

NAIRR Pilot

National Artificial Intelligence
Research Resource Pilot

Introduction to TensorFlow

Mahidhar Tatineni

April 2, 2025

AI Workshop Denver, CO April 2-3, 2025



Overview

- **Overview of TensorFlow**
 - Introduction
 - Features
- **Applications of TensorFlow**
- **Typical training setup for deep learning**
 - Introduction to Tensors
 - Loading and preprocessing data
 - Building a model
 - Compiling a model and setting up a training loop
- **Accessing TensorFlow on ACCESS and NAIRR resources**
 - ACCESS/NAIRR resources – e.g. Delta AI, Expanse, Bridges-2, Jetstream2
 - Cloud resources – direct or via Cloudbank – AWS, AZURE, Google
 - Conda installs, Containers
- **Hands on examples**
 - Containerized setup
 - Jupyter example on Expanse using customized container
 - Batch job example on Delta/Delta AI using NGC container
 - Scaling up using horovod, tfdist – example on Expanse



Overview

- **Overview of TensorFlow**
 - Introduction
 - Features
- **Applications of TensorFlow**
- **Typical training setup for deep learning**
 - Introduction to Tensors
 - Loading and preprocessing data
 - Building a model
 - Compiling a model and setting up a training loop
- **Accessing TensorFlow on ACCESS and NAIRR resources**
 - ACCESS/NAIRR resources – e.g. Delta AI, Expanse, Bridges-2, Jetstream2
 - Cloud resources – direct or via Cloudbank – AWS, AZURE, Google
 - Conda installs, Containers
- **Hands on examples**
 - Containerized setup
 - Jupyter example on Expanse using customized container
 - Batch job example on Delta/Delta AI using NGC container
 - Scaling up using horovod, tfdist – example on Expanse



TensorFlow – Introduction

- Open-source end-to-end machine learning platform originally developed by Google Brain team
- Flexible architecture that allows machine learning algorithms to be described as a graph of connected operations.
- The framework backend can be adapted to many different hardware architectures => can be trained and executed on [GPUs](#), CPUs, and TPUs across various platforms without rewriting code, ranging from portable devices to desktops to high-end servers.
- Tensor data input to framework. Primary approach is to build a computational graph that defines the dataflow for training.

Today's tutorial is based on the TensorFlow guide and tutorials. We are limited in time so we are looking at basics and will do simple hands-on training examples. Following links have a lot more detail. Once we know how to run things interactively using Jupyter and via batch scripts, attendees can try out most of the material below on one of the machines:

<https://www.tensorflow.org/guide>

<https://www.tensorflow.org/tutorials>



TensorFlow – Features

- Multidimensional-array based numeric computation
- Automatic differentiation
- Model construction, training, and export
- High level Keras API in python
 - Originally a standalone package, integrated into TensorFlow now, now back outside and also supports PyTorch as backend
 - Covers typical machine learning workflow components - data processing, hyperparameter tuning, and deployment.
 - Enables fast experimentation, can use CPUs, GPUs, TPUs or other specialized hardware
- Tensor data input to framework. Primary approach is to build a computational graph that defines the dataflow for training.
- Can also use eager execution model
- TensorBoard unified visualization framework (TensorFlow, Keras) allows monitoring, visualization of computational graphs, and debugging











Overview

- **Overview of TensorFlow**
 - Introduction
 - Features
- **Applications of TensorFlow**
- **Typical training setup for deep learning**
 - Introduction to Tensors
 - Loading and preprocessing data
 - Building a model
 - Compiling a model and setting up a training loop
- **Accessing TensorFlow on ACCESS and NAIRR resources**
 - ACCESS/NAIRR resources – e.g. Delta AI, Expanse, Bridges-2, Jetstream2
 - Cloud resources – direct or via Cloudbank – AWS, AZURE, Google
 - Conda installs, Containers
- **Hands on examples**
 - Containerized setup
 - Jupyter example on Expanse using customized container
 - Batch job example on Delta/Delta AI using NGC container
 - Scaling up using horovod, tfdist – example on Expanse

TensorFlow Applications -

- Several application areas - Image processing and video detection, Time series algorithms, Modeling. Domains include health care, security, nuclear fusion, social sciences, climate science.
- Several commercial case studies on TensorFlow site: <https://www.tensorflow.org/about/case-studies>

 <p>Airbnb improves the guest experience by using TensorFlow to classify images and detect objects at scale</p> <p>The Airbnb engineering and data science team applies machine learning using TensorFlow to classify images and detect objects at scale, helping to improve the guest experience.</p> <p>Learn more → Website ↗</p>	 <p>TFX Airbus uses TensorFlow to extract information from their satellite images and deliver valuable insights to clients</p> <p>ML helps with monitoring changes to the Earth's surface for urban planning, fighting illegal construction and mapping damage and landscape changes caused by natural catastrophes.</p> <p>Learn More → Website ↗</p>	 <p>TensorFlow Lite Arm's Hardware Abstraction Layer leads to a more than 4x performance boost to TensorFlow Lite</p> <p>Arm NN for Android Neural Networks API (NNAPI) provides a Hardware Abstraction Layer (HAL) that targets Arm Mali GPUs and leads to more than a 4x performance boost to machine learning frameworks such as TensorFlow Lite.</p> <p>Learn more ↗</p>
 <p>Carousell uses TensorFlow to improve the buyer and seller experience</p> <p>Carousell builds machine learning models with deep image and natural language understanding using TensorFlow on Google Cloud ML. Sellers benefit from a simplified posting experience with image recognition, and buyers discover more relevant listings through recommendations and image search.</p> <p>Learn more → Website ↗</p>	 <p>TensorFlow Lite CEVA converts TensorFlow trained networks in their Deep Learning processors</p> <p>CEVA's NeuPro and CEVA-XM AI processors for Deep Learning and AI inferencing at the edge automatically convert TensorFlow trained networks for use in real-time embedded devices using the CEVA DNN Compiler.</p> <p>Website ↗ Learn more ↗</p>	 <p>China Mobile uses TensorFlow to improve their success rate of network element cutovers</p> <p>China Mobile has created a deep learning system using TensorFlow that can automatically predict cutover time window, verify operation logs, and detect network anomalies. This has already successfully supported the world's largest relocation of hundreds of millions IoT HSS numbers.</p> <p>Learn more ↗</p>

