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# Neural Networks and Deep Learning

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## This Lecture: Course Description and Logistics

Course: Neural Networks and Deep Learning  
IE 7615  
Spring 2023

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# This Lecture

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- **Course description**
- **Course logistics**

# Course Objectives

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**After successfully completing this course, you should:**

- **Have learned fundamental concepts of machine learning, neural networks and deep learning**
- **Have learned mathematical foundations of selected mainstream approaches and algorithmic paradigms in neural networks and deep learning**
- **Understand selected theoretical issues in neural networks and deep learning**
- **Understand the function, structure, and characteristics of neural networks**
- **Have learned to apply various neural networks to practical problems**
- **Be able to do hands-on work to design, implement, test, and use neural networks**
- **Have learned to design, implement, train, test, evaluate, and use neural networks**

# Neural Networks and Deep Learning

## Course Topics (tentative)

Topic numbers are not necessarily the order of lectures

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|---|--|
| 1) Introduction and review of basic mathematical preliminaries.                                 | 13) Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and CNN training.                 |
| 2) Artificial neural networks fundamentals.   | 14) CNN architectures, AlexNet, VGGNet, ResNet, Inception, Xception.       |
| 3) Probabilistic approaches, maximum likelihood principle, linear regression.                   | 15) Adaptive learning-rate algorithms, RMSProp, ADAM.                      |
| 4) Information theory basics for deep learning.   | 16) Deep learning in practice, practical advice for deep network training. |
| 5) Generative and discriminative approaches, logistic regression, linear discriminant analysis. | 17) Recurrent neural networks, LSTMs, GRUs, encoder-decoder architectures. |
| 6) Regularization, Bayesian models.   | 18) Autoencoders.  |
| 7) Biological neural networks and selected neuroscience basics.                                 | 19) Neural attention, transformers (Transformer neural networks), BERT     |
| 8) Multilayer perceptron networks.  | 20) Representation learning, unsupervised and semi-supervised learning.    |
| 9) Backpropagation and training of deep networks.   | 21) Deep generative models, generative adversarial networks (GANs).        |
| 10) Computational graphs for deep networks.   | 22) Probabilistic graphical models for deep learning.                      |
| 11) TensorFlow, Keras, PyTorch.   | 23) Deep-learning-related topics from statistical learning theory.         |
| 12) Regularization for deep learning.   | 24) Selected additional topics in deep learning.                           |

## Neural Networks and Deep Learning

### What We Will Study in This Course, and Why? (1 of 3)

- Modern AI (artificial intelligence) in reality is **neural networks and deep learning**
  - AI — currently a “street name” (media, popular press, advertising) for **neural networks and deep learning**
- Methods, techniques and algorithms of **neural networks and deep learning** are behind operation and successes of modern AI
- As such, **neural networks and deep learning** are **indispensable to modern AI**

## Neural Networks and Deep Learning

### What We Will Study in This Course, and Why? (2 of 3)

- Neural networks and deep learning skills— among top in-demand skills now and in foreseeable future
  - Big and growing demand for neural-networks-and-deep-learning professionals
    - ✦ Companies across industry and commerce need this expertise for their AI applications
    - ✦ Trend will continue as AI continues to pervade more aspects of human activity
  - Numerous opportunities in industry and in academia
- High potential for “transformative” and “disruptive” advances
- BUT key to your success in **neural networks and deep learning** is learning the **SCIENCE** aspects of this field !
  - Implementation skills are NOT enough — it is NOT about being a “toolkit driver” !
  - You need to KNOW underlying theory and math behind code and software libraries (toolkits)
    - ✦ And you need to be able to demonstrate it (e.g., in job interviews)

## Neural Networks and Deep Learning

### What We Will Study in This Course, and Why? (3 of 3)

- To succeed in this field, you need to know **theory and mathematics of neural networks and deep learning**
  - I will teach you these in this course
- In this course, you will also gain **practical hands-on experience**
  - Course project (referred to as “final project”)

Learn mathematical and theoretical foundations

- Learn science of neural networks
- Gain insights and intuitions
- Learn techniques and algorithms
- Learn the science behind modern deep-learning software-libraries, such as TensorFlow and Keras
- To enable you to use these toolkits knowledgeably (wisely)

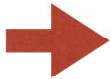
Gain practical HANDS-ON experience

- Course Project (referred to as “Final Project”)
- Learn to *implement* neural networks and deep-learning algorithms and techniques
- Learn to use modern popular software-libraries such as
  - TensorFlow
  - Keras
  - PyTorch

# This Lecture

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# Main Study Sources

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- My lectures
  - Notes you take during class
  - Discussions in class
- Lecture slides for your study in this course will be placed on the Canvas system (“Canvas”)
- Required textbook (see next slide “Books”)
- Check Canvas often
  - Lecture slides
  - Syllabus
  - Homework assignments
  - Announcements (in addition to announcements made in class)
  - Other course-related items

# Books

Refer to course syllabus.

