

Embedded AI: Principles, Algorithms, and Applications

Table of contents

Preface	5
The Philosophy Behind the Book	6
Prerequisites	7
Conventions Used in This Book	8
How to Contact Us	9
How to Contribute	10
Contributors	11
Credits	12
1 About Us	13
1.1 Intended Audience	13
1.2 Book Structure	13
1.3 Key Takeaways	13
2 Dedication	14
3 Introduction	15
3.1 AI for Beginners	15
3.2 Machine Learning and Deep Learning	15
3.3 Machine Learning	15
3.4 Deep Learning	15
3.5 Applications of Deep Learning	15
3.6 Quiz	15
4 Deep Learning	16
4.1 What are Neural Networks	16
4.2 What is Deep Learning Training	16
4.3 What is Deep Learning Inference	16

5	Embedded Systems	17
5.1	Sensors	17
5.2	Power	17
6	Embedded ML	18
6.1	CloudML	18
6.2	EdgeML	18
6.3	TinyML	18
6.3.1	TinyML for IoT Systems	18
6.3.2	How does TinyML Work	18
6.3.3	Resources are Limited, but so is the Competition	18
6.4	Exercises	18
7	ML Workflow	19
7.1	Data Collection	19
7.2	Pre-Processing	19
7.3	Training	19
7.4	Optimization	19
7.5	Deployment	19
7.6	Evaluation	19
7.7	Quiz	19
8	Data Engineering	20
8.1	Data Sources	20
8.2	Training Data	20
8.3	Training Data Splits	20
8.4	Data Labeling	20
8.5	Types of Data	20
9	Pre-processing	21
9.1	What is Data Pre-processing?	21
9.2	What's Involved with Data Pre-processing?	21
9.3	What's The Importance Of Data Pre-Processing?	21
10	ML Frameworks	22
11	Model Training	23
11.1	Selecting a Training Dataset	24
11.2	Neural Network Architectures	24
11.2.1	Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)	24
11.2.2	Convolutional Neural Networks	24
11.2.3	Recurrent Neural Networks	24
11.2.4	Transformers	24
11.3	Back Propagation	24

11.4	Convergence	24
11.5	Overfitting and Underfitting	24
11.6	Hyperparameters	24
11.6.1	Epochs	24
11.6.2	Learning Rate	24
11.7	Transfer Learning	24
11.7.1	Optimizer	24
11.8	Summary	24
11.9	Quiz	24
12	Efficient AI	25
13	Optimizations	26
13.1	Software Optimizations	26
13.1.1	Compression	26
13.1.2	Quantization	26
13.1.3	Weight Pruning	26
13.1.4	Knowledge Distillation	26
13.2	Hardware Optimizations	26
13.2.1	GPUs	26
13.2.2	TPUs	26
13.2.3	NPU's	26
14	Deployment	27
15	On-Device Learning	28
15.1	Federated Learning	28
15.2	On-Device Training	28
16	Hardware Acceleration	29
17	MLOps	30
18	AI Sustainability	31
19	Responsible AI	32
20	Generative AI	33
	References	34
	Acknowledgements	35

Preface

In “Embedded AI: Principles, Algorithms, and Applications”, we will embark on a critical exploration of the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence in the context of embedded systems, originally nurtured from the foundational course, tinyML from CS249r.

The goal of this book is to bring about a collaborative endeavor with insights and contributions from students, practitioners and the wider community, blossoming into a comprehensive guide that delves into the principles governing embedded AI and its myriad applications.

As a living document, this open-source textbook aims to bridge gaps and foster innovation by being globally accessible and continually updated, addressing the pressing need for a centralized resource in this dynamic field. With a rich tapestry of knowledge woven from various expert perspectives, readers can anticipate a guided journey that unveils the intricate dance between cutting-edge algorithms and the principles that ground them, paving the way for the next wave of technological transformation.

The Philosophy Behind the Book

We live in a world where technology perpetually reshapes itself, fostering an ecosystem of open collaboration and knowledge sharing stands as the cornerstone of innovation. This philosophy fuels the creation of “Embedded AI: Principles, Algorithms, and Applications.” This is a venture that transcends conventional textbook paradigms to foster a living repository of knowledge. Anchoring its content on principles, algorithms, and applications, the book aims to cultivate a deep-rooted understanding that empowers individuals to navigate the fluid landscape of embedded AI with agility and foresight. By embracing an open approach, we not only democratize learning but also pave avenues for fresh perspectives and iterative enhancements, thus fostering a community where knowledge is not confined but is nurtured to grow, adapt, and illuminate the path of progress in embedded AI technologies globally.

