Course title and number  CSCE 636: Neural Networks  
Term  Fall 2018  
Meeting times and location  MWF 11:30 am - 12:20 pm, H. R. Bright Building 113

Course Description and Prerequisites

An introduction to the field of deep learning, including basic machine learning, supervised learning, logistic regression, loss functions, neural networks, optimization, error back-propagation, regularization and generalization, convolutional neural networks, recurrent neural networks, generative and adversarial models, applications to natural language processing and computer vision.

Prerequisites include basic machine learning (e.g., supervised learning, linear regression, logistic regression, support vector machines), linear algebra (e.g., singular value decomposition), multivariate calculus, access to GPU, proficiency in Python programming.

Learning Outcomes or Course Objectives

Student learning outcomes include (1) understanding the foundation, major techniques, applications, and challenges of deep learning; (2) the ability to apply basic deep learning algorithms for solving real-world problems. The learning outcomes will be assessed based on a combination of homework assignments, exams, projects and presentations.

Instructor Information

Name  Shuiwang Ji  
Telephone number  TBD  
Email address  sji@tamu.edu  
Office hours  MW 10:30 am - 11:30 am  
Office location  TBD

Textbook and/or Resource Material

Main text:  
Charu C. Aggarwal: Neural Networks and Deep Learning, Springer, September 2018  
https://www.amazon.com/dp/3319944622  
http://www.charuaggarwal.net/neural.htm  
https://rd.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-94463-0

Additional materials:  
YS Abu-Mostafa, M Magdon-Ismail, HT Lin: Learning from Data, only Chapters 3 and 7  
http://amlbook.com/  

Grading Policies

Homework (4): 40%: There will be four homework assignments containing both written and programming components.
Exam (2): 35%: There will be two exams covering the foundations of neural networks and deep learning. Exam 1 will be 15% and final exam will be 20%.

Project (1): 25%: There will be one semester-long, team project. Students are required to form teams of 2-3 students and carry out a project related to deep learning and applications to computer vision or natural language processing. Example projects include (1) implementation and comparison of several existing methods on benchmark data sets and gain some insights, (2) extension of existing methods by incorporating more functions and features, (3) improvements to current models and algorithms with experimental evaluation. The minimal requirement is that each project must have an experimental section with results. Project reports must follow the NIPS paper format at https://nips.cc/Conferences/2018/PaperInformation/StyleFiles Most deep learning code requires GPU, thus students are required to have access to GPU.

Project milestones are as follows:
Project proposal: Each team is required to discuss their project proposal with the instructor