 <p>TFX Spotify personalizes recommendations for users with TFX</p> <p>Spotify leverages TFX and Kubeflow pipelines in its Paved Road for ML systems, an opinionated set of products and configurations to deploy an end-to-end machine learning solution targeted at teams starting out on their ML journeys.</p> <p>Learn more → Website ↗</p>	 <p>Swisscom optimizes customer support operations with custom-built TensorFlow model</p> <p>Swisscom leverages TensorFlow's capacity for deeply customized machine learning models to classify text and determine the intent of their customers upon receiving their inquiries.</p> <p>Learn more → Website ↗</p>	 <p>TensorFlow Lite Texas Instruments Processor SDK integrates TensorFlow Lite for machine learning inference at the edge</p> <p>Processor SDK optimizes TensorFlow Lite models, offloading CNN/DNN inference from general compute Arm® cores to purpose built hardware accelerators, which enhances machine learning capabilities in machine vision, robotics, automotive ADAS and many other applications.</p> <p>Learn more ↗ Website ↗</p>
 <p>TFX Ranking tweets with TensorFlow</p> <p>Twitter used TensorFlow to build their "Ranked Timeline", allowing users to ensure that they don't miss their most important tweets even if they follow thousands of users.</p> <p>Learn more → Website ↗</p>	 <p>TensorFlow Lite Suggesting presets for images: building "For This Photo" at VSCO</p> <p>VSCO used TensorFlow Lite to develop the "For This Photo" feature, which uses on-device machine learning to identify what kind of photo someone is editing and then suggest relevant presets from a curated list.</p> <p>Learn more →</p>	 <p>TensorFlow Lite WPS Office: an intelligent office based on TensorFlow</p> <p>WPS Office implements multiple business scenarios, such as on-device image recognition and image OCR based on TensorFlow.</p> <p>Website ↗</p>



Overview

- **Overview of TensorFlow**
 - Introduction
 - Features
- **Applications of TensorFlow**
- **Typical training setup for deep learning**
 - Introduction to Tensors
 - Loading and preprocessing data
 - Building a model
 - Compiling a model and setting up a training loop
- **Accessing TensorFlow on ACCESS and NAIRR resources**
 - ACCESS/NAIRR resources – e.g. Delta AI, Expanse, Bridges-2, Jetstream2
 - Cloud resources – direct or via Cloudbank – AWS, AZURE, Google
 - Conda installs, Containers
- **Hands on examples**
 - Containerized setup
 - Jupyter example on Expanse using customized container
 - Batch job example on Delta/Delta AI using NGC container
 - Scaling up using horovod, tfdist – example on Expanse



Introduction to Tensors

- Tensors are multi-dimensional arrays with a uniform type (called a dtype). You can see all supported dtypes at https://www.tensorflow.org/api_docs/python/tf/dtypes.
- Tensors shapes:
 - Shape: The length (number of elements) of each of the axes of a tensor.
 - Rank: Number of tensor axes. A scalar has rank 0, a vector has rank 1, a matrix is rank 2.
 - Axis or Dimension: A particular dimension of a tensor.
 - Size: The total number of items in the tensor, the product of the shape vector's elements.
 - Can have variable numbers of elements along some axis - Ragged Tensors
- TensorFlow follows standard Python indexing rules
 - indexes start at 0
 - negative indices count backwards from the end
 - colons, :, are used for slices: start:stop:step
 - Higher rank tensors are indexed by passing multiple indices
- Tensor shapes can be manipulated
 - tf.reshape function can be used to reshape tensors
 - The data layout in memory stays the same and the new tensor is created with the requested shape
 - Broadcasting happens automatically; Can use tf.broadcast_to function too.



Basic tensor creation examples (from TensorFlow guide)

```
import tensorflow as tf
import numpy as np
```

```
rank_0_tensor = tf.constant(4)
print(rank_0_tensor)
```

```
rank_2_tensor = tf.constant([[1, 2], [3, 4], [5, 6]],
                             dtype=tf.float16)
print(rank_2_tensor)
```

```
np.array(rank_2_tensor)
rank_2_tensor.numpy()
```

```
>>> rank_0_tensor = tf.constant(4)
>>> print(rank_0_tensor)
tf.Tensor(4, shape=(), dtype=int32)
```

```
>>> rank_2_tensor = tf.constant([[1, 2], [3, 4], [5, 6]],
                                 dtype=tf.float16)
>>> print(rank_2_tensor)
tf.Tensor(
[[1. 2.]
 [3. 4.]
 [5. 6.]], shape=(3, 2), dtype=float16)
```

```
>>> np.array(rank_2_tensor)
array([[1., 2.],
       [3., 4.],
       [5., 6.]], dtype=float16)
```



Basic tensor math (from TensorFlow guide)

```
a = tf.constant([[1, 2], [3, 4]])  
b = tf.ones([2,2], dtype=tf.int32)  
print(tf.add(a, b), "\n")
```

```
print(tf.multiply(a, b), "\n")
```

```
print(tf.matmul(a, b), "\n")
```

```
>>> a = tf.constant([[1, 2],  
...                  [3, 4]])  
>>> b = tf.ones([2,2], dtype=tf.int32)  
>>> print(tf.add(a, b), "\n")  
tf.Tensor(  
[[2 3]  
 [4 5]], shape=(2, 2), dtype=int32)  
  
>>> print(tf.multiply(a, b), "\n")  
tf.Tensor(  
[[1 2]  
 [3 4]], shape=(2, 2), dtype=int32)  
  
>>> print(tf.matmul(a, b), "\n")  
tf.Tensor(  
[[3 3]  
 [7 7]], shape=(2, 2), dtype=int32)
```

Reshaping Tensors

```
x = tf.constant([[1], [2], [3]])  
print(x.shape)
```

```
reshaped = tf.reshape(x, [1, 3])  
print(x.shape)  
print(reshaped.shape)
```

```
rank_3_tensor = tf.constant([ [0, 1, 2, 3, 4], [5, 6, 7,  
8, 9]], [[10, 11, 12, 13, 14], [15, 16, 17, 18, 19]], [[20,  
21, 22, 23, 24], [25, 26, 27, 28, 29]],)  
print(tf.reshape(rank_3_tensor, [-1]))
```

```
>>> x = tf.constant([[1], [2], [3]])  
2025-03-25 06:19:25.334425: E  
external/local_xla/xla/stream_executor/cuda/cuda_driver  
.cc:274] failed call to culnit: CUDA_ERROR_NO_DEVICE:  
no CUDA-capable device is detected
```

```
>>> print(x.shape)  
(3, 1)
```

```
>>> reshaped = tf.reshape(x, [1, 3])  
>>> print(x.shape)  
(3, 1)  
>>> print(reshaped.shape)  
(1, 3)
```

```
>>> print(tf.reshape(rank_3_tensor, [-1]))  
tf.Tensor(  
[ 0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29], shape=(30,), dtype=int32)
```



TensorFlow Introduction – Loading and preprocessing data

- Keras has high level utilities to read and preprocess images from directories
 - `tf.keras.utils.image_dataset_from_directory`
`train_ds = tf.keras.utils.image_dataset_from_directory(data_dir, validation_split=0.2, subset="training", seed=123, image_size=(img_height, img_width), batch_size=batch_size)`
 - `tf.keras.layers.Rescaling`
- `tf.data` API enables build of complex input pipelines
 - Specify data source – from memory or from directories
 - Split data into training/validation sets
 - Optimize for performance – shuffled batched data
 - https://www.tensorflow.org/guide/data_performance
- Catalog of TensorFlow datasets already available. Set up as `tf.data.Datasets` and provide high performance input pipelines
`(train_dataset, val_dataset, test_dataset), metadata = tensorflow_datasets.load('tf_flowers', split=['train[:80%]', 'train[80%:90%]', 'train[90%:]'], with_info=True, as_supervised=True,)`



