

Week 3: LLM APIs & Multimodal AI

CS 203: Software Tools and Techniques for AI

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Today's Agenda (90 minutes)

1. Introduction to LLM APIs (10 min)

- What are LLM APIs?
- Major providers and models

2. Gemini API Setup (15 min)

- API keys and authentication
- Python SDK setup
- Basic text generation

3. Text Understanding (20 min)

- Classification, NER, QA
- Few-shot learning

What are LLM APIs?

Large Language Model APIs

APIs that provide access to powerful AI models:

- Generate and understand text
- Analyze images, audio, video
- Extract structured information
- Perform complex reasoning

Why Use LLM APIs?

- No need to train models yourself
- State-of-the-art performance
- Pay-per-use pricing

Major LLM Providers

Provider	Models	Strengths
OpenAI	GPT- 4, GPT- 3.5	Text, code, vision
Google	Gemini Pro, Ultra	Multimodal, long context
Anthropic	Claude 3	Long context, safety
Meta	Llama 2, 3	Open source
Mistral	Mixtral, Mistral	Efficient, multilingual

Today's Focus: Gemini API

- Powerful multimodal capabilities
- Generous free tier
- Easy Python SDK
- State-of-the-art performance

Gemini API Setup

Get Your API Key

1. Visit [Google AI Studio](#)
2. Create or select a project
3. Generate API key
4. Set environment variable:

```
export GEMINI_API_KEY='your-api-key-here'
```

Install SDK

```
pip install google-genai pillow requests
```

Initialize Gemini Client

Basic Setup

```
import os
from google import genai

# Check for API key
if 'GEMINI_API_KEY' not in os.environ:
    raise ValueError("Set GEMINI_API_KEY environment variable")

# Initialize client
client = genai.Client(api_key=os.environ['GEMINI_API_KEY'])

# Available models
MODEL = "models/gemini-3-pro-preview"
IMAGE_MODEL = "models/gemini-3-pro-image-preview"

print("Gemini client initialized!")
```

Your First API Call

Simple Text Generation

```
# Create a simple prompt
response = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents="Explain what a Large Language Model is in one sentence."
)

print(response.text)
```

Output:

A Large Language Model (LLM) is an AI system trained on massive amounts of text data to understand and generate human-like language.

That's it! You've just used an LLM API.

Understanding the Response

Response Structure

```
response = client.models.generate_content(  
    model=MODEL,  
    contents="What is 2 + 2?"  
)  
  
# Access different parts  
print(response.text)                # "2 + 2 equals 4"  
print(response.usage_metadata)      # Token usage  
print(response.candidates[0].finish_reason) # Why it stopped
```

Key Attributes

- `text`: The generated text
- `usage_metadata`: Input/output tokens

Part 2: Text Understanding

Common NLP Tasks

1. **Sentiment Analysis:** Positive/Negative/Neutral
2. **Named Entity Recognition:** Extract people, places, orgs
3. **Classification:** Categorize text
4. **Summarization:** Condense long text
5. **Question Answering:** Answer questions from context
6. **Translation:** Multilingual translation

Key advantage: No training required! Just describe the task.

Sentiment Analysis

Basic Example

```
text = "This product exceeded my expectations! Absolutely love it."

response = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents=f"""
Analyze the sentiment of this text.
Respond with only: Positive, Negative, or Neutral.

Text: {text}
"""
)

print(response.text) # "Positive"
```

Pro tip: Clear, specific instructions work best.

Few-Shot Learning

Teach by Example

```
prompt = """
Classify movie reviews as Positive or Negative.

Examples:
Review: "Amazing film! Best I've seen this year."
Sentiment: Positive

Review: "Terrible waste of time and money."
Sentiment: Negative

Now classify:
Review: "The acting was mediocre and plot predictable."
Sentiment:
"""

response = client.models.generate_content(model=MODEL, contents=prompt)
```

Named Entity Recognition

Extract Entities from Text

```
text = "Apple CEO Tim Cook announced new products in Cupertino on Monday."

prompt = f"""
Extract all named entities from this text and categorize them.
Return as JSON with categories: Person, Organization, Location, Date.

Text: {text}
"""

response = client.models.generate_content(model=MODEL, contents=prompt)
print(response.text)
```

Output:

```
{
```

Structured JSON Output

Enforce Output Format

```
from pydantic import BaseModel
from typing import List

class Entity(BaseModel):
    text: str
    category: str

class NERResult(BaseModel):
    entities: List[Entity]

# Request structured output
response = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents="Extract entities: Alice met Bob in Paris on Friday.",
    config={
        "response_mime_type": "application/json",
        "response_schema": NERResult
    }
)
```

Text Summarization

Condense Long Text

```
article = """
[Long news article about climate change ... ]
"""

prompt = f"""
Summarize this article in 3 bullet points:

{article}
"""

response = client.models.generate_content(model=MODEL, contents=prompt)
print(response.text)
```

Tips for good summaries:

Question Answering

Extract Information from Context

```
context = """
Python is a high-level programming language created by Guido van Rossum
in 1991. It emphasizes code readability and allows programmers to express
concepts in fewer lines of code.
"""

question = "Who created Python and when?"

prompt = f"""
Context: {context}

Question: {question}

Answer based only on the context above.
"""
```

Part 3: Multimodal Capabilities

What is Multimodal AI?

