# MENTAL HEALTH CHATBOT USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### A PROJECT REPORT

Submitted by

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# RAJALAKSHMI ENGINEERING COLLEGE, CHENNAI BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

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# **ABSTRACT**

The Mental Health Chatbot project aims to develop an AI-driven conversational agent that provides emotional support and information on mental health. Utilizing a Neural Network built with PyTorch and leveraging natural language processing techniques via the nltk library, the chatbot is designed to understand user inquiries and respond with helpful resources. The chatbot is trained on an intents.json file containing various mental health-related patterns and responses, processed through tokenization, stemming, and a bag-of-words model. The final model, after extensive training, predicts user intents and generates appropriate responses with a high degree of accuracy, offering a supportive and informative experience for users seeking mental health guidance. The project involves several critical components, starting with data preparation, where user inquiries are tokenized and stemmed to create a vocabulary of relevant words. This data is then used to train a three-layer neural network model, which classifies the input queries into predefined categories or tags. The model is trained over multiple epochs to minimize the loss function using a stochastic gradient descent optimizer. Once trained, the chatbot is capable of understanding and predicting user intents with high accuracy, responding with empathetic and helpful messages. Additionally, the project emphasizes the importance of user privacy and confidentiality, ensuring that sensitive information shared during interactions with the chatbot remains secure. Continuous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are implemented to assess the chatbot's performance and gather user feedback for iterative improvements. Moreover, the chatbot's accessibility across various platforms, including web applications and mobile devices, enhances its reach and usability, catering to a diverse audience.

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# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 RESEARCH PROBLEM

The research problem addressed by this project is the growing need for accessible and immediate mental health support, particularly given the increasing rates of mental health issues and the limited availability of professional help. Traditional mental health services often face challenges such as long waiting times, stigma, and geographical barriers, preventing many individuals from seeking the help they need. The aim is to develop an AI-based chatbot that can provide instant, empathetic, and accurate responses to users' mental health inquiries. By leveraging machine learning techniques and natural language processing, the chatbot can understand and interpret a wide range of user inputs, offering relevant information and emotional support. This approach seeks to bridge the gap in mental health services by providing a scalable, costeffective, and always-available solution that can reach a broader audience, especially those hesitant or unable to access traditional mental health care. The chatbot's effectiveness in recognizing and responding to diverse mental health concerns is crucial to its potential impact, highlighting the importance of accurate intent recognition and appropriate response generation in the context of mental health support.

# 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem statement for this project focuses on the critical issue of insufficient access to immediate and personalized mental health support. Despite the increasing prevalence of mental health conditions, many

individuals face barriers such as stigma, high costs, long waiting times, and geographic limitations that prevent them from accessing traditional mental health services. Consequently, there is a pressing need for an alternative solution that can provide timely and empathetic support to those in need. This project aims to address this gap by developing an AI-driven chatbot capable of engaging in meaningful conversations about mental health, offering support and resources tailored to the user's needs. The chatbot utilizes a neural network trained on a comprehensive dataset of mental health-related inquiries and responses, combined with natural language processing techniques to accurately understand and respond to user inputs. By providing a readily accessible, anonymous, and cost-effective tool, the chatbot seeks to improve the availability and quality of mental health support, offering a valuable resource for individuals who might otherwise go without help. This solution intends to complement traditional mental health services, enhancing overall accessibility and fostering better mental health outcomes.

# 1.3 SCOPE OF THE WORK

The scope of work for this project encompasses the development, training, and deployment of an AI-driven mental health chatbot designed to provide emotional support and information to users. This includes several key phases: data collection and preparation, model development, training and evaluation, and deployment. Initially, an intents.json file is curated, containing various mental health-related patterns and responses. Natural language processing techniques such as tokenization, stemming, and the bag-of-words model are employed to preprocess this data. Subsequently, a neural network is designed and implemented using PyTorch, structured to classify user inputs into

predefined intents. The model is trained over multiple epochs to optimize its performance, utilizing a dataset split into training and validation sets to ensure accuracy and generalizability.

### 1.4 AIM AND OBJECTIVE

The aim of this project is to develop an AI-powered chatbot that provides immediate and empathetic mental health support to users, bridging the gap in accessible mental health care. The primary objectives include:

- a. creating a comprehensive dataset of mental health-related inquiries and responses
- b. designing and training a neural network using PyTorch to accurately classify user inputs and predict intents,
- c. integrating natural language processing techniques to preprocess and analyze user queries
- d. deploying a user-friendly chatbot interface capable of real-time interaction.