TensorFlow Introduction – Building models

- Fundamental abstraction is a layer – takes tensor inputs, does computations on them, and provides output for next layer
- Models group layers together – used in a training loop
- Defining models
 - Sequential API – linear stack of layer

```
model = keras.Sequential(name="my_sequential")
model.add(layers.Dense(2, activation="relu", name="layer1"))
model.add(layers.Dense(3, activation="relu", name="layer2"))
model.add(layers.Dense(4, name="layer3"))
```
 - Functional API - non-linear topology, shared layers, multiple inputs/outputs
 - Model subclassing – fully customizable layers, custom python code for model architecture
- Calculate predictions
 - For example: `predictions = model(x_train[:1]).numpy()`
- Loss function definition
 - For example: `loss_fn = tf.keras.losses.SparseCategoricalCrossentropy(from_logits=True)`



TensorFlow Introduction – Compiling models and training

- Compile model – choose an optimizer, use loss function
`model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss=loss_fn, metrics=['accuracy'])`
- Train model. For example, run for 10 epochs:
`model.fit(x_train, y_train, epochs=10)`
- Evaluate
`model.evaluate(x_test, y_test, verbose=2)`
- More detailed example:
<https://www.tensorflow.org/tutorials/quickstart/advanced>



Saving TensorFlow Model - Checkpoints

- Checkpoints capture the exact value of all parameters (`tf.Variable` objects) used by a model
 - Only useful when source code that will use the saved parameter values is available
 - Example from <https://www.tensorflow.org/guide/checkpoint>
 - Create checkpoint objects
 - `tf.train.Checkpoint` object to manually create a checkpoint
 - `tf.train.CheckpointManager` to manage multiple checkpoint
- ```
opt = tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(0.1)
dataset = toy_dataset()
iterator = iter(dataset)
ckpt = tf.train.Checkpoint(step=tf.Variable(1), optimizer=opt, net=net, iterator=iterator)
manager = tf.train.CheckpointManager(ckpt, './tf_ckpts', max_to_keep=3)
```
- Checkpoint: `save_path = manager.save()`
  - Restore: `ckpt.restore(manager.latest_checkpoint)`



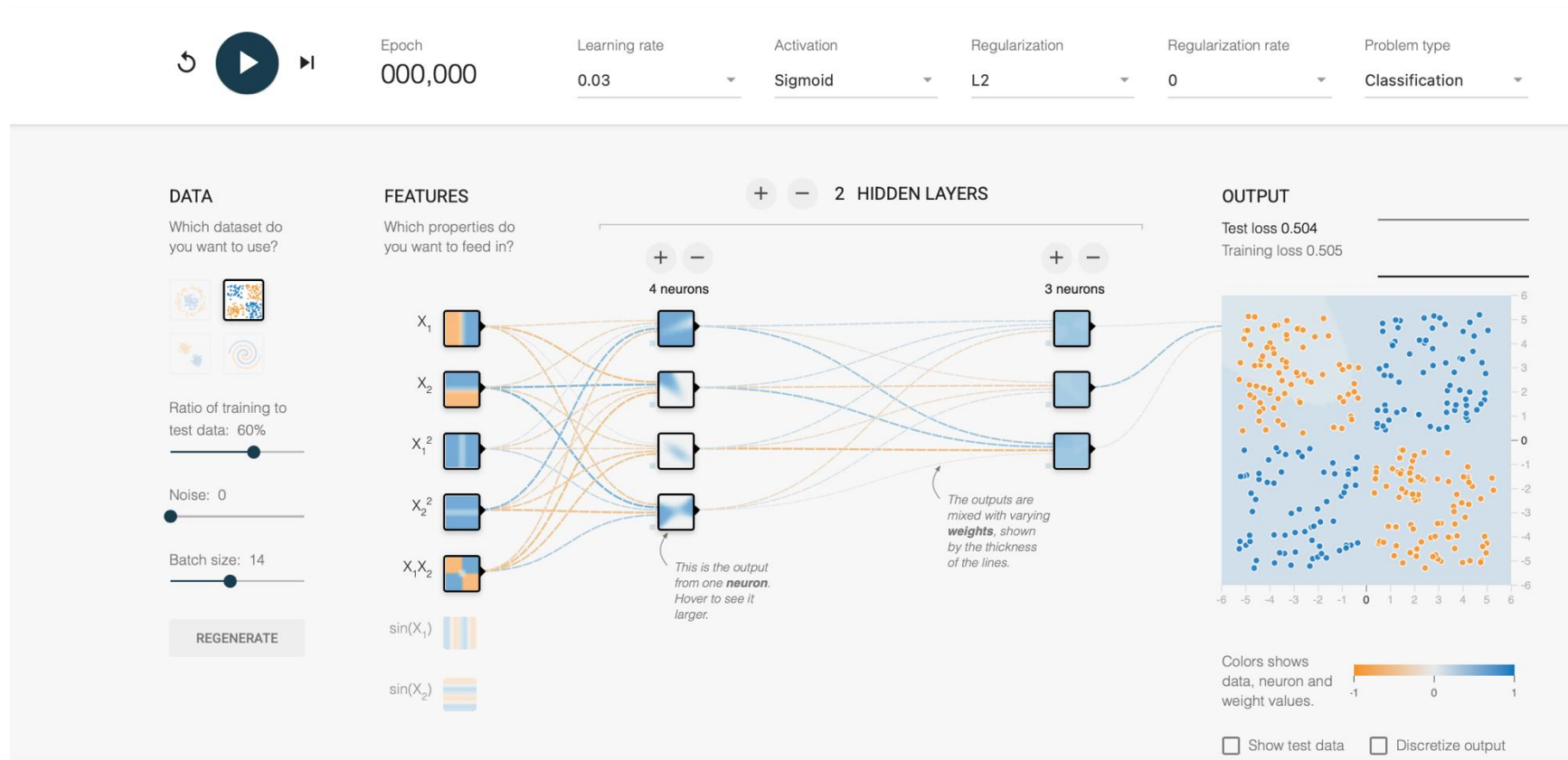
## Saving TensorFlow Model – SavedModel Format

- A SavedModel contains a complete TensorFlow program
  - trained parameters (tf.Variable)
  - computation

⇒ does not require the original model building code to run
- SavedModel API
  - Save: `tf.saved_model.save(model, path_to_dir)`
  - Load: `model = tf.saved_model.load(path_to_dir)`
- See full example at: [https://www.tensorflow.org/guide/saved\\_model](https://www.tensorflow.org/guide/saved_model)

## TensorFlow – Explore Components!

- TensorFlow playground site is a nice place to explore components.  
<https://playground.tensorflow.org>





## Scaling up TensorFlow for multi-node runs

- Two different approaches: 1) `tf.distribute` 2) horovod (MPI based)
- `tf.distribute.Strategy` API
  - distribute training across multiple GPUs, multiple machines, or TPUs
- `tf.distribute.MirroredStrategy`
  - All the model's variables copied to each processor
  - Combine the gradients from all processors using all-reduce
  - Update values on all processors
  - Synchronous training using multiple GPUs on single node
- `tf.distribute.MultiWorkerMirroredStrategy`
  - Similar to `tf.distribute.MirroredStrategy`
  - Synchronous training on many GPUs on multiple workers
- Slurm compatible
  - `tf.distribute.cluster_resolver.SlurmClusterResolver( jobs=None, port_base=8888, gpus_per_node=None, gpus_per_task=None, tasks_per_node=None, auto_set_gpu=True, rpc_layer='grpc' )`



## Scaling up TensorFlow for multi-node runs - Horovod

- Horovod is a distributed deep learning training framework for TensorFlow, Keras, PyTorch, and Apache MXNet
- Developed at Uber to take a single-GPU training script and scale it to train across many GPUs in parallel leveraging message passing interface (MPI) libraries. HPC sites already have optimal MPI installs so it's a good fit. Can also leverage NCCL.
- Typical modifications needed in your code
  - `hvd.init()` – initialization (MPI\_INIT)
  - Code to pin to individual GPUs
  - Scale the learning rate by the number of workers.
  - Use `hvd.DistributedOptimizer` - averages gradients using **allreduce** or **allgather** and then applies those averaged gradients.
  - Broadcast initial variables
  - Save checkpoints only on worker 0
- Can leverage the MPI optimizations for the collective operations being used. Can use `horovodrun` or `mpirun` to launch the jobs. We will use `mpirun` in the hands-on example.