## Required textbook:

Goodfellow, I., Bengio, Y., Courville, A., '[Deep Learning](#),' MIT Press, 2016.

## Supplemental references:

Bishop, C. M., '[Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning](#),' Springer, 2006.

Hastie, T., Tibshirani, R. and Friedman, J., '[The Elements of Statistical Learning](#),' 2nd Ed., Springer. 2017.

Haykin, S., '[Neural Networks and Learning Machines](#),' 3rd Ed., Pearson, 2009.

Koller, D. and Friedman, N., '[Probabilistic Graphical Models](#),' MIT Press. 2009.

Murphy, K.P., '[Machine Learning: A Probabilistic Perspective](#),' MIT Press, 2012.

Duda, R.O., Hart, P.E., and Stork, D.G., '[Pattern Classification](#),' Wiley, 2001.

Scholkopf B. and Smola A., '[Learning with Kernels](#),' MIT Press, 2002.

Dayan, P. and Abbott, L.F., '[Theoretical Neuroscience: computational and mathematical modeling of neural systems](#),' MIT Press, 2001.

# Grading

Refer to course syllabus.

## • Exams

- Midterm exam: 17% of total course-grade
- Final exam: 30% of total course-grade

If either midterm exam or final exam is not administered *to entire class*, respective percentage weight of non-administered exam will be distributed to remaining grade-components — however please note that if exam is administered to class, redistribution option will NOT be available to any individual student(s)

Participation in all administered exams is required

Non-participation or receiving a zero-score in either the midterm exam or in the final exam when administered, may result (regardless of any other grade-components, e.g., scores on other exams, final project, etc.) in failing the course

## • Homework problem-sets — 8% total

- Self-graded, submit completed homework and grade, will be verified at random

## • Final Project (40%)

- More on this in subsequent slide and in subsequent lectures

## • Class participation (5%)

- Attendance, participation in discussions

# Homework — Problem-Sets

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- **Problem-set may include mix of**
  - Problems to solve (written)
  - Coding assignments
    - ✦ In Python
  - Homework — important part of your study, and helps you to prepare for project and exams
- **Self-grading**
  - You will submit your solutions (including code for coding assignments), and your own grade
  - We will randomly check to verify

## Expectations, Policies, Student Academic Honesty and Integrity

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Refer to course syllabus.

- Comply with all Northeastern University policies, college/department policies, and rules of this course
- Academic honesty and integrity
  - Cheating not tolerated — risk failing course and/or facing administrative actions
- All work on exams must be student's own work
- Homework assignments must be student's own work
  - Using past-years' solutions (from *any* source) is prohibited
  - Using websites to obtain solutions is prohibited
  - Students *may* engage in discussions of assignments with their peers currently enrolled in this course, and the TA or the instructor, provided that:
    - ✦ Following such interactions each student performs the assignment independently on his/her own (without referring to and/or copying notes from those discussions)
- Refer to syllabus of this course and comply with all rules listed in that syllabus

# Final Project

- Final Project is mandatory Refer to course syllabus.
  - Students are expected to form self-organized teams of up to maximum of three students per team (team-members within each team collaborating to produce respective team's project)
  - Mandatory project-related items include
    - Project proposal submission, project proposal presentation, proposal acceptance (proposals need to be approved by me), final paper submission, final presentation
      - ✦ All of these are mandatory no later than on their respective due-dates
        - These due-dates will be announced well ahead of time
    - Project-specific deliverables, in accordance with any particular accepted project-proposal
  - Projects can be either application-oriented (most common) or theoretical
    - Datasets used must be from reputable public machine-learning research repositories, and must be available without restrictions
  - Project proposals subject to acceptance and approval by me
- Detailed *Project Guidelines* will be provided, and will be covered in class.
  - First part of Project Guidelines will describe project-proposal preparation in detail, and will also be covered in detail in class.

## Submitting Course-Deliverables into Canvas

- **Course-deliverables will be submitted into Canvas ONLY**
  - **E.g., homework assignments, any and all final-project deliverables**
- **Any other form of submission is not allowed**
  - **Submissions by email are not allowed**



# Course Prerequisites

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- **Knowledge of fundamentals of**

- Probability
- Basic linear algebra (matrix algebra)
- Calculus

Slideset covering  
review of some of these  
will be provided

- **At least rudimentary knowledge of Python  
programming language**

- ✦ Knowledge of Matlab or other programming languages such as C/C++ could be an additional advantage

**Making up any deficiencies is, obviously,  
individual responsibility of each student**

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## Questions?