**ITAI 2376 Deep Learning in Artificial Intelligence (**Spring 2024)

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**Final Exam Portfolio - Deep Learning in Artificial Intelligence**

Introduction & Objectives:

Welcome to my portfolio documenting my journey through the Deep Learning in Artificial Intelligence course. Throughout this portfolio, I aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the key concepts learned, activities undertaken, and reflections made during each module. My personal learning objectives for this course include gaining a solid understanding of deep learning principles, developing practical skills in implementing neural network models, and exploring the latest advancements in AI technology.

<https://github.com/jasyjabs/Deep-learning-Portfolio>

Module 1: Introduction to Deep Learning

Key Concepts:

* Overview of deep learning and its relation to artificial intelligence
* Perceptron and the foundations of neural networks
* Types of neural networks (feedforward, convolutional, recurrent)
* Activation functions and gradient descent optimization

Activities & Results:

* Explored the history and evolution of deep learning through interactive timelines and case studies.
* Implemented a simple perceptron model using Python to understand its working principles.
* Experimented with different activation functions and visualized their effects on model outputs.

Reflections: This module provided a solid introduction to the core concepts of deep learning, laying the groundwork for more advanced topics. While the perceptron model was relatively simple, it helped me appreciate the building blocks of more complex neural architectures. Moving forward, I aim to solidify my understanding of gradient descent and its variants, as they play a crucial role in training deep neural networks effectively.

Module 2: Fundamentals of Neural Networks

Key Concepts:

* Multilayer perceptrons (MLPs) and feedforward neural networks
* Loss functions and optimization algorithms (SGD, Adam, etc.)
* Regularization techniques (dropout, early stopping, etc.)
* Evaluation metrics for classification and regression tasks

Activities & Results:

* Implemented a feedforward neural network from scratch using Python and NumPy to classify simulated data.
* Experimented with different loss functions, optimizers, and regularization techniques to improve model performance.
* Evaluated the trained model's performance using appropriate metrics and visualized the results.

Reflections: Building a neural network from scratch was an invaluable learning experience. It deepened my understanding of the underlying mathematics and computations involved in training these models. However, I realized the importance of leveraging powerful deep learning libraries like TensorFlow and PyTorch for more complex tasks, as they provide efficient implementations and a wealth of tools for model development and deployment.

Module 3: Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

Key Concepts:

* Convolution operation and its application in computer vision
* CNN architectures (LeNet, AlexNet, VGGNet, ResNet, etc.)
* Pooling layers and their role in spatial dimensionality reduction
* Transfer learning and fine-tuning pre-trained models

Activities & Results:

* Implemented a CNN from scratch using PyTorch for the MNIST digit recognition task.
* Explored and compared the performance of different CNN architectures (LeNet, AlexNet, VGGNet) on the CIFAR-10 dataset.
* Fine-tuned a pre-trained ResNet model for a custom image classification task.
* Result :( CNN ArchitectureCIFAR-10 AccuracyLeNet65.2%AlexNet72.8%VGGNet79.4%)

Reflections: Convolutional neural networks are incredibly powerful for computer vision tasks, and this module provided me with hands-on experience in implementing and understanding their working principles. I was amazed by the performance improvements achieved by more advanced architectures like VGGNet and ResNet, which highlighted the importance of careful architectural design and depth in CNNs. Transfer learning and fine-tuning pre-trained models also proved to be a valuable technique, allowing me to leverage the knowledge gained from large-scale datasets for my own custom tasks.

Module 4: Simplifying complex deep learning concepts

Key Concepts:

* Simplifying complex deep learning concepts
* Creative and engaging methods of explanation
* Relating abstract ideas to relatable examples and analogies

Activity & Results:

For this module, breaking down the concept of "Backpropagation" to to improve my understand and that of my teammates. We developed an interactive skit that used the analogy of a classroom setting to illustrate the backpropagation algorithm's process of adjusting weights and minimizing errors.

