preparing for Training

- We will also want a quick way to get a training example (a name and its language):

```
1 import random
2
3 def randomChoice(l):
4     return l[random.randint(0, len(l) - 1)]
5
6 def randomTrainingExample():
7     category = randomChoice(all_categories)
8     line = randomChoice(category_lines[category])
9     category_tensor = torch.tensor([all_categories.index(category)], dtype=torch.long)
10    line_tensor = lineToTensor(line)
11    return category, line, category_tensor, line_tensor
12
13 for i in range(5):
14     category, line, category_tensor, line_tensor = randomTrainingExample()
15     print('category =', category, '/ line =', line)
```

```
category = French / line = Gage
category = Portuguese / line = Melo
category = Chinese / line = Gou
category = Scottish / line = Murray
category = Polish / line = Auttenberg
```



# Training the Network

Each loop of training will:

- Create input and target tensors
- Create a zeroed initial hidden state
- Read each letter in and
  - Keep hidden state for next letter
- Compare final output to target
- Back-propagate
- Return the output and loss

```
1 criterion = nn.NLLLoss()
2 learning_rate = 0.005 # If you set this too high, it might ex
3
4 def timeSince(since):
5     now = time.time()
6     s = now - since
7     m = math.floor(s / 60)
8     s -= m * 60
9     return '%dm %ds' % (m, s)
10
11 def train(category_tensor, line_tensor):
12     hidden = rnn.initHidden()
13
14     rnn.zero_grad()
15
16     for i in range(line_tensor.size()[0]):
17         output, hidden = rnn(line_tensor[i], hidden)
18
19     loss = criterion(output, category_tensor)
20     loss.backward()
21
22     # Add parameters' gradients to their values, multiplied b
23     for p in rnn.parameters():
24         p.data.add_(p.grad.data, alpha=-learning_rate)
25
26     return output, loss.item()
```

# Training: Looping through names

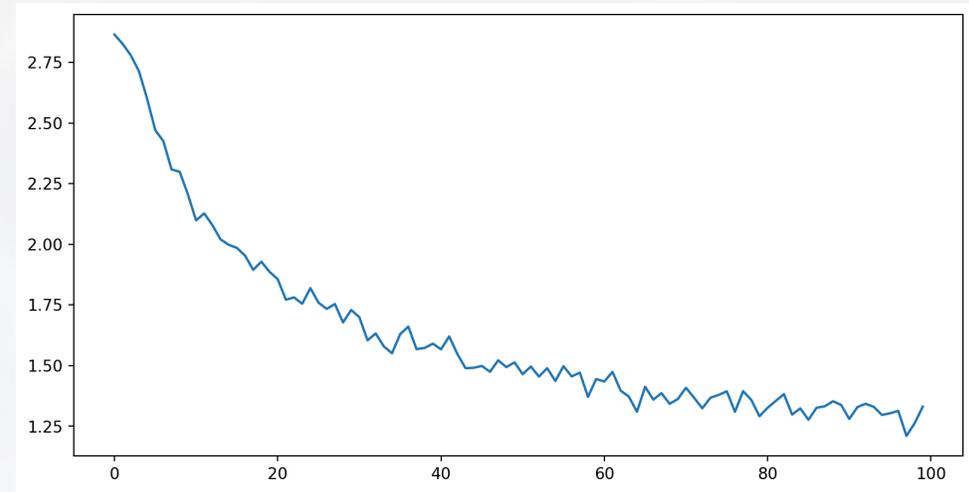
```
1 import time
2 import math
3
4 n_iters = 100000
5 print_every = 5000
6 plot_every = 1000
7 current_loss = 0
8 all_losses = []
9 start = time.time()
10 for iter in range(1, n_iters + 1):
11     category, line, category_tensor, line_tensor = randomTrai
12     output, loss = train(category_tensor, line_tensor)
13     current_loss += loss
14
15     # Print iter number, loss, name and guess
16     if iter % print_every == 0:
17         guess, guess_i = categoryFromOutput(output)
18         correct = '✓' if guess == category else 'x (%s)' % ca
19         print('%d %d%% (%s) %.4f %s / %s %s' % (iter, iter /
20
21     # Add current loss avg to list of losses
22     if iter % plot_every == 0:
23         all_losses.append(current_loss / plot_every)
24         current_loss = 0
```

```
5000 5% (0m 2s) 2.5113 Levitan / Irish x (Russian)
10000 10% (0m 5s) 2.3746 Bonhomme / English x (French)
15000 15% (0m 8s) 3.2862 Munro / Portuguese x (Scottish)
20000 20% (0m 11s) 2.1692 Norville / Italian x (English)
25000 25% (0m 14s) 2.0834 Frost / French x (German)
30000 30% (0m 16s) 2.3654 Rojo / Italian x (Spanish)
35000 35% (0m 19s) 1.8696 Howells / Greek x (English)
40000 40% (0m 22s) 2.4991 Baroch / Irish x (Czech)
45000 45% (0m 24s) 0.4594 Hwang / Korean ✓
50000 50% (0m 27s) 0.1627 Notoriano / Italian ✓
55000 55% (0m 30s) 0.5044 Zientek / Polish ✓
60000 60% (0m 33s) 0.5554 Chavarria / Spanish ✓
65000 65% (0m 35s) 1.0245 Garza / Spanish ✓
70000 70% (0m 38s) 0.3381 Smolak / Polish ✓
75000 75% (0m 41s) 0.7735 Schevaev / Russian ✓
80000 80% (0m 43s) 0.8886 Zhuan / Chinese ✓
85000 85% (0m 46s) 1.5296 Yasuda / Spanish x (Japanese)
90000 90% (0m 49s) 2.7070 Holan / Irish x (Czech)
95000 95% (0m 51s) 0.2676 Ta / Vietnamese ✓
100000 100% (0m 54s) 0.0447 Miyazawa / Japanese ✓
```