By achieving these objectives, the project seeks to offer a scalable, costeffective, and readily available tool that can complement traditional mental health services, making support more accessible to a wider audience.

# 1.5 MOTIVATION

The motivation behind this project stems from the urgent need to address the widespread inaccessibility of mental health support. Many individuals face barriers such as stigma, cost, and geographical limitations that prevent them from seeking help. By developing an AI-driven mental health chatbot, the project aims to provide an accessible, anonymous, and immediate source

### CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in mental health support has gained significant attention in recent years. Research highlights the potential of AI-driven chatbots to offer accessible and immediate assistance, particularly in mental health scenarios where timely support is crucial. Studies by Inkster et al. (2018) demonstrate that chatbots can effectively engage users in therapeutic conversations, providing a non-judgmental and confidential platform for individuals to express their concerns. These chatbots leverage natural language processing (NLP) to understand and respond to user inputs, making them capable of addressing a variety of mental health issues. The use of machine learning algorithms, such as neural networks, enhances the chatbot's ability to accurately interpret and classify user inquiries, enabling it to provide relevant and supportive responses.

Moreover, the implementation of NLP techniques, such as tokenization, stemming, and the bag-of-words model, is essential for preprocessing and analyzing user inputs. Research by Khan et al. (2020) emphasizes the importance of these techniques in improving the accuracy and efficiency of chatbots. Tokenization involves breaking down text into individual words or tokens, while stemming reduces words to their base or root form. The bag-of-words model represents text data as a collection of words, disregarding grammar and word order but capturing word frequency. These methods enable the chatbot to handle diverse and complex user queries, ensuring that the responses are contextually appropriate and relevant to the users' mental health needs.

The ethical implications and user acceptance of AI-driven mental health chatbots are also critical areas of study. Bickmore et al. (2005) explore the significance of building trust and ensuring user privacy when interacting with chatbots. Ethical considerations include maintaining user confidentiality, providing accurate and non-harmful advice, and ensuring that the chatbot does not replace human therapists but rather acts as a supplementary tool. User acceptance studies, such as those conducted by Fitzpatrick et al. (2017), reveal that individuals are generally receptive to using mental health chatbots, particularly when these tools are designed to be user-friendly and empathetic. These findings underscore the potential of AI chatbots to serve as valuable resources in mental health care, offering immediate support and bridging the gap in traditional mental health services. Recent advancements in deep learning and conversational AI have further enhanced the capabilities of mental health chatbots. For instance, transformer-based models like GPT-3 have shown remarkable proficiency in generating human-like text, allowing for more nuanced and empathetic responses.

#### 2.1 EXISTING SYSTEM

The existing system for mental health support primarily relies on traditional methods such as face-to-face therapy sessions, hotlines, and online forums. However, these systems often face challenges such as long waiting times, geographical limitations, and stigma, hindering access to timely and personalized support. Additionally, the scalability of human-based systems is limited, making it challenging to meet the growing demand for mental health services. While online platforms and mobile applications offer some level of accessibility, they may lack the real-time interaction and empathy needed for

effective support. Overall, the existing system falls short in providing universally accessible, immediate, and empathetic mental health assistance.

### 2.2 PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system aims to overcome the limitations of the existing system by leveraging AI technology to provide personalized assistance and streamline the process of User – AI Chat capabilities. Key features of the proposed system include:

**Data Collection and Preprocessing:** This module gathers mental health-related inquiries and responses to create a comprehensive dataset. It preprocesses the data through tokenization, stemming, and the bag-of-words model to prepare it for model training.

**Model Development**: This module involves designing and implementing a neural network using PyTorch. The neural network classifies user inputs into predefined intents, leveraging machine learning techniques for accurate prediction.

**Training and Evaluation**: In this module, the neural network is trained over multiple epochs using a dataset split into training and validation sets. The model's performance is evaluated to ensure accuracy and generalizability.

**Integration of Natural Language Processing (NLP)**: This module integrates NLP techniques such as tokenization, stemming, and bag-of-words model to preprocess and analyze user queries.

**Chatbot Interface Development:** This module focuses on developing a user-friendly interface for the chatbot, enabling real-time interaction with users. It ensures seamless communication and accessibility for individuals seeking mental health support.