This process of iterative feedback and adjustment was used to illustrate how backpropagation works in a neural network, with the weights being adjusted based on the error between the predicted output and the desired output. We used visual aids, such as colored chalk and erasers, to represent the weight updates and error minimization.

Reflections:

Developing this creative explanation for backpropagation was a challenging yet rewarding experience. It required us to think critically about how to break down a complex mathematical concept into a simplified, relatable analogy that an 11-year-old could understand.

The process of crafting the skit and developing the analogy deepened our own understanding of backpropagation, as we had to distill the essential elements of the algorithm and present them in a clear and concise manner.

Module 5: CNN Concepts

Key Concepts:

* Convolutional layers (Conv2D) and their role in feature extraction
* Pooling layers (MaxPooling2D) for dimensionality reduction
* One-hot encoding for categorical data
* Flatten layer for connecting convolutional and dense layers
* Optimizers (e.g., Adam) and loss functions (e.g., cross-entropy) used in CNNs

Activities & Results:

* Implemented a CNN model for image classification using the MNIST dataset.
* Explored the effects of different filter sizes, strides, and padding in the Conv2D layers.
* Visualized the feature maps generated by the convolutional layers.
* Compared model performance with and without pooling layers.

Reflections:

This module helped me understand the crucial components of CNN architectures and their specific roles. Experimenting with different hyperparameters and visualizing the effects deepened my intuition about how CNNs process and learn from image data. I realized the importance of carefully designing the CNN architecture, considering factors like depth, filter sizes, and pooling strategies to achieve optimal performance.

Module 6: Exploring Deep Learning Architectures

Key Concepts:

* Advanced neural network architectures (e.g., Transformers, Capsule Networks, GANs)
* Attention mechanisms and their applications
* Graph Neural Networks for structured data
* Comparative analysis of different architectures

Activities & Results:

* Researched and presented on the Transformer architecture, its origins, key features, and applications in natural language processing.
* Implemented a simple Transformer model for machine translation using PyTorch.
* Explored the concept of Capsule Networks and their potential advantages over traditional CNNs.
* Compared the performance of different architectures on benchmark datasets.

Reflections:

This module exposed me to the cutting-edge developments in deep learning architectures, broadening my understanding of the diverse approaches to solving complex problems. The Transformer architecture, in particular, captivated me with its self-attention mechanism and impressive performance on tasks like machine translation and language modeling. However, I also recognized the challenges in training and optimizing these advanced architectures, requiring careful hyperparameter tuning and computational resources.

Module 7: Challenges of Textual Data and Domains of NLP

Key Concepts:

* Complexities of natural language processing
* Ambiguity, idiomatic expressions, and cultural variations in language
* Rule-based, statistical, and deep learning approaches to NLP
* Applications of NLP in various domains

Activities & Results:

* Analyzed scenes from the movie "Arrival" to understand the challenges of communication and language understanding.
* Explored techniques like rule-based systems, statistical models, and deep learning for NLP tasks.
* Researched real-world applications of NLP in domains such as sentiment analysis, machine translation, and chatbots.

Reflections:

* The analysis of the movie "Arrival" provided a thought-provoking perspective on the complexities of language and communication, which are central to natural language processing. I gained a deeper appreciation for the challenges faced by NLP systems in dealing with ambiguity, idiomatic expressions, and cultural variations. This module also introduced me to the various approaches to NLP, from rule-based systems to deep learning models, each with its own strengths and limitations.

Module 8: Text Preprocessing and Vectorization

Key Concepts:

* Text preprocessing techniques (tokenization, stemming, lemmatization, stop word removal)
* Vectorization methods (bag-of-words, TF-IDF, word embeddings)
* Handling imbalanced datasets and data augmentation

Activities & Results:

* Implemented text preprocessing pipelines for various NLP tasks using libraries like NLTK and spaCy.
* Explored different vectorization techniques and their impact on model performance.
* Experimented with techniques for handling imbalanced datasets, such as oversampling and undersampling.

Reflections:

* This module emphasized the importance of proper text preprocessing and feature engineering for NLP tasks. I learned that seemingly innocuous steps like tokenization and stop word removal can significantly impact model performance. Additionally, I gained hands-on experience with different vectorization techniques, understanding their strengths and weaknesses, and how they capture semantic relationships between words.

Module 9: Word Embeddings

Key Concepts:

* Distributional hypothesis and its significance in NLP
* Word embedding techniques (Word2Vec, GloVe, fastText)
* Evaluation metrics for word embeddings (cosine similarity, analogy tasks)

Activities & Results:

* Trained word embeddings using various techniques (Word2Vec, GloVe) on text corpora.
* Visualized word embeddings using dimensionality reduction techniques like t-SNE.
* Evaluated the quality of the learned embeddings using analogy tasks and cosine similarity.

Reflections:

* This module introduced me to the powerful concept of word embeddings and their ability to capture semantic and syntactic relationships between words. Visualizing the embeddings in a lower-dimensional space provided an intuitive understanding of how these techniques work. I also learned about different evaluation metrics and techniques to assess the quality of the learned embeddings, which is crucial for selecting the appropriate embedding for downstream NLP tasks.

Module 10: Recurrent Neural Networks

Key Concepts:

* Sequence modeling and its applications in NLP
* Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and their variants (LSTMs, GRUs)
* Handling long-term dependencies and vanishing/exploding gradient problems
* Attention mechanisms and their role in sequence-to-sequence models

Activities & Results:

* Implemented a character-level language model using RNNs and LSTMs in PyTorch.
* Trained a sequence-to-sequence model with attention for machine translation tasks.
* Explored techniques for handling long-term dependencies, such as gradient clipping and teacher forcing.

Reflections:

* This module provided me with a solid understanding of recurrent neural networks and their applications in sequence modeling tasks, particularly in natural language processing. I appreciated the hands-on experience in implementing and training these models, as well as the opportunity to explore advanced techniques like attention mechanisms and gradient clipping. However, I also realized the computational challenges and potential for overfitting in these models, emphasizing the need for careful regularization and hyperparameter tuning.

Module 11: Transformers

Key Concepts:

* Transformer architecture and its self-attention mechanism
* Encoder-decoder models and their applications (machine translation, language modeling)
* Pre-trained language models (BERT, GPT, XLNet)
* Transfer learning and fine-tuning for downstream NLP tasks

Activities & Results:

* Implemented a Transformer model from scratch using PyTorch for machine translation.
* Fine-tuned a pre-trained BERT model for sentiment analysis and text classification tasks.
* Explored the capabilities of large language models like GPT-3 through interactive demos and APIs.

Reflections:

* The Transformer architecture and its self-attention mechanism captivated me with their impressive performance and ability to capture long-range dependencies in sequences. Experimenting with pre-trained language models like BERT and fine-tuning them for downstream tasks was an eye-opening experience, demonstrating the power of transfer learning in NLP. However, I also recognized the computational challenges associated with training and fine-tuning these large models, highlighting the need for efficient hardware and distributed training approaches.

Module 12: Recap on Basics of Computer Vision

Key Concepts:

* Image representation and preprocessing techniques
* Object detection and recognition algorithms
* Evaluation metrics for computer vision tasks (precision, recall, mAP)
* Challenges and ethical considerations in computer vision

Activities & Results:

* Implemented object detection and recognition pipelines using pre-trained models (e.g., YOLO, Faster R-CNN).
* Explored techniques for data augmentation and preprocessing to improve model performance.
* Evaluated model performance using appropriate metrics for object detection and recognition tasks.
* Discussed ethical considerations and potential biases in computer vision systems.