# Plotting the Results

Plotting the historical loss from `all_losses` shows the network learning:

```
1 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
2 import matplotlib.ticker as ticker
3
4 plt.figure()
5 plt.plot(all_losses)
```



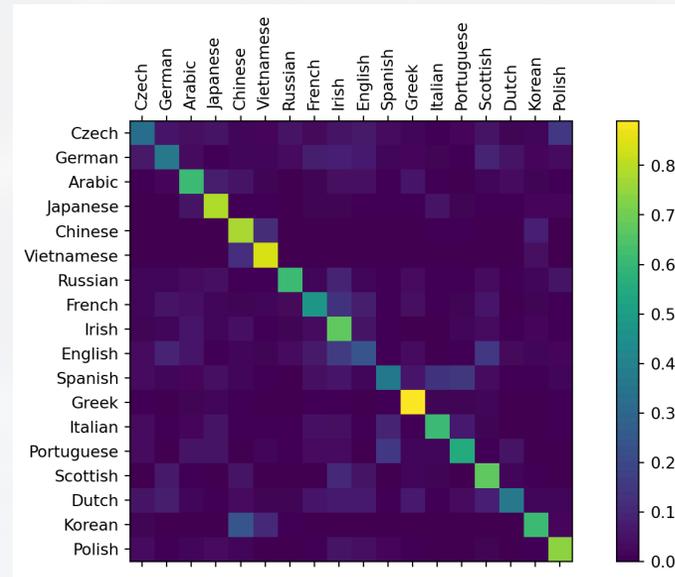
# Evaluating the Results via Confusion Matrix

- To see how well the network performs on different categories, we will create a confusion matrix.
  - A confusion matrix indicates for every actual language (rows) which language the network guesses (columns).
  - To calculate the confusion matrix a bunch of samples are run through the network with `evaluate()`, which is the same as `train()` minus the backprop.

```
1 # Keep track of correct guesses in a confusion matrix
2 confusion = torch.zeros(n_categories, n_categories)
3 n_confusion = 10000
4
5 # Just return an output given a line
6 def evaluate(line_tensor):
7     hidden = rnn.initHidden()
8     for i in range(line_tensor.size()[0]):
9         output, hidden = rnn(line_tensor[i], hidden)
10    return output
11
12 # Go through a bunch of examples and record which are correct
13 for i in range(n_confusion):
14     category, line, category_tensor, line_tensor = randomTrai
15     output = evaluate(line_tensor)
16     guess, guess_i = categoryFromOutput(output)
17     category_i = all_categories.index(category)
18     confusion[category_i][guess_i] += 1
19
20 # Normalize by dividing every row by its sum
21 for i in range(n_categories):
22     confusion[i] = confusion[i] / confusion[i].sum()
```

# Evaluating the Results via Confusion Matrix

```
1 # Set up plot
2 fig = plt.figure()
3 ax = fig.add_subplot(111)
4 cax = ax.matshow(confusion.numpy())
5 fig.colorbar(cax)
6
7 # Set up axes
8 ax.set_xticklabels([''] + all_categories, rotation=90)
9 ax.set_yticklabels([''] + all_categories)
10
11 # Force label at every tick
12 ax.xaxis.set_major_locator(ticker.MultipleLocator(1))
13 ax.yaxis.set_major_locator(ticker.MultipleLocator(1))
14
15 # sphinx_gallery_thumbnail_number = 2
16 plt.show()
```



You can pick out bright spots off the main axis that show which languages it guesses incorrectly, e.g. Chinese for Korean, and Spanish for Italian. It seems to do very well with Greek, and very poorly with English (perhaps because of overlap with other languages).



# Deployment: Running on User Input

```
1 def predict(input_line, n_predictions=3):
2     print('\n> %s' % input_line)
3     with torch.no_grad():
4         output = evaluate(lineToTensor(input_line))
5
6         # Get top N categories
7         topv, topi = output.topk(n_predictions, 1, True)
8         predictions = []
9
10        for i in range(n_predictions):
11            value = topv[0][i].item()
12            category_index = topi[0][i].item()
13            print('({:.2f}) %s' % (value, all_categories[category_index]))
14            predictions.append([value, all_categories[category_index]])
15
16 predict('Dovesky')
17 predict('Jackson')
18 predict('Satoshi')
```

```
> Dovesky
(-0.87) Czech
(-0.98) Russian
(-2.58) English

> Jackson
(-0.13) Scottish
(-2.70) English
(-3.74) Russian

> Satoshi
(-1.06) Japanese
(-1.70) Arabic
(-2.21) Polish
```