## TensorBoard framework: Visualize computational graphs, debug tool

- Browser based tool
  - We cannot run a browser directly on most HPC machines
  - Use port forwarding and run the browser on client
- Multistep process
  - Get an interactive node on the HPC system
  - Run your TensorFlow example and Tensorboard in an interactive shell
  - Port forward (from the compute node to your local machine/laptop where you run the browser)
  - For example, on Expanse:  
`ssh -L 16001:localhost:6006 username@exp-XX-YY.expanse.sdsc.edu`
  - Laptop/desktop client browser then opens: <http://localhost:16001>
- Some snapshots in the next few slides illustrating the debug process. Example from:

[https://www.tensorflow.org/tensorboard/debugger\\_v2](https://www.tensorflow.org/tensorboard/debugger_v2)

## TensorBoard for debugging problems

The screenshot displays the TensorBoard Debugger V2 interface in a web browser at localhost:16001/#debugger-v2. The interface is divided into several sections:

- TensorBoard Header:** Includes the "DEBUGGER V2" dropdown, an "UPLOAD" button, and icons for refresh, settings, and help.
- Debugging Panel:**
  - Alerts:** Shows 499 alerts, with a specific alert for "NaN/∞" at index 499.
  - Python Execution Timeline (398):** A sequence of operations represented by letters: T, E, E, L, S, D, S, B, M, T, R, B, M, S, S, M, A, V, A, F, V, A, S, S, S, M, A, V, A, F, V, A, M, O, A, M, M, O, A, M, I, I, m.
  - Python Execution #0:** Details for a specific operation: "Op: TensorSliceDataset", "# of input tensors: 2", and "# of output tensors: 1 (debug mode: FULL\_HEALTH)".
  - Graph Structure:** A message stating "No graph op selected. Click a tensor name in the Graph Executions table to view the neighborhood of the tensor's op in its graph."
- Graph Executions (600):** A table listing various operations and their details:
 

| Index | Operation           | Tensor Type | Dimensions | Size         |
|-------|---------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 0     | Cast:0              | float32     | 2D         | size:78400   |
| 1     | truediv/y:0         | float32     | 0D         | size:1       |
| 2     | truediv:0           | float32     | 2D         | size:78400   |
| 3     | one_hot/on_value:0  | float32     | 0D         | size:1       |
| 4     | one_hot/off_value:0 | float32     | 0D         | size:1       |
| 5     | one_hot:0           | float32     | 2D         | size:1000    |
| 6     | Cast:0              | float32     | 2D         | size:7840000 |
| 7     | truediv/y:0         | float32     | 0D         | size:1       |
| 8     | truediv:0           | float32     | 2D         | size:7840000 |
| 9     | one_hot/on_value:0  | float32     | 0D         | size:1       |
| 10    | one_hot/off_value:0 | float32     | 0D         | size:1       |
- Source Code:** A section at the bottom left stating "No file selected. Click a line number in the Stack Trace section to show the source code."
- Stack Trace:** A section at the bottom right with the instruction "Click an eager execution or graph op to show its original stack trace."

## TensorBoard for debugging problems

The screenshot displays the TensorBoard Debugger V2 interface, which is used for debugging TensorFlow training jobs. The interface is divided into several panels:

- Alerts:** Shows a warning for `NaN/inf: 499`.
- Python Execution Timeline (398):** A timeline showing the sequence of Python operations. The current operation is `Python Execution #0`, which is `TensorSliceDataset`. It has 2 input tensors and 1 output tensor (debug mode: FULL\_HEALTH).
- Graph Structure:** Shows the computational graph structure. The input slot is `probs` and the output slot is `Placeholder`.
- Graph Executions (600):** A list of graph operations and their execution details. The current operation is `Log:0`, which is a `Log` operation. It has 1 input tensor and 1 output tensor (size: 1000).
- Source Code:** Shows the source code of the training script, `debug_mnist_v2.py`. The current line of code is `loss_val = loss(y, y_train)`.
- Stack Trace:** Shows the stack trace of the current operation, indicating the creation of the graph op "Log".

The interface also includes a top navigation bar with the TensorBoard logo, a dropdown menu for the current job (`DEBUGGER V2`), and buttons for `UPLOAD`, `REFRESH`, `SETTINGS`, and `HELP`.

## TensorBoard for debugging problems

The screenshot displays the TensorBoard Debugger V2 interface in a web browser. The top navigation bar includes the TensorBoard logo, a "DEBUGGER V2" dropdown, and buttons for "UPLOAD", "refresh", "settings", and "help".

**Debugging Section:**

- Alerts:** Shows 499 alerts, with a prominent "NaN/inf: 499" alert.
- Graph Structure:**
  - Input slot 0: Placeholder (probs) → Output slot 0: Placeholder.
  - Op: Log.
  - Output slot 0: (1 consumer) → Input slot 1: Placeholder (mul) → Output slot 0: Placeholder.
- Source Code:** Displays the file `/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages/tensorflow/python/debug/examples/v2/debug_mnist_v2.py`. Line 216 is circled in blue, showing the calculation of the loss: `diff = -labels * tf.math.log(probs)`.