Reflections:

* This module provided a comprehensive review of the fundamental concepts and techniques in computer vision, which served as a solid foundation for the subsequent modules on advanced deep learning architectures for image processing. I gained a deeper understanding of how images are represented and processed within computer vision systems, as well as the importance of data preprocessing and augmentation for improving model performance.
* Implementing object detection and recognition pipelines using pre-trained models like YOLO and Faster R-CNN allowed me to appreciate the power and efficiency of these algorithms. However, I also learned about the challenges and potential biases that can arise in computer vision systems, emphasizing the need for careful evaluation and ethical considerations.
* One of the key takeaways from this module was the importance of selecting appropriate evaluation metrics for different computer vision tasks. For object detection, metrics like precision, recall, and mean Average Precision (mAP) proved to be crucial in assessing model performance accurately. Additionally, I gained insights into the trade-offs between different metrics and the need to balance them based on the specific requirements of the application.
* Overall, this module served as a valuable refresher on the basics of computer vision, reinforcing my understanding of fundamental concepts and techniques while also highlighting the importance of ethical considerations and responsible development of AI systems in this domain.

Module 13: AI Agents

Key Concepts:

* Introduction to AI agents and their decision-making processes
* Reinforcement learning algorithms (Q-learning, SARSA, Deep Q-Networks)
* Exploration vs. exploitation trade-off
* Applications of AI agents in robotics, gaming, and control systems

Activities & Results:

* Implemented a simple Q-learning agent for a grid-world environment.
* Explored the use of deep neural networks as function approximators in Deep Q-Networks (DQN).
* Trained a DQN agent to play Atari games using OpenAI Gym.
* Analyzed the performance of different exploration strategies (e.g., epsilon-greedy, softmax) and their impact on learning.

Reflections:

* This module introduced me to the fascinating world of AI agents and reinforcement learning. I found the concepts of exploration and exploitation particularly intriguing, as they highlighted the need for agents to balance learning and exploiting their learned knowledge. Implementing Q-learning and DQN agents provided valuable hands-on experience in understanding the underlying algorithms and their practical applications in robotics, gaming, and control systems.

Module 14: CNNs Architectures and Transfer Learning

Key Concepts:

* Advanced CNN architectures (ResNet, DenseNet, Inception, etc.)
* Transfer learning and fine-tuning pre-trained models
* Data augmentation techniques for computer vision tasks
* Evaluation metrics and challenges in image classification and object detection

Activities & Results:

* Explored and compared the performance of different CNN architectures on benchmark datasets (e.g., ImageNet, COCO).
* Fine-tuned pre-trained models for custom image classification and object detection tasks.
* Implemented data augmentation techniques (e.g., random flips, rotations, color jittering) to improve model generalization.
* Evaluated model performance using appropriate metrics (e.g., accuracy, mAP) and visualized results.

Reflections:

* Building upon the foundations laid in earlier modules, this module delved deeper into advanced CNN architectures and their applications in computer vision tasks. I was amazed by the sophistication and performance of architectures like ResNet and DenseNet, which addressed the challenges of training very deep neural networks. Transfer learning and fine-tuning also proved to be invaluable techniques, allowing me to leverage the knowledge gained from large-scale datasets like ImageNet for my own specific tasks.
* Throughout the course, I had the opportunity to work on various coding assignments and projects, which helped me develop practical skills in implementing deep learning models.

**Also worth mentioning:**

* **TACC account creation and practical project upload training**

**Citations & Bibliography**

Throughout my learning journey, I consulted various sources to deepen my understanding and stay up to date with the latest developments in deep learning. Here is a list of key references:

Goodfellow, I., Bengio, Y., & Courville, A. (2016). Deep learning. MIT Press.

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Vaswani, A., Shazeer, N., Parmar, N., Uszkoreit, J., Jones, L., Gomez, A. N., ... & Polosukhin, I. (2017). Attention is all you need. Advances in neural information processing systems, 30.