Prerequisites

Venturing into “Embedded AI: Principles, Algorithms, and Applications” does not mandate you to be a maestro in machine learning from the outset. At its core, this resource seeks to nurture learners who bear a fundamental understanding of systems and harbor a curiosity to explore the confluence of disparate, yet interconnected domains: embedded hardware, artificial intelligence, and software. This confluence forms a vibrant nexus where innovations and new knowledge streams emerge, making a basic grounding in system operations a pivotal tool in navigating this dynamic space.

Moreover, the goal of this book is to delve into the synergies created at the intersection of these fields, fostering a learning environment where the boundaries of traditional disciplines blur to give way to a holistic, integrative approach to modern technological innovations. Your interest in unraveling embedded AI technologies and low-level software mechanics would be guiding you through a rich learning experience.

Conventions Used in This Book

Please follow the conventions listed in [Conventions](#)

How to Contact Us

Please contact *vj@eecs.harvard.edu*

How to Contribute

Please see instructions at [here](#).

Contributors

Please see [Credits](#).

Credits

coming soon.

1 About Us

This book is a collaborative effort started by the CS249r Tiny Machine Learning class at Harvard University. We intend for this book to become a community-driven effort to help educators and learners get started with TinyML. This living document will be continually updated as we continue to learn more about TinyML and how to teach it.

1.1 Intended Audience

This book is designed specifically for newcomers who wish to explore the fascinating and nascent world of tiny machine learning (tinyML). It provides the basic underpinnings of ML and embedded systems, and moves into more complex and broader topics relevant to both the tinyML and broader research community.

1.2 Book Structure

This book is specifically designed to serve both educators and learners in getting started with TinyML. The topics begin with a basic introduction to machine learning (ML) and embedded systems. Following this, readers will be introduced to the ML workflow in the context of tinyML, including data collection, data engineering, model development, model deployment, and then MLOps. Subsequently, special topics are covered such as on-device learning, secure and privacy-preserving ML, responsible AI, sustainability, and generative AI.

1.3 Key Takeaways

Users of this book will learn how to train and deploy deep neural network models on resource-constrained microcontrollers and the broader challenges associated with their design, development, deployment, and use.

After completing the course, readers will be empowered with the capabilities to design and implement their own ML-enabled projects, starting from defining a problem to gathering data and training the neural network model and finally deploying it to the device to display inference results or control other hardware appliances based on inference data.

2 Dedication

This book is a testament to the idea that, in the vast expanse of technology and innovation, it's not always the largest systems, but the smallest ones, that can change the world.

3 Introduction

3.1 AI for Beginners

3.2 Machine Learning and Deep Learning

3.3 Machine Learning

3.4 Deep Learning

3.5 Applications of Deep Learning

3.6 Quiz

4 Deep Learning

4.1 What are Neural Networks

4.2 What is Deep Learning Training

4.3 What is Deep Learning Inference

5 Embedded Systems

5.1 Sensors

5.2 Power

coming soon.

6 Embedded ML

6.1 CloudML

6.2 EdgeML

6.3 TinyML

6.3.1 TinyML for IoT Systems

6.3.2 How does TinyML Work

6.3.3 Resources are Limited, but so is the Competition

6.4 Exercises

7 ML Workflow

7.1 Data Collection

7.2 Pre-Processing

7.3 Training

7.4 Optimization

7.5 Deployment

7.6 Evaluation

7.7 Quiz

8 Data Engineering

8.1 Data Sources

8.2 Training Data

8.3 Training Data Splits

8.4 Data Labeling

8.5 Types of Data

9 Pre-processing

9.1 What is Data Pre-processing?

9.2 What's Involved with Data Pre-processing?

9.3 What's The Importance Of Data Pre-Processing?

10 ML Frameworks

coming soon.

11 Model Training

11.1 Selecting a Training Dataset

11.2 Neural Network Architectures

11.2.1 Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)

11.2.2 Convolutional Neural Networks

11.2.3 Recurrent Neural Networks

11.2.4 Transformers

11.3 Back Propagation

11.4 Convergence

11.5 Overfitting and Underfitting

11.6 Hyperparameters

11.6.1 Epochs

11.6.2 Learning Rate

11.7 Transfer Learning

11.7.1 Optimizer

11.8 Summary

11.9 Quiz

12 Efficient AI

coming soon.

13 Optimizations

13.1 Software Optimizations

13.1.1 Compression

13.1.2 Quantization

13.1.3 Weight Pruning

13.1.4 Knowledge Distillation

13.2 Hardware Optimizations

13.2.1 GPUs

13.2.2 TPUs

13.2.3 NPUs

14 Deployment

15 On-Device Learning

15.1 Federated Learning

15.2 On-Device Training

coming soon.

16 Hardware Acceleration

coming soon.

17 MLOps

18 AI Sustainability

coming soon.

19 Responsible AI

coming soon.

20 Generative AI

coming soon.

References

Acknowledgements

coming soon.