**Graph Executions (600):** A table showing the execution of graph operations. The operation at index 85, "probs:0" (Placeholder), is highlighted in yellow and shows a NaN value.

| Index | Op            | Dtype   | Shape | Value              |
|-------|---------------|---------|-------|--------------------|
| 83    | add:0         | float32 | 2D    | -x471 x529         |
| 84    | Softmax:0     | float32 | 2D    | 0 x1 +x999         |
| 85    | probs:0       | float32 | 2D    | 0 x1 -x999         |
| 86    | labels:0      | float32 | 2D    | 0 x900 -x100       |
| 87    | Neg:0         | float32 | 2D    | -x100 0 x900       |
| 88    | Log:0         | float32 | 2D    | -x1 -x994 0 x5     |
| 89    | mul:0         | float32 | 2D    | NaN x1 0 x904 +x95 |
| 90    | Mean:0        | float32 | 0D    | NaN x1             |
| ~     | Placeholder:0 |         |       | size:1000          |

**Stack Trace:**

- Creation of graph op "Log" (Host name: exp-1-19)
- runpy.py Line 193: `_run_module_as_main`
- runpy.py Line 85: `_run_code`
- debug\_mnist\_v2.py Line 244: `<module>`
- app.py Line 312: `run`



## Overview

- **Overview of TensorFlow**
  - Introduction
  - Features
- **Applications of TensorFlow**
- **Typical training setup for deep learning**
  - Introduction to Tensors
  - Loading and preprocessing data
  - Building a model
  - Compiling a model and setting up a training loop
- **Accessing TensorFlow on ACCESS and NAIRR resources**
  - ACCESS/NAIRR resources – e.g. Delta AI, Expanse, Bridges-2, Jetstream2
  - Cloud resources – direct or via Cloudbank – AWS, AZURE, Google
  - Conda installs, Containers
- **Hands on examples**
  - Containerized setup
    - Jupyter example on Expanse using customized container
    - Batch job example on Delta/Delta AI using NGC container
  - Scaling up using horovod, tfdist – example on Expanse



## TensorFlow on ACCESS and NAIRR resources

- All ACCESS resources support TensorFlow either via conda installs or containers. A variety of hardware options available
  - <https://allocations.access-ci.org/resources>
- NAIRR resources include options from ACCESS managed resources and also several cloud vendors.
  - GPU resources
  - Custom processors like Cerebras, Gaudi, Gaudi2
  - Details at:  
<https://nairrpilot.org/opportunities/allocations>





## TensorFlow Usage

- Two major approaches
  - Containerized installs
  - Conda based installs
- Containerized installs
  - Most HPC sites will have a mechanism to run containers – Singularity, Apptainer, Shifter, Docker. Can run on Slurm clusters. Containers are easy to use in Kubernetes clusters (e.g. like on PNRP nautilus cluster)
  - Vendors like NVIDIA, AMD, Intel provide performant containers for PyTorch and TensorFlow that are optimized for their hardware. For example, via NGC (NVIDIA), Infinity Hub (AMD). Can layer additional packages on the base containers
  - HPC sites will also have custom containers that are adapted to the driver versions and hardware at their sites. Again, good starting points to layer in additional packages.
- Conda based installs
  - <https://www.anaconda.com/docs/tools/working-with-conda/applications/tensorflow>
  - <https://anaconda.org/conda-forge/tensorflow>
  - Note of caution – Make sure the version you choose is compatible with the driver version on your system. For example, if your system has driver version supporting up to CUDA 12.6, don't install a newer version.



## Overview

- **Overview of TensorFlow**
  - Introduction
  - Features
- **Applications of TensorFlow**
- **Typical training setup for deep learning**
  - Introduction to Tensors
  - Loading and preprocessing data
  - Building a model
  - Compiling a model and setting up a training loop
- **Accessing TensorFlow on ACCESS and NAIRR resources**
  - ACCESS/NAIRR resources – e.g. Delta AI, Expanse, Bridges-2, Jetstream2
  - Cloud resources – direct or via Cloudbank – AWS, AZURE, Google
  - Conda installs, Containers
- **Hands on examples**
  - Containerized setup
    - Jupyter example on Expanse using customized container
    - Batch job example on Delta/Delta AI using NGC container
  - Scaling up using horovod, tfdist – example on Expanse



## **Hands On Examples**

Commands, instructions, and scripts in github repo for workshop  
Snapshots with process details and results follow for offline information



## Hands-On Section

Go to the Github site:

<https://github.com/access-ci-org/Al-Unlocked-Workshop-2025/tree/main/track2-Intermediate-to-Advanced/introduction-to-tensorflow>

Look at the **workshop-notes.md** file to get the step-by-step instructions for the hands-on work.



## Hands On Examples – Runs using Expanse Portal

- Expanse portal

<https://portal.expense.sdsc.edu>

- Make sure you choose ACCESS CI as the organization, and then you can login with ACCESS credentials. Note: On the page after you login, do not link identities, just pick the first access ci based option as that is already linked.

---

Use your existing organizational login

e.g., university, national lab, facility, project

ACCESS CI (formerly XSEDE) ▼

By selecting Continue, you agree to Globus [terms of service](#) and [privacy policy](#).

Continue

## Hands On Examples – Expanse portal



The Expanse portal provides an integrated, and easy to use interface to access Expanse HPC resource.

With the portal, researchers can manage files (create, edit, move, upload, and download), view job templates for various applications, submit and monitor jobs, run interactive applications, and connect via SSH. The portal has no end-user installation requirements other than access to a modern up-to-date web browser

### Pinned Apps A featured subset of [all available apps](#)



Active Jobs  
System Installed App



Home Directory  
System Installed App



Job Composer  
System Installed App



expanse Shell Access  
System Installed App



MATLAB  
System Installed App



RSTUDIO  
System Installed App



Allocation and Usage  
Information  
System Installed App



Jupyter  
System Installed App





## Hands on examples – Expanse portal Jupyter notebook form

### Jupyter Session

Account:

Partition (Please choose the gpu, gpu-shared, or gpu-preempt as the partition if using gpus):

Time limit (min):

Number of cores:

Memory required per node (GB):

GPUs (optional):

Singularity Image File Location: (Use your own or to include from existing container library at /cm/shared/apps/container e.g., /cm/shared/apps/containers/singularity/pytorch/pytorch-latest.sif)

Environment modules to be loaded (E.g., to use latest version of system Anaconda3 include cpu,gcc,anaconda3):

## Hands on examples – Expanse portal Jupyter status

### Satellite Reverse Proxy Service

#### SDSC Expanse



**Job State:** Unknown



#### In Queue

Job has not yet started.

#### Running

Job has started, but has not redeemed Satellite Token.

#### Mapped

Job has redeemed Satellite Token, but no proxy entry exists yet.

#### Proxied

Proxy entry created, ready to go!

#### Dead

Job died or exited, no further progress will occur.

## Hands on examples – Jupyter interface after job is mapped and proxied

The screenshot displays the JupyterLab interface within a web browser. The top bar shows the 'Dashboard - Expanse Portal' and the 'JupyterLab' logo. The interface is divided into several sections:

- File Browser (Left):** Contains a search bar 'Filter files by name' and a file list for the directory '/ naiir\_workshop /'. The list includes:

| Name          | Last Modified |
|---------------|---------------|
| C24_DL_MNI... | 7 minutes ago |
| notes.txt     | 3 minutes ago |
- Launcher (Right):** Displays the 'naiir\_workshop' directory with various tool icons:
  - Notebook:** A button with the Python logo and text 'Python 3 (ipykernel)'.
  - Console:** A button with a terminal icon and text 'Console'.
  - Other:** A section containing five icons: Terminal, Text File, Markdown File, Python File, and Show Contextual Help.

