

Choosing_an_ML_Environment

September 18, 2020

1 Which Machine Learning Environment to choose ?

So many choices ! What is best for me ? - Initially: the remote server we provide will be easiest - Long-term: a local environment will help you to continue your learning beyond the course

But there is another important consideration: the availability of a GPU.

A GPU (Graphic Processing Unit) is a bit of hardware that can be added to a computer - Originally for gamers ! Fast graphics. - But *invaluable* for speeding up models that use Neural Networks/Deep Learning. - Not *necessary* but highly desirable

- It is likely that your local machine *does not* have a GPU
 - Not a problem for Classical Machine learning
- The remote server we provide
 - We provide one *without* a GPU
 - We also provide *limited access* to one **with** a GPU
 - See the course page for links to each

1.1 Google Colab

There is yet another alternative for a *remote* Machine Learning Environmet - [Google Colab](#)

This is a very powerful and **free** environment - It provides access to machines with a GPU - No setup required by you

The downsides: - There is no persistent storage, so your work/files disappear after each session - You will have to download your work each time - Software gets updated by Google, not you - So the version of a package that you are using may change - Some running code may break

In the Deep Learning part of the course - We will show you how to use Colab - We will show some tricks to make you more productive in Colab - Gaining persistent storage via Google Drive

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[ ]: print("Done")
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