

Data-Centric AI w/ Deep Learning

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I. Introduction

Arati Prabhakar, the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, assistant to the president for Science and Technology, and a member of President Biden's Cabinet, Washington, DC, has written of the critical importance of improving the vibrancy of American research and development. [1] We here at Fresno State are in a unique opportunity to facilitate this goal by building on important tools available through emerging areas such as Data-Centric Artificial Intelligence.

What is Data-Centric Artificial Intelligence?

"Data-centric AI encompasses methods and tools to systematically characterize, evaluate, and monitor the underlying data used to train and evaluate models. At the ML pipeline level, this means that the considerations at each stage should be informed in a data-driven manner. We term this a data-centric lens. Since data is the fuel for any ML system, we should keep a sharp focus on the data, yet rather than ignoring the model, we should leverage the data-driven insights as feedback to systematically improve the model." [1]

This view of Artificial Intelligence where models are driven more by data than algorithms is only possible in the age of deep learning. Before diving more into this new focus on data, we will need to take a closer look at changes to AI due to Deep Learning.

II. Deep Learning

Until the late 2000's deep neural nets were not able to shine against other machine learning methods. This changed in the late 2009-2010 with several simple but important algorithmic improvements: activation functions, weight initialization schemes, optimization schemes. With these improvements nets of 10 or more layers, allowing deep learning to start to shine. In 2014, 2015, 2016, further improvements introduced with batch normalization, residual networks, and depthwise separable convolutions. Now arbitrarily complex networks are possible. [2]

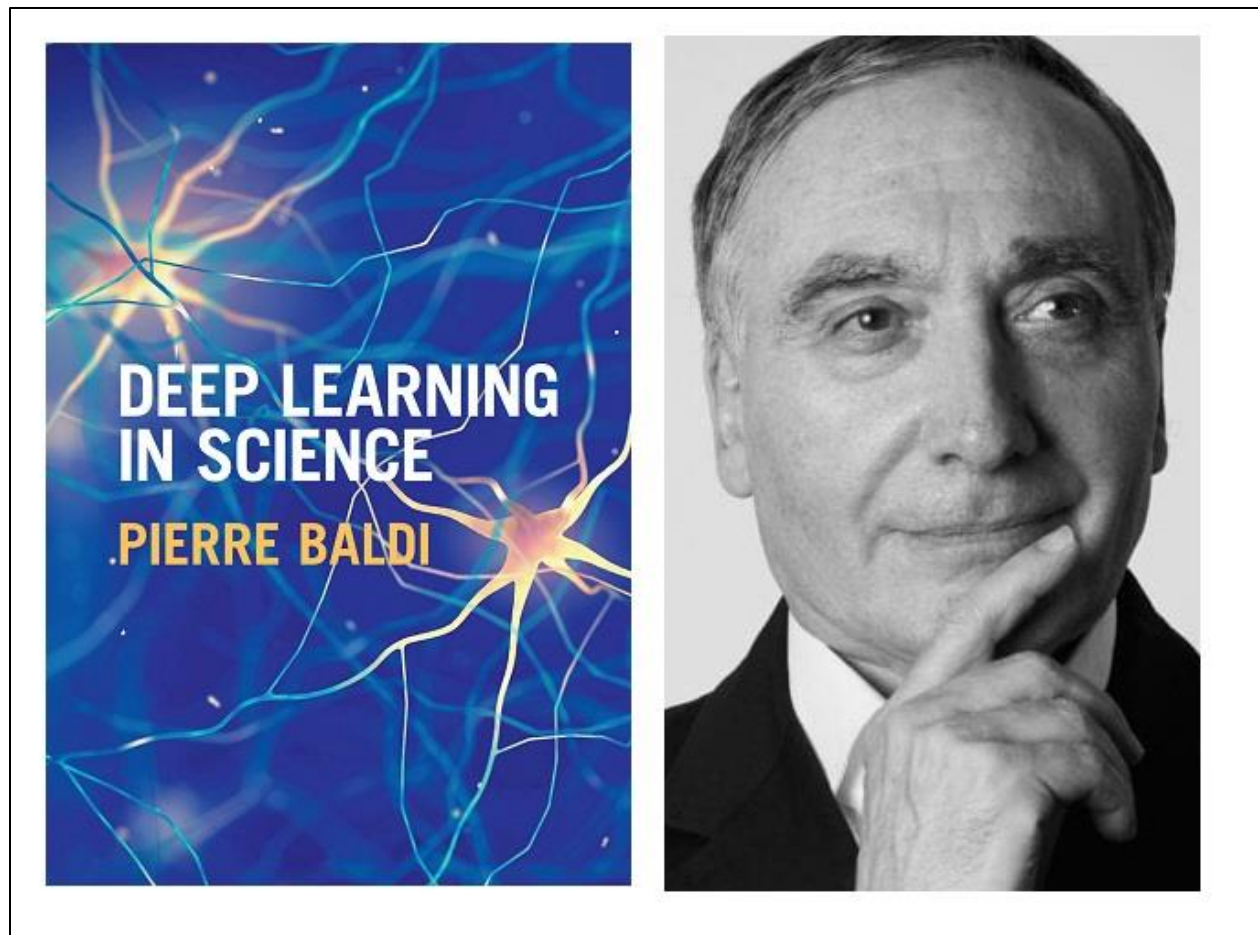


Figure 1 Deep Learning & Neuroscience [3]

Although many researchers approach Deep Learning purely from an algorithmic perspective, some researchers do emphasize the connection to biological neurological systems. Dr. Pierre Baldi with his Deep Learning text encourages researchers to understand these ties. [3]

A. Neurons and Deep Learning

Deep learning has its root in traditional machine learning, which in turn has multiple roots. One root definitely includes the work from neurobiology in understanding brain functioning, and the basic unit the neuron. The perceptron, and its perceptron learning algorithm has always been an important part of machine learning history. [4] Later Yann LeCun took inspiration from animal visual cortex architecture such as the early work of Hubel & Wiesel with cats to with his work with hand-written character recognition. [5] [6]

III. References

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