## Hands on examples – MNIST Example, Load Data

Reference: Paul Rodriguez talk at CIML/SDSC Summer Institutes

```
import done

[2]: #Load MNIST data from Keras datasets
(X_train, Y_train), (X_test, Y_test) = tf.keras.datasets.mnist.load_data()

X_train=X_train[0:1000,] #only need smaller subset to get good results
Y_train=Y_train[0:1000,]

----- Reshape input data, b/c Keras expects N-3D images (ie 4D matrix)
X_train = X_train[:,:,:,:np.newaxis]
X_test = X_test[:,:,:,:np.newaxis]

#Scale 0 to 1 - or should we not scale
X_train = X_train/255.0
X_test = X_test/255.0

Convert 1-dimensional class arrays to 10-dimensional class matrices
Y_train = keras.utils.to_categorical(Y_train, 10)
Y_test = keras.utils.to_categorical(Y_test, 10)

----- End loading and preparing data -----
print('X train shape:', X_train.shape)
print('X test shape:', X_test.shape)
```

X train shape: (1000, 28, 28, 1)

X test shape: (10000, 28, 28, 1)



## Hands on examples – MNIST Example Build Model

<https://keras.io/api/optimizers/>

```
[3]: # -----Set up Model -----
def build_model(numfilters):
 mymodel = keras.models.Sequential()
 mymodel.add(keras.layers.Convolution2D(numfilters, #<<<< ----- 1
 (3, 3),
 strides=1,
 data_format="channels_last",
 activation='relu',
 input_shape=(28,28,1)))
 mymodel.add(keras.layers.Convolution2D(numfilters, #<<<< ----- 1
 (3, 3),
 strides=1,
 data_format="channels_last",
 activation='relu'))
 mymodel.add(keras.layers.MaxPooling2D(pool_size=(2,2),strides=2,data_format="channels_last")) #get Max over 2
 mymodel.add(keras.layers.Flatten()) #reorganize 2DxFilters output into 1D

 #-----Now add final classification layers
 mymodel.add(keras.layers.Dense(32, activation='relu'))
 mymodel.add(keras.layers.Dense(10, activation='softmax'))

 # ----- Now configure model algorithm -----
 mymodel.compile(loss='categorical_crossentropy',
 optimizer=keras.optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=0.01),
 metrics=['accuracy'])

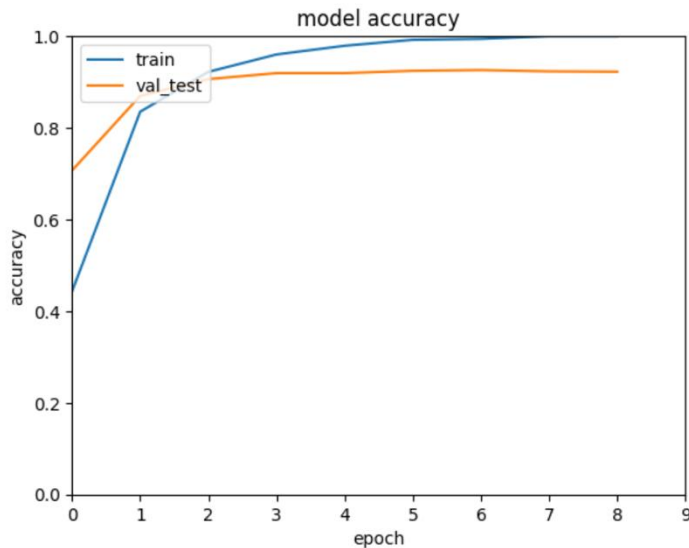
 return mymodel
```

## Hands on examples – MNIST Example Accuracy

```
[6]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt #These provide matlab type of plotting functions
import matplotlib.image as mpimg
%matplotlib inline






list all data in history and print out performance
print(fit_history.history.keys())
numtraining_epochs=len(fit_history.history['accuracy'])
summarize history for accuracy
plt.figure()
plt.axis([0, numtraining_epochs, 0, 1])
plt.plot(fit_history.history['accuracy'])
plt.plot(fit_history.history['val_accuracy'])
plt.title('model accuracy')
plt.ylabel('accuracy')
plt.xlabel('epoch')
plt.legend(['train', 'val_test'], loc='upper left')
plt.show()

dict_keys(['loss', 'accuracy', 'val_loss', 'val_accuracy'])
```





## Hands on examples – MNIST Example on Delta – Jupyter Lab form

|                                                                                               |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Jupyter Lab | Name of account                                                                                          |
| MATLAB                                                                                        | <input type="text" value="beeh-delta-gpu"/>                                                              |
|  MATLAB      | Chargeable account of the form abcd-delta-cpu or abcd-delta-gpu. Replace abcd with your allocation code. |
| Servers                                                                                       | Partition                                                                                                |
|  Code Server | <input type="text" value="gpuA100x4-interactive"/>                                                       |
| Visualization                                                                                 | Interactive partitions are limited to one hour.                                                          |
|  TensorBoard | Duration of job                                                                                          |
|  Desktop     | <input type="text" value="1:00:00"/>                                                                     |
|                                                                                               | Slurm format: DD-HH:MM:SS                                                                                |
|                                                                                               | Name of reservation (leave empty if none)                                                                |
|                                                                                               | <input type="text"/>                                                                                     |
|                                                                                               | Number of CPUs                                                                                           |
|                                                                                               | <input type="text" value="16"/>                                                                          |
|                                                                                               | Amount of RAM                                                                                            |
|                                                                                               | <input type="text" value="4G"/>                                                                          |
|                                                                                               | Use Slurm format, e.g. 4096M, 10G. If left blank, 1000 MB will be allocated per CPU core requested.      |
|                                                                                               | Number of GPUs                                                                                           |
|                                                                                               | <input type="text" value="1"/>                                                                           |

## Hands on examples – MNIST Example on Delta – Jupyter Lab

Jupyter Lab (8831593)


Queued

**Created at:** 2025-04-03 00:06:50 CDT

**Time Requested:** 1 hour

**Session ID:** [9c761168-2deb-4825-9c97-17dde23ff4f7](#)

Please be patient as your job currently sits in queue. The wait time depends on the number of cores as well as time requested.



Jupyter Lab (8831593)

1 node | 16 cores | Running


**Host:** [>\\_ gpua073.delta.internal.ncsa.edu](#)

**Created at:** 2025-04-03 00:06:50 CDT

**Time Remaining:** 59 minutes

**Session ID:** [9c761168-2deb-4825-9c97-17dde23ff4f7](#)

[Connect to Jupyter](#)



## Hands on examples – MNIST Example on Delta – Jupyter Lab

The screenshot shows the Jupyter Lab interface. On the left is a file browser with a search bar and a list of files. On the right is a launcher with buttons for Notebook, Console, and Other. Annotations include:

- A box labeled "Navigate to the TensorFlow files" with an arrow pointing to the file browser.
- A box labeled "Click on Notebook" with an arrow pointing to the "Notebook" button in the launcher.
- A box labeled "Get Terminal on Delta" with an arrow pointing to the "Terminal" button in the "Other" section of the launcher.

