

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a branch of computer science that aims to create intelligent machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.

Machine Learning is a subset of AI that enables computers to learn and improve from experience without being explicitly programmed.

Deep Learning is a further subset of machine learning that uses neural networks with multiple layers to model and solve complex tasks.

Key Concepts:

1. Supervised Learning: The algorithm learns from labeled training data, making predictions or decisions based on new, unseen data.
2. Unsupervised Learning: The algorithm finds hidden patterns in data without labeled examples, such as clustering or dimensionality reduction.
3. Reinforcement Learning: An agent learns to make decisions by interacting with an environment and receiving feedback in the form of rewards or penalties.

Natural Language Processing

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a field of AI that focuses on the interaction between computers and human language.

Key NLP Tasks:

- Text Classification: Categorizing text into predefined classes
- Named Entity Recognition: Identifying entities like names, locations, dates
- Sentiment Analysis: Determining the emotional tone of text
- Machine Translation: Translating text from one language to another
- Question Answering: Answering questions based on context

Modern NLP uses transformer architectures, such as BERT and GPT, which have achieved remarkable results in various tasks.

Embeddings are vector representations of words or sentences that capture semantic meaning. They allow machines to understand the context and meaning of text.

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

Retrieval-Augmented Generation, or RAG, is a technique that combines information retrieval with generative AI models.

How RAG Works:

1. Document Ingestion: Documents are processed, chunked, and converted into embeddings that are stored in a vector database.
2. Query Processing: When a user asks a question, the query is converted into an embedding and used to search the vector database.
3. Context Retrieval: The most relevant chunks are retrieved from the vector database based on semantic similarity.
4. Response Generation: The retrieved context is provided to the language model along with the user's question to generate a response.

Benefits of RAG:

- Up-to-date information: Can access current information not in training data
- Source citations: Can cite specific documents and pages
- Reduced hallucinations: Grounded in actual documents
- Domain-specific knowledge: Can be customized for specific domains

This approach is particularly useful for building chatbots that can answer questions about specific documents, such as legal research or medical information.