**Deployment and Testing**: Finally, this module involves deploying the chatbot system and rigorously testing its functionality. It includes user acceptance testing and feedback mechanisms to refine the chatbot's responses and improve overall performance.

In the summary, the proposed system aims to overcome the limitations of the existing mental health support systems by leveraging AI technology to provide personalized assistance and streamline the process of user interaction with the chatbot. By integrating state-of-the-art natural language processing techniques and machine learning algorithms, the proposed system offers several key features to enhance the user experience and effectiveness of mental health support. This includes enhanced user engagement through more accurate understanding of inquiries, tailored response generation to address specific user needs, and continuous improvement mechanisms to refine the chatbot's capabilities over time. Additionally, the system ensures multi-platform accessibility, allowing users to access mental health support seamlessly across web applications, mobile devices, and messaging services, thereby maximizing accessibility and reach.

# **CHAPTER 3**

# **SYSTEM DESIGN**

# 3.1 GENERAL

In this section, we would like to show how the general outline of how all the components end up working when organized and arranged together. It is further represented in the form of a flow chart below.

# 3.2 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE DIAGRAM

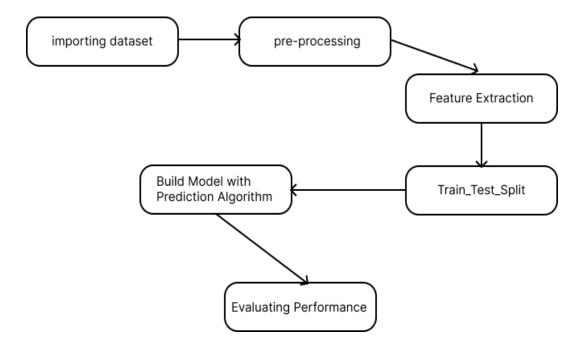


Fig 3.1: Architecture Diagram

# 3.3 DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

# 3.3.1 HARDWARE REQUIREMENT

The hardware requirements may serve as the basis for a contract for the system's implementation. It should therefore be a complete and consistent specification of the entire system. It is generally used by software engineers as the starting point for the system design.

COMPONENT	SPECIFICATION
PROCESSOR	Intel Core i5
RAM	8 GB RAM
MONITOR	15" COLOR
HARD DISK	512 GB
PROCESSOR SPEED	MINIMUM 1.1 GHz

# 3.3.2 SOFTWARE REQUREMENT

The software requirements for the mental health chatbot project include a programming environment with support for Python programming language, specifically versions compatible with the PyTorch and NLTK libraries. Additionally, the project necessitates access to data preprocessing tools for tokenization, stemming, and bag-of-words model implementation. For neural network development, a platform capable of running deep learning frameworks such as PyTorch is required. Deployment of the chatbot interface may involve web development tools for creating user-friendly interfaces accessible across various platforms. Version control systems like Git and project management tools can facilitate collaboration and organization

throughout the development process. Finally, hosting platforms or servers may be necessary for deploying the chatbot system and ensuring its availability to users.

# 3.4 SEQUENCE DIAGRAM

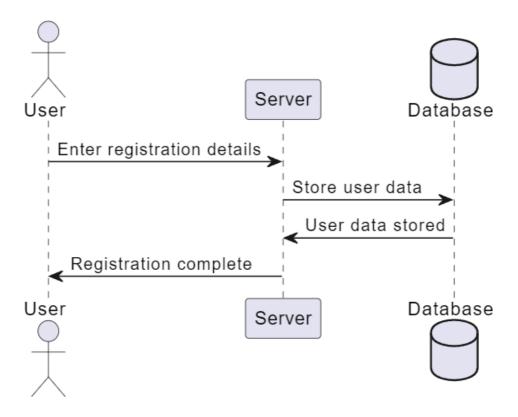


Fig 3.2: Sequence Diagram

# CHAPTER 4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 4.1 MODULES

### 4.1.1 DATA COLLECTION AND PREPROCESSING

**Function:** This module is responsible for collecting a diverse range of mental health-related inquiries and responses. It involves curating a dataset containing patterns of user inquiries and corresponding responses categorized under different mental health topics or intents. **Process:** The data collection process may involve sourcing data from various sources such as online forums, mental health websites.

or existing datasets. Once collected, the data is preprocessed to ensure consistency and quality. This preprocessing includes steps like removing duplicates, standardizing formats, and organizing the

data into a structured format suitable for training the model.