**File Browser:**

| Name          | Last Modified  |
|---------------|----------------|
| AI_Worksh...  | 40 minutes ago |
| C24_DL_...    | 18 minutes ago |
| C24_MNIS...   | 40 minutes ago |
| clusterres... | 40 minutes ago |
| delta-exa...  | 40 minutes ago |
| run-cluste... | 40 minutes ago |
| run-hvd-m...  | 40 minutes ago |
| tensorflow... | 40 minutes ago |
| workshop-...  | 40 minutes ago |

**Launcher:**

- Notebook:** Python 3 (ipykernel), Python [conda env:root] \*
- Console:** Python 3 (ipykernel), Python [conda env:root] \*
- Other:** Terminal, Text File, Markdown File, Python File

Get Terminal on Delta

*Can clone repository  
from command line in  
terminal window if you  
have not done so.*



## Hands on example on NCSA Delta – Using NGC Container

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --mem=64g
#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=16
#SBATCH --partition=gpuA100x4-interactive
#SBATCH --account=beeh-delta-gpu
#SBATCH --job-name=tfNGC
GPU options
#SBATCH --gpus-per-node=1
#SBATCH --gpus-per-task=1
#SBATCH --gpu-bind=verbose,per_task:1
#SBATCH -t 00:30:00

module reset # drop modules and explicitly load the ones needed
 # (good job metadata and reproducibility)
 # $WORK and $SCRATCH are now set
module list # job documentation and metadata

echo "job is starting on `hostname`"

run the container binary with arguments: python3 <program.py>
--bind /projects/bbXX # add to aptainer arguments to mount directory inside container
aptainer run --nv \
 /sw/external/NGC/tensorflow:22.06-tf2-py3 python3 \
 tensorflow test.py
```



## Hands on example on NCSA Delta – Using NGC Container

```
[mahidhar@dt-login04 nairr_workshop]$ sbatch delta-example.sb
Submitted batch job 8577459
[mahidhar@dt-login04 nairr_workshop]$ squeue -u $USER
```

| JOBID   | PARTITION    | NAME  | USER     | ST | TIME | NODES | NODELIST(REASON) | FEATURES |
|---------|--------------|-------|----------|----|------|-------|------------------|----------|
| 8577459 | gpuA100x4-in | tfNGC | mahidhar | R  | 0:01 | 1     | gpua001          | (null)   |

```
[mahidhar@dt-login04 nairr_workshop]$ tail slurm-8577459.out

Container image Copyright (c) 2022, NVIDIA CORPORATION & AFFILIATES. All rights reserved.
Copyright 2017-2022 The TensorFlow Authors. All rights reserved.

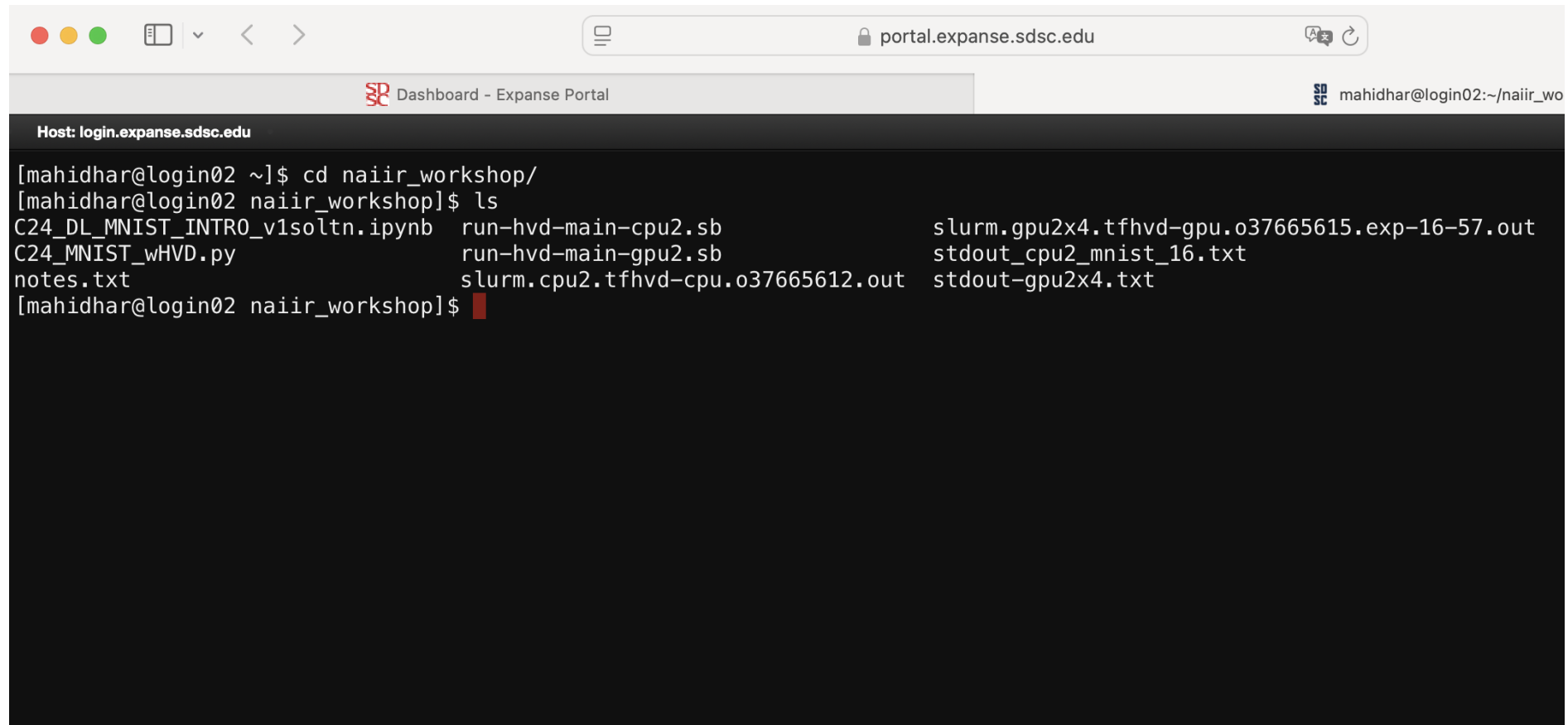
Various files include modifications (c) NVIDIA CORPORATION & AFFILIATES. All rights reserved.

This container image and its contents are governed by the NVIDIA Deep Learning Container License.
By pulling and using the container, you accept the terms and conditions of this license:
https://developer.nvidia.com/ngc/nvidia-deep-learning-container-license

[mahidhar@dt-login04 nairr_workshop]$ tail slurm-8577459.out
1875/1875 [=====] - 2s 975us/step - loss: 0.3022 - accuracy: 0.9121
Epoch 2/5
1875/1875 [=====] - 2s 969us/step - loss: 0.1461 - accuracy: 0.9555
Epoch 3/5
1875/1875 [=====] - 2s 970us/step - loss: 0.1078 - accuracy: 0.9676
Epoch 4/5
1875/1875 [=====] - 2s 972us/step - loss: 0.0882 - accuracy: 0.9730
Epoch 5/5
1875/1875 [=====] - 2s 970us/step - loss: 0.0758 - accuracy: 0.9759
313/313 - 0s - loss: 0.0713 - accuracy: 0.9784 - 350ms/epoch - 1ms/step
[mahidhar@dt-login04 nairr_workshop]$
```

## Hands on examples – Expanse multi-node runs

- Start by clicking on the “terminal” app in the portal



