

Projects in ML and AI Project Proposal

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1. Title of the Project

Space Weather Prediction using Machine Learning

2. Team Members

Vidyut Baskar

3. Abstract

This project aims to predict significant space weather events, such as solar flares and geomagnetic storms, by analyzing historical space weather data using machine learning techniques. By leveraging time-series forecasting methods and deep learning architectures, the goal is to develop a predictive model that can provide early warnings and contribute to safeguarding satellite operations and terrestrial infrastructures. Anticipated outcomes include improved prediction accuracy and the derivation of novel insights into the patterns preceding space weather disturbances.

4. Problem Statement

Space weather events, including solar flares and geomagnetic storms, pose significant risks to satellite operations, power grids, and communication systems. Despite the deterministic nature of solar physics, the complex interplay of various factors leads to nonlinear and unpredictable behavior in the space weather system. This project addresses the challenge of forecasting such events by applying machine learning methods to capture subtle patterns in historical data, thereby enabling more accurate and timely predictions. This aligns with course concepts such as time-series analysis, neural network architectures, and the integration of data-driven models with traditional scientific understanding.

5. Proposed Approach and Techniques

- **Machine Learning Technique:** The project will primarily utilize **supervised learning** techniques for time-series forecasting.
- **Deep Learning Models:** Models such as Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks or Transformer-based architectures will be explored to handle sequential data and capture long-term dependencies.
- **Data Preprocessing:** Feature engineering and normalization techniques will be applied to enhance the model's learning capabilities.

- **Evaluation:** Model performance will be evaluated using metrics such as Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Root Mean Square Error (RMSE).

6. Data and Resources

- **Dataset:** Historical space weather data from NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) will be used. This dataset includes solar flare occurrences, solar wind measurements, and geomagnetic indices.
- **Data Access:** Data will be accessed via NOAA's public APIs and data repositories.
- **Additional Resources:** Supplementary datasets, if needed, may be sourced from research publications and other space weather monitoring agencies.

7. Expected Outcomes

- A predictive model that accurately forecasts space weather events with improved accuracy over traditional methods.
- Insights into the precursors and patterns of space weather phenomena derived from deep learning feature analysis.
- A practical framework for integrating ML-based predictions into early warning systems for satellite operations and power grid management.

8. Team Roles and Collaboration Plan

- **Vidyut Baskar:** As the sole team member, I will be responsible for the overall project management, data collection, model development, experimentation, analysis, and documentation.
- **Collaboration Tools:**
 - **Version Control:** Git and GitHub will be used for version control and code management.
 - **Communication and Documentation:** Regular progress updates will be maintained through a project blog and/or a document repository. Additionally, tools such as Overleaf will be used for collaborative LaTeX editing if needed.

9. Timeline

1. **Week 1-2:** Data Collection and Preprocessing
 - Access NOAA's SWPC data.
 - Perform initial data cleaning and exploratory analysis.
2. **Week 3-4:** Model Selection and Development
 - Develop baseline models (e.g., ARIMA, simple LSTM).
 - Experiment with advanced architectures (e.g., Transformer-based models).
3. **Week 5-6:** Experimentation and Evaluation
 - Train models and tune hyperparameters.
 - Evaluate model performance using MAE, RMSE, and other relevant metrics.
4. **Week 7:** Analysis and Documentation

- Analyze results and derive insights.
- Prepare the final report and presentation.

5. **Week 8:** Final Review and Submission

- Finalize documentation and presentation materials.
- Submit the project deliverables.