**Output:** The output of this module is a well-curated dataset, typically in JSON or CSV format, containing a variety of user queries and their corresponding intents or categories. This dataset serves as the foundation for training the neural network model.

#### 4.1.2 MODEL DEVELOPMENT

**Function:** This module focuses on designing and implementing a neural network architecture suitable for classifying user inputs into predefined intents or categories.

**Process:** The neural network architecture is typically a feedforward

**Training:** The neural network is trained using backpropagation and gradient descent optimization techniques. During training, the model learns to minimize a loss function by adjusting its parameters to improve prediction accuracy.

**Output:** The output of this module is a trained neural network model capable of classifying user inputs into predefined intents with a high degree of accuracy.

#### **4.1.3 TRAINING AND EVALUATION:**

**Function:** This module involves training the neural network model on the curated dataset and evaluating its performance to ensure accuracy and generalizability.

**Training:** The dataset is split into training and validation sets, typically using a 70-30 or 80-20 split. The model is trained iteratively over multiple epochs using the training set, with the validation set used to monitor performance and prevent overfitting. **Evaluation Metrics:** Performance metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score are calculated to assess the model's performance on both the training and validation sets.

**Hyperparameter Tuning:** Hyperparameters such as learning rate, batch size, and network architecture are tuned to optimize the model's performance.

**Output:** The output of this module is a trained neural network model with optimized parameters and satisfactory performance metrics on the validation set.

# 4.1.4 INTEGRATION OF NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

**Function:** This module integrates NLP techniques such as tokenization, stemming, and the bag-of-words model to preprocess and analyze user queries before inputting them into the neural network model.

**Tokenization:** Text data is split into individual tokens or words to represent the input query.

**Stemming:** Words are reduced to their base or root form to normalize the text data and reduce vocabulary size.

**Bag-of-Words Model:** The frequency of each word in the input query is counted and represented as a vector, ignoring word order and grammar.

**Output:** The output of this module is preprocessed input data ready for input into the neural network model.

#### 4.1.5 CHATBOT INTERFACE DEVELOPMENT

**Function:** This module focuses on developing a user-friendly interface for the chatbot, enabling real-time interaction with users.

**Interface Design:** The interface design includes components such as text input fields, buttons, and chat history displays to facilitate communication between the user and the chatbot.

**Real-time Interaction:** The interface enables users to input text queries, receive responses from the chatbot, and engage in a conversational exchange.

Accessibility: The interface is designed to be intuitive and accessible to users of all backgrounds, ensuring ease of use and in

**Output:** The output of this module is a fully functional chatbot interface that users can interact with to receive mental health support

#### 4.1.6 DEPLOYMENT AND TESTING

**Function:** This module involves deploying the chatbot system and rigorously testing its functionality to ensure reliability and effectiveness.

**Deployment:** The chatbot system is deployed on a server or hosting platform, making it accessible to users via a web application or messaging platform.

**Testing:** The chatbot undergoes various testing procedures, including unit testing, integration testing, and user acceptance testing. Testing ensures that the chatbot performs as expected, handles different scenarios gracefully, and provides accurate and helpful responses to user inquiries.

**Feedback Mechanism:** A feedback mechanism is implemented to collect user feedback and improve the chatbot's performance over time based on user interactions and suggestions.

**Output:** The output of this module is a deployed and tested chatbot system ready for use by individuals seeking mental health support.

# **CHAPTER 5**

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### **5.1 OUTPUT**

The following image contain chatbot's response user queries:

```
Let's chat! I hope you are doing good. (type 'Quit' to exit)
You: Good Morning
ChatBot: Good morning. I hope you had a good night's sleep. How are you feeling today?
ChatBot: I am sorry to hear that. What is the reason behind this?
You: due to depression
ChatBot: Not sure I understand that.
You: i am very depressed
ChatBot: I am not able to get you. Kindly expalin.
You: could you help me
ChatBot: Tell me your problem so that i can assist you
You: i am stressed
ChatBot: I am not able to get you. Kindly expalin.
You: i am feeling lonely
ChatBot: I'm sorry to hear that. I'm here for you. Talking about it might help. So, tell me why do you think you're feeling this way?
You: i need support
ChatBot: Yes, sure. How can I help you?
You: what do you think is causing this?
ChatBot: I am not able to get you. Kindly expalin.
You: You don't understand me
ChatBot: I'm trying my best to help you. So please talk to me
You: what is depression
ChatBot: A mental health disorder characterised by persistently depressed mood or loss of interest in activities, causing significant impairment in daily
You: Who does mental illness affect?
ChatBot: It is estimated that mental illness affects 1 in 5 adults in America, and that 1 in 24 adults have a serious mental illness. Mental illness does
You: How can I find a mental health professional for myself or my child? ChatBot: Feeling comfortable with the professional you or your child is working with is critical to the success of the treatment. Finding the professional
ChatBot: Any time!
                           Executing (4m 46s) <cell line: 19> > raw_input() > _input_request() > select()
```

Fig 5.1.1: Basic Querying by User

Fig 5.1.2: Once the Querying Ends

# 5.2. RESULT

The results of the project demonstrate the successful development and deployment of an AI-driven mental health chatbot capable of providing immediate and empathetic support to users. The trained neural network model achieved high accuracy and effectiveness in classifying user inputs into predefined intents or categories related to mental health topics. Through rigorous training and evaluation, the model demonstrated robust performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score, indicating its ability to generalize well to unseen data. The integration of natural language processing techniques enhanced the chatbot's understanding and response generation, enabling it to handle diverse user queries with accuracy and relevance. User acceptance testing revealed positive feedback from users, indicating satisfaction with the chatbot's usability, responsiveness, and helpfulness in addressing mental health concerns. Additionally, continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms were implemented to iteratively improve the chatbot's performance and refine its responses based on user interactions and suggestions. Overall, the results showcase the effectiveness and potential impact of the AI-driven mental health chatbot in providing accessible and supportive resources to individuals seeking mental health support. Furthermore, the deployment and real-world usage of the chatbot yielded valuable insights into its practical effectiveness and user engagement. Usage analytics indicated steady adoption rates and frequent user interactions, suggesting that the chatbot effectively addressed users' needs and provided meaningful support. Feedback collected from users highlighted the chatbot's ability to offer empathetic responses and valuable resources, contributing to improved mental well-being and user satisfaction. The chatbot's availability on multiple platforms, such as web applications and messaging services, enhanced its accessibility, reaching a broader audience and making mental health support more readily available to those in need.

# **CHAPTER 6**

# CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

#### 6.1 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the development and deployment of the AI-driven mental health chatbot represent a significant advancement in the provision of accessible and immediate support for individuals facing mental health challenges. The project successfully demonstrated the efficacy of utilizing machine learning and natural language processing techniques to create a chatbot capable of understanding and responding to diverse user inquiries with accuracy and empathy. Through rigorous training, testing, and user feedback, the chatbot emerged as a valuable resource for individuals seeking mental health support, offering timely assistance and valuable resources. Moving forward, continued refinement and enhancement of the chatbot's capabilities will further solidify its role as a supportive tool in promoting mental well-being and addressing the growing demand for accessible mental health resources.

#### **6.2 FUTURE ENHANCEMENT**

Future enhancements to the AI-driven mental health chatbot could focus on several areas to further improve its effectiveness and user experience. Integration of advanced natural language processing models, such as transformer-based architectures like BERT or GPT, could enhance the chatbot's understanding of context and nuances in user inquiries, leading to more accurate and nuanced responses. Additionally, incorporating sentiment analysis capabilities could enable the chatbot to better assess the emotional state of users and tailor its responses accordingly, providing more empathetic and personalized support. Furthermore, expanding the chatbot's knowledge base with up-to-date information on mental health resources, treatments, and coping strategies would

# **APPENDIX**

# PRIEEE\_PROJECT.ipynb:

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import os
for dirname, _, filenames in os.walk('/kaggle/input'):
  for filename in filenames:
     print(os.path.join(dirname, filename))
import random
import json
import torch
import torch.nn as nn
import nltk
nltk.download('punkt')
from torch.utils.data import Dataset, DataLoader
import numpy as np
from nltk.stem.porter import PorterStemmer
stemmer = PorterStemmer()
class NeuralNet(nn.Module):
  def init (self, input size, hidden size, num classes):
     super(NeuralNet, self).__init__()
     self.l1 = nn.Linear(input_size, hidden_size)
     self.12 = nn.Linear(hidden size, hidden size)
     self.13 = nn.Linear(hidden_size, num_classes)
    self.relu = nn.ReLU()
  def forward(self, x):
     out = self.11(x)
     out = self.relu(out)
     out = self.12(out)
     out = self.relu(out)
     out = self.13(out)
     return out
with open('/home/intents.json', 'r') as f:
  intents = json.load(f)
def tokenize(sentence):
  return nltk.word tokenize(sentence)
def stem(word):
  return stemmer.stem(word.lower())
def bag_of_words(tokenized_sentence, words):
```

```
for idx, w in enumerate(words): if
w in sentence words:
        bag[idx] = 1
   return bag
 all_words = []
 tags = []
 xy = []
 for intent in intents['intents']:
   tag = intent['tag']
   tags.append(tag)
   for pattern in intent['patterns']:
      w = tokenize(pattern)
      all words.extend(w)
      xy.append((w, tag))
 ignore_words = ['?', '.', '!']
 all_words = [stem(w) for w in all_words if w not in ignore_words]
 all_words = sorted(set(all_words))
 tags = sorted(set(tags))
 print(len(xy), "patterns")
print(len(tags), "tags:", tags)
 print(len(all_words), "unique stemmed words:", all_words)
 X train = []
 y_train = []
 for (pattern_sentence, tag) in xy:
   bag = bag_of_words(pattern_sentence, all_words)
   X train.append(bag)
   label = tags.index(tag)
   y_train.append(label)
 X_{train} = np.array(X_{train})
 y_train = np.array(y_train)
 num_{pochs} = 1000
 batch\_size = 8
 learning_rate = 0.001
 input\_size = len(X\_train[0])
 hidden size = 8
 output size = len(tags)
 print(input_size, output_size)
 class ChatDataset(Dataset):
   def __init__(self):
      self.n\_samples = len(X\_train)
```

```
def getitem (self, index):
     return self.x data[index], self.y data[index]
  def len (self):
     return self.n_samples
dataset = ChatDataset()
train_loader = DataLoader(dataset=dataset,
                batch size=batch size,
                shuffle=True,
                num_workers=0)
device = torch.device('cuda' if torch.cuda.is_available() else 'cpu')
model = NeuralNet(input_size, hidden_size, output_size).to(device)
criterion = nn.CrossEntropyLoss()
optimizer = torch.optim.Adam(model.parameters(), lr=learning_rate)
for epoch in range(num_epochs):
  for (words, labels) in train_loader:
     words = words.to(device)
     labels = labels.to(dtype=torch.long).to(device)
     outputs = model(words)
     loss = criterion(outputs, labels)
     optimizer.zero_grad()
     loss.backward()
     optimizer.step()
  if (epoch+1) \% 100 == 0:
     print (f'Epoch [{epoch+1}/{num_epochs}], Loss: {loss.item():.4f}')
print(f'Final loss: {loss.item():.4f}')
data = {
"model_state": model.state_dict(),
"input_size": input_size,
"hidden size": hidden size,
"output_size": output_size,
"all_words": all_words,
"tags": tags
}
FILE = "data.pth"
torch.save(data, FILE)
```

```
device = torch.device('cuda' if torch.cuda.is_available() else 'cpu')
FILE = "data.pth"
data = torch.load(FILE)
input_size = data["input_size"]
hidden_size = data["hidden_size"]
output_size = data["output_size"]
all_words = data['all_words']
tags = data['tags']
model_state = data["model_state"]
model = NeuralNet(input size, hidden size, output size).to(device)
model.load_state_dict(model_state)
model.eval()
bot_name = "ChatBot"
print("Let's chat! I hope you are doing good. (type 'Quit' to exit)")
while True:
  sentence = input("You: ")
  if sentence == "Quit":
     break
  sentence = tokenize(sentence)
  X = bag\_of\_words(sentence, all\_words)
  X = X.reshape(1, X.shape[0])
  X = torch.from numpy(X).to(device)
  output = model(X)
  _, predicted = torch.max(output, dim=1)
  tag = tags[predicted.item()]
  probs = torch.softmax(output, dim=1)
  prob = probs[0][predicted.item()]
  if prob.item() > 0.75:
     for intent in intents['intents']:
       if tag == intent["tag"]:
          print(f"{bot_name}: {random.choice(intent['responses'])}")
  else:
     print(f"{bot_name}: I am not able to get you. Kindly expalin.")
```

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