Multimodal: Understanding multiple types of data

- Text
- Images
- Audio
- Video
- Documents (PDFs)

Gemini's Multimodal Features

1. **Vision:** Image understanding, OCR, object detection
2. **Audio:** Speech transcription, audio analysis

Image Understanding Basics

Analyze an Image

```
from PIL import Image
import requests
from io import BytesIO

# Load image
url = "https://example.com/cat.jpg"
response = requests.get(url)
image = Image.open(BytesIO(response.content))

# Ask about the image
result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=IMAGE_MODEL,
    contents=[
        "Describe this image in detail.",
        image
    ]
)
```

Visual Question Answering

Ask Specific Questions About Images

```
# Load product image
image = Image.open("product.jpg")

questions = [
    "What color is the product?",
    "What brand is visible?",
    "Is the product damaged?",
    "What is the approximate size?"
]

for question in questions:
    result = client.models.generate_content(
        model=IMAGE_MODEL,
        contents=[question, image]
    )
    print(f"Q: {question}")
```

Object Detection with Bounding Boxes

Detect and Locate Objects

```
image = Image.open("street_scene.jpg")

prompt = """
Detect all objects in this image.
For each object, provide:
1. Object name
2. Bounding box coordinates [x1, y1, x2, y2] normalized to 0-1000
3. Confidence score

Return as JSON array.
"""

result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=IMAGE_MODEL,
    contents=[prompt, image]
)
```

Drawing Bounding Boxes

Visualize Detections

```
from PIL import ImageDraw

def draw_boxes(image, detections):
    draw = ImageDraw.Draw(image)
    width, height = image.size

    for det in detections:
        # Convert normalized coords to pixels
        x1 = int(det['bbox'][0] * width / 1000)
        y1 = int(det['bbox'][1] * height / 1000)
        x2 = int(det['bbox'][2] * width / 1000)
        y2 = int(det['bbox'][3] * height / 1000)

        # Draw box
        draw.rectangle([x1, y1, x2, y2], outline='red', width=3)
        draw.text((x1, y1-20), det['object'], fill='red')

    return image
```

OCR and Document Understanding

Extract Text from Images

```
# Load document image
doc_image = Image.open("receipt.jpg")

prompt = """
Extract all text from this receipt.
Return as structured JSON with:
- merchant_name
- date
- items (array of {name, price})
- total
"""

result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=IMAGE_MODEL,
    contents=[prompt, doc_image]
)
```

Chart and Graph Analysis

Understanding Data Visualizations

```
# Load chart image
chart = Image.open("sales_chart.png")

prompt = """
Analyze this chart and provide:
1. Chart type
2. What data it shows
3. Key trends or insights
4. Approximate values for key data points
"""

result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=IMAGE_MODEL,
    contents=[prompt, chart]
)
```

Mathematical Problem Solving

Solve Math from Images

```
# Load image of handwritten math problem
math_image = Image.open("math_problem.jpg")

prompt = """
Solve this math problem step by step.
Show your work and explain each step.
"""

result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=IMAGE_MODEL,
    contents=[prompt, math_image]
)

print(result.text)
# Step 1: Identify the equation:  $2x + 5 = 13$ 
# Step 2: Subtract 5 from both sides:  $2x = 8$ 
```

Audio Processing

Speech Transcription

```
# Upload audio file
audio_file = client.files.upload(path="interview.mp3")

# Transcribe
result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents=[
        "Transcribe this audio accurately. Include speaker labels if multiple speakers.",
        audio_file
    ]
)

print(result.text)
# Interviewer: Tell me about your experience ...
# Candidate: I have 5 years of experience in ...
```


Video Understanding

Analyze Video Content

```
# Upload video
video_file = client.files.upload(path="product_demo.mp4")

# Wait for processing
import time
while video_file.state == "PROCESSING":
    time.sleep(5)
    video_file = client.files.get(video_file.name)

# Analyze video
result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents=[
        "Summarize this video. What product is being demonstrated and what are its key features?",
        video_file
    ]
)
```

Video Frame Analysis

Extract Information from Specific Frames

```
prompt = """
Analyze this video and:
1. Identify the main subject
2. Describe what happens in the first 10 seconds
3. List any text visible in the video
4. Describe the setting/location
"""

result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents=[prompt, video_file]
)

print(result.text)
```

PDF Document Intelligence

Extract Information from PDFs

```
# Upload PDF
pdf_file = client.files.upload(path="research_paper.pdf")

# Extract structured information
prompt = """
From this PDF, extract:
1. Title and authors
2. Abstract
3. Main sections
4. Key findings (as bullet points)
5. References count

Return as JSON.
"""

result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents=[prompt, pdf_file]
```

