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Artificial Intelligence

MLOps

Session 3

Welcome & Recap

Environment Management & Dependencies

- Quick recap: Session 2 covered ML workflows & version control
- Today's focus: Solving "It works on my machine" problems
- Poll: Who has experienced dependency issues?

What You'll Learn Today

Objectives:

- Understand dependency hell in ML projects
- Master virtual environment creation and management
- Learn containerization concepts and benefits
- Achieve environment consistency across dev/staging/production
- Apply configuration management principles

The "It Works on My Machine" Problem

A Day at VisionaryAI

Sarah's Machine

- TensorFlow 2.8
- OpenCV 4.5
- Python 3.8
- CUDA 11.2
- Ubuntu 20.04

Your Machine

- TensorFlow 2.12
- OpenCV 4.7
- Python 3.10
- CUDA 11.8
- macOS Monterey

Key Points

Same code, different environments = different results

In ML: Version differences can change model behavior

Traditional software: annoying
ML systems: catastrophic

What is Dependency Hell?

Dependency Hell in ML Context

Multiple Layers:

- System-level: OS libraries, CUDA drivers, system Python
- Python packages: ML libraries with complex interdependencies
- Version constraints: Package compatibility matrices

ML-Specific Challenges:

- Model reproducibility across versions
- GPU compatibility requirements
- Pre-trained model version dependencies
- Research vs production library stability

Real Dependency Conflict Example

VisionaryAI NLP Project Dependency Web

Conflict Visualization:

- `transformers==4.20.0` → requires `torch>=1.9.0`
- `torch==1.13.0` → requires `numpy>=1.21.0`
- `pandas==1.4.0` → requires `numpy>=1.18.5,<1.25.0`
- System has `numpy==1.25.2` ❌

Impact

Import errors and crashes

Silent behavior changes

Development workflow disruption

Virtual Environments Introduction

What is a Virtual Environment?

- Self-contained directory with:
 - Specific Python interpreter
 - Project-specific packages
 - Activation/deactivation scripts
 - Isolation from system Python

Why Virtual Environments Matter for ML

Benefits for ML Projects

Key Benefits:

- Isolation: Each project gets its own dependencies
- Reproducibility: Anyone can recreate exact environment
- Experimentation safety: Test new packages without breaking existing projects
- Version control: Track environment changes with code

VisionaryAI Example:

- Computer Vision: TensorFlow 2.8
- NLP: TensorFlow 2.12
- Recommender: scikit-learn 1.0
- No conflicts!

Types of Virtual Environments

Choosing the Right Tool

| Tool | Best For | Strengths |
|--------|---------------------------|--|
| venv | Simple Python projects | Built-in, lightweight |
| conda | Data science/ML workflows | System dependencies, better resolution |
| Poetry | Modern applications | Advanced dependency management |

Decision Matrix:

- Simple ML learning → venv
- Complex ML projects → conda
- Production applications → Poetry

Containerization Introduction

Beyond Virtual Environments

- **The Problem Virtual Environments Don't Solve:**

- System libraries and dependencies
- Operating system differences
- GPU drivers and CUDA versions
- Database drivers and system tools

- **Solution: Package EVERYTHING in a container**

- Virtual environments = rooms in a house
- Containers = entire portable houses

Docker Basics for ML

Docker Concepts

Key Components

- Dockerfile: Recipe for building container
- Image: Built container template
- Container: Running instance of image

Analogy

- Dockerfile = Cooking recipe
- Image = Cake mold
- Container = Actual cake

Why Containerization Matters for ML

Complete Environment Control

Benefits:

- Complete isolation: OS + system libraries + Python environment
- True reproducibility: Same container = identical behavior
- Simplified deployment: Deploy anywhere Docker runs
- Easy scaling: Multiple instances for high traffic

VisionaryAI Use Case: NLP Helpdesk

Agent container includes:

- Ubuntu 20.04 + Python 3.9 + transformers + torch + custom libraries
- Runs identically on: Mac laptops, Linux staging, Kubernetes production

Environment Consistency Challenge

- **The Three Environments**

- Development: Fast iteration, debugging tools, local machine
- Staging: Production-like testing, integration validation
- Production: Real users, high availability, security focus

- **ML-Specific Risks**

- Different model predictions for same input
- Silent failures with wrong results
- Performance degradation hard to trace



VisionaryAI Consistency Example

Computer Vision Defect Detection Inconsistency

Problem Scenario:

- Dev Environment: OpenCV 4.8 (latest features)
- Staging Environment: OpenCV 4.5 (stability testing)
- Production: OpenCV 4.6 (performance optimized)

Result:

- Same factory image → Different defect detection results

Solution:

- Containerized environments with identical base images

Achieving Environment Consistency

Best Practices for Consistency

Strategies

- Infrastructure as Code: Define environments in version-controlled files
- Containerization: Same image across all environments
- Environment parity: Dev mirrors production closely
- Automated deployment: Eliminate manual configuration errors

Key Principle

- Only configuration should change between environments, not the underlying software stack

Configuration Management

Separating Config from Code

- **What is Configuration in ML?**
 - Model parameters and hyperparameters
 - Data connection strings and file paths
 - Environment settings (APIs, resources, logging)
 - Infrastructure settings (servers, authentication)
- **12-Factor App Principles:**
 - Store config in environment variables
 - Strict separation of config from code
 - Config varies substantially across environments

VisionaryAI Configuration Example

NLP Helpdesk Agent Configurations

Development:

```
DATABASE_URL=sqlite:///local.db  
HUGGINGFACE_API_KEY=dev_key_123  
LOG_LEVEL=DEBUG  
MAX_WORKERS=2
```

Production:

```
DATABASE_URL=postgresql://prod.cluster.com/db  
HUGGINGFACE_API_KEY=prod_key_456  
LOG_LEVEL=INFO  
MAX_WORKERS=20
```

**Same code,
different behavior through configuration**

Configuration Management Tools

Tools and Best Practices

Configuration Options

Environment variables: Simple, widely supported

Configuration files: YAML/JSON for complex configs

Management tools: Consul, AWS Parameter Store, K8s ConfigMaps

Security Best Practices

Never hardcode sensitive information

Use secret management systems

Rotate secrets regularly

Validate configurations at startup

Demo Transition

Time for Hands-On Practice!

What We'll Build:

- Create virtual environments for VisionaryAI projects
- Compare requirements.txt vs conda environments
- Build a basic Dockerfile for ML application
- See configuration management in action

Progressive approach:

Start simple



Build complexity

Key Takeaways

Remember These Points

Dependency hell is expensive in ML (behavior changes)

Virtual environments provide Python package isolation

Containers ensure complete environment consistency

Environment consistency across dev/staging/production is critical

Configuration management enables flexibility and security

ROI:

Time spent on environment management saves exponentially more time later

Next Session Preview

Coming Up: Data Management & Experiment Tracking

Session 4 Topics

- Data versioning and lineage
- Experiment management and reproducibility
- Tracking parameters, metrics, and artifacts
- Building on today's environment foundation

Preparation

- Think about current project environment challenges

Questions?

- Bring your environment management challenges to discuss!

دانشکار

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