```
Host: login.expanse.sdsc.edu

[mahidhar@login02 ~]$ cd naiir_workshop/
[mahidhar@login02 naiir_workshop]$ ls
C24_DL_MNIST_INTRO_v1soltn.ipynb run-hvd-main-cpu2.sb slurm.gpu2x4.tfhvd-gpu.o37665615.exp-16-57.out
C24_MNIST_wHVD.py run-hvd-main-gpu2.sb stdout_cpu2_mnist_16.txt
notes.txt slurm.cpu2.tfhvd-cpu.o37665612.out stdout-gpu2x4.txt
[mahidhar@login02 naiir_workshop]$
```





## Hands on examples – submit script for multi-node runs

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
#SBATCH --job-name=tfhvd-cpu
#SBATCH --account=gue998
#SBATCH --partition=compute
#SBATCH --nodes=2
#SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=8 #<<<<<----- change
this to 16 or 4 and obse
rve changes in training time (listed at end of
stdout output file)
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=1
#SBATCH --mem=243G
#SBATCH --time=00:15:00
#SBATCH --output=slurm.cpu2.%x.o%j.out
#SBATCH --time=00:30:00
#----- set up modules -----
module reset
module load slurm
module load gcc/10.2.0 #compiler, unix
```

```
module load openmpi/4.1.3 #open mpi
module load singularitypro/3.11 #container
module list
#----- set up some environmental settings -----
export OMPI_MCA_btl='self,vader'
export UCX_TLS='shm,rc,ud,dc'
export UCX_NET_DEVICES='mlx5_0:1'
export UCX_MAX_RNDV_RAILS=1
#might need to cd into the working directory
#cd /home/$USER/MNODETest
#----- execute the mpirun command to launch container
instances -----
mpirun -n ${SLURM_NTASKS} singularity exec --bind
/expanse,/scratch /cm/s
hared/apps/containers/singularity/tensorflow/tensorflow_
22.08-tf2-py3.sif
python3 ./C24_MNIST_wHVD.py >
stdout_cpu2_mnist_${SLURM_NTASKS}.txt
```

## Hands on examples – Submit Expanse multi-node job using sbatch

- Submit using sbatch:

`sbatch run-hvd-main-cpu2.sb`

```
[mahidhar@login02 nair_workshop]$ ls -lt
total 141
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 1412 Mar 17 07:22 slurm.gpu2x4.tfhvd-gpu.o37665615.exp-16-57.out
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 34 Mar 17 07:22 stdout-gpu2x4.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 1031 Mar 17 07:22 run-hvd-main-gpu2.sb
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 7169 Mar 17 07:22 stdout_cpu2_mnist_16.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 3218 Mar 17 07:22 slurm.cpu2.tfhvd-cpu.o37665612.out
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 1200 Mar 17 07:19 run-hvd-main-cpu2.sb
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 7834 Mar 17 07:18 C24_MNIST_wHVD.py
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 78648 Mar 17 07:09 C24_DL_MNIST_INTRO_v1soltn.ipynb
-rw-r--r-- 1 mahidhar use300 256 Mar 17 07:01 notes.txt
[mahidhar@login02 nair_workshop]$ sbatch run-hvd-main-cpu2.sb
Submitted batch job 37665677
[mahidhar@login02 nair_workshop]$ squeue -u $USER
 JOBID PARTITION NAME USER ST TIME NODES NODELIST(REASON)
 37665677 compute tfhvd-cp mahidhar PD 0:00 2 (Priority)
[mahidhar@login02 nair_workshop]$
```



## Hands on examples – Submit Expanse multi-node job using sbatch

- Check output, for example:

`cat slurm.cpu2.tfhvd-cpu.o37665677.out`

```
[mahidhar@login02 nairr_workshop]$ cat slurm.cpu2.tfhvd-cpu.o37665677.out
Resetting modules to system default. Resetting $MODULEPATH back to system default. All extra directories will be removed from $MODULEPATH.

Currently Loaded Modules:
 1) shared 4) DefaultModules 7) ucx/1.10.1/dnpjjuc
 2) cpu/0.17.3b (c) 5) slurm/expanse/23.02.7 8) openmpi/4.1.3/oq3qvs
 3) sdsc/1.0 6) gcc/10.2.0/npcyll4 9) singularitypro/3.11

Where:
 c: built natively for AMD Rome

WARNING:tensorflow:Callback method `on_train_batch_end` is slow compared to the batch time (batch time: 0.0100s vs `on_train_batch_end` t
43s). Check your callbacks.
WARNING:tensorflow:Callback method `on_train_batch_end` is slow compared to the batch time (batch time: 0.0100s vs `on_train_batch_end` t
43s). Check your callbacks.
WARNING:tensorflow:Callback method `on_train_batch_end` is slow compared to the batch time (batch time: 0.0100s vs `on_train_batch_end` t
42s). Check your callbacks.
WARNING:tensorflow:Callback method `on_train_batch_end` is slow compared to the batch time (batch time: 0.0100s vs `on_train_batch_end` t
44s). Check your callbacks.
WARNING:tensorflow:Callback method `on_train_batch_end` is slow compared to the batch time (batch time: 0.0099s vs `on_train_batch_end` t
44s). Check your callbacks.
WARNING:tensorflow:Callback method `on_train_batch_end` is slow compared to the batch time (batch time: 0.0100s vs `on_train_batch_end` t
43s). Check your callbacks.
WARNING:tensorflow:Callback method `on_train_batch_end` is slow compared to the batch time (batch time: 0.0100s vs `on_train_batch_end` t
44s). Check your callbacks.
```



## Hands on examples – submit script for multi-node runs using tfdidt

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
#SBATCH --job-name=clusterresolver
#SBATCH --account=use300
#SBATCH --partition=gpu
#SBATCH --nodes=2
#SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=40
#SBATCH --gpus=8
#SBATCH --mem=200G
#SBATCH --output=slurm.gpu2node.%x.o%j.out
#SBATCH --time=00:30:00
```

```
module load singularitypro/3.11
```

```
srun singularity exec --bind /scratch,/expanse /cm/shared/apps/containers/singularity/tensorflow/tensorflow-
latest.sif python3 test.py
```



## Hands on examples – Submit Expanse multi-node job using sbatch

- Submit using sbatch:

```
sbatch --res=nairrworkshop run-clusterresolver-gpu2node.sb
```

```
[mahidhar@login01 naiir_workshop]$ sbatch --res=nairrworkshop run-clusterresolver-gpu2node.sb
Submitted batch job 37742419
[mahidhar@login01 naiir_workshop]$ squeue -u $USER
```

| JOBID    | PARTITION | NAME     | USER     | ST | TIME | NODES | NODELIST(REA |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----|------|-------|--------------|
| 37742419 | gpu       | clusterr | mahidhar | PD | 0:00 | 2     | (Reservation |

```
)
[mahidhar@login01 naiir_workshop]$
```





## References

- Tensorflow guide : <https://www.tensorflow.org/guide>
- Tensorflow case studies: <https://www.tensorflow.org/about/case-studies>
- NVIDIA GPU accelerated TensorFlow:  
<https://catalog.ngc.nvidia.com/orgs/nvidia/containers/tensorflow>
- TensorFlow tutorials: <https://www.tensorflow.org/tutorials>
- CIML Workshop – excellent resource for many hands-on examples  
<https://github.com/ciml-org/ciml-summer-institute-2024>