Essential guidance for

the online class ECE884-730: Neural Networks and Deep Learning

This guidance may be updated as class progresses.

1. This course is intended to be asynchronous, fully online, using pre-recorded video lectures and support material. The instructor will guide the progress of the course through MSU Zoom meetings scheduled on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays primarily for Q&A. Times are scheduled to be from 5pm-6:30pm.

2. The goal of this class is to enable the student to be "current" in Deep Learning (DL) hands-on capabilities and applications supported by basic technical understanding (of Deep Learning).

3. At a minimum, a student can rely on the lecture videos and the class notes and textbook(s) to do well in this project-driven class. In addition, one needs to acquire knowledge in DL Frameworks. Google's Tensorflow 2.0 (or tf) is highly favored as an option using the (sub-)module Keras (tf.keras). You should read up/consult keras.io (Google it).

4. For executing assignments, we will have access to the Google Cloud Engine (GCE) via educational grants-- if necessary. The GCE is a broad Cloud Computing platform. For DL, however, we can also (& easily) use the Google **colab**. You can start by the 2nd week using the tutorial on GCE in the D2L folder and also online.

5. We shall use MSU **gitlab** for "pulling" and "pushing" assignments. Gitlab is similar to github. Both are a must for any serious coding (beyond version control). In the 1st week, you may follow the tutorial to learn about MSU gitlab. We shall also use the free app **Piazza** for the class/group communication and off-line Q&A. you can access the class Piazza link at piazza.com/msu.