Multi-Page PDF Extraction

Process Complex Documents

```
# Upload multi-page invoice
invoice_pdf = client.files.upload(path="invoice_multi.pdf")

prompt = """
Extract all line items from this invoice across all pages.
For each item provide: description, quantity, unit_price, total.
Also extract: invoice_number, date, vendor, grand_total.

Return as JSON.
"""

result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents=[prompt, invoice_pdf]
)
```

Advanced Features: Streaming

Stream Responses in Real-Time

```
# Useful for long responses or chat interfaces
prompt = "Write a detailed explanation of quantum computing."

for chunk in client.models.generate_content_stream(
    model=MODEL,
    contents=prompt
):
    print(chunk.text, end='', flush=True)
```

Benefits:

- Lower perceived latency
- Better user experience
- Can stop generation early

Function Calling

Let LLM Call Your Functions

```
def get_weather(location: str) → dict:
    """Get current weather for a location"""
    # Call weather API
    return {"temp": 72, "condition": "sunny"}

# Define function for LLM
functions = [{
    "name": "get_weather",
    "description": "Get current weather",
    "parameters": {
        "type": "object",
        "properties": {
            "location": {"type": "string", "description": "City name"}
        },
        "required": ["location"]
    }
}]

response = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents="What's the weather in Mumbai?",
    tools=functions)
```

Search Grounding

Ground Responses in Real-Time Web Search

```
from google.genai import types

# Enable Google Search grounding
result = client.models.generate_content(
    model=MODEL,
    contents="What were the latest developments in AI this week?",
    config=types.GenerateContentConfig(
        tools=[types.Tool(google_search=types.GoogleSearch())]
    )
)

print(result.text)
# Response will include recent, factual information from web search

# Access grounding metadata
for source in result.grounding_metadata.sources:
```

Batch Processing

Process Multiple Requests Efficiently

```
texts = [  
    "This product is amazing!",  
    "Terrible experience, very disappointed.",  
    "It's okay, nothing special."  
]  
  
results = []  
for text in texts:  
    response = client.models.generate_content(  
        model=MODEL,  
        contents=f"Sentiment (Positive/Negative/Neutral): {text}"  
    )  
    results.append({  
        'text': text,  
        'sentiment': response.text.strip()  
    })
```


Error Handling

Robust API Calls

```
import time

def safe_generate(prompt, max_retries=3):
    for attempt in range(max_retries):
        try:
            response = client.models.generate_content(
                model=MODEL,
                contents=prompt
            )
            return response.text

        except Exception as e:
            if "RATE_LIMIT" in str(e) and attempt < max_retries - 1:
                wait_time = 2 ** attempt # Exponential backoff
                print(f"Rate limited. Waiting {wait_time}s ... ")
                time.sleep(wait_time)
                continue
            elif attempt == max_retries - 1:
                raise
            else:
                print(f"Error: {e}")
```

Cost Management

Understanding API Costs

Gemini Pricing (approximate):

- Free tier: 15 requests/minute
- Input tokens: ~\$0.00025 per 1K tokens
- Output tokens: ~\$0.001 per 1K tokens
- Images: ~\$0.0025 per image

Track Usage

```
response = client.models.generate_content(  
    model=MODEL,  
    contents=prompt  
)
```

Best Practices

Prompt Engineering

1. **Be specific:** Clear instructions get better results
2. **Provide examples:** Few-shot learning improves accuracy
3. **Request format:** Specify desired output structure
4. **Context first:** Give context before questions
5. **Iterate:** Test and refine prompts

Production Considerations

- Implement rate limiting
- Add retry logic with exponential backoff
- Cache responses when possible

Comparison: Gemini vs OpenAI vs Claude

Feature	Gemini	GPT-4	Claude 3
Context Length	2M tokens	128K tokens	200K tokens
Multimodal	Text, Image, Audio, Video	Text, Image	Text, Image
Free Tier	15 req/min	No	No
Pricing	Lower	Higher	Medium
Strengths	Multimodal, long context	Reasoning	Safety, long context

When to Use Each

- **Gemini:** Multimodal tasks, long documents, cost-effective
- **GPT-4:** Complex reasoning, code generation
- **Claude:** Long context analysis, safety-critical applications

Real-World Use Cases

Content Moderation

- Analyze images/videos for inappropriate content
- Detect spam and toxic text
- Classify user-generated content

Document Processing

- Extract data from invoices, receipts
- Parse resumes and applications
- Analyze contracts and legal documents

Customer Support

- Automated response generation

Lab Preview

What You'll Build Today

Part 1: Text tasks (45 min)

- Sentiment analysis on your data
- Custom classification
- Information extraction

Part 2: Vision tasks (60 min)

- Image description and tagging
- OCR on documents
- Object detection visualization

Part 3: Multimodal applications (60 min)

Questions?

Get Ready for Lab!

What to install:

```
pip install google-generativeai pillow requests matplotlib pandas numpy
```

What you need:

- Gemini API key from aistudio.google.com/apikey
- Sample images/documents to analyze
- Ideas for AI applications

Resources:

- [Gemini API Docs](#)

See You in Lab!

Remember: LLMs are powerful tools, but verify outputs for critical applications

Next week: Advanced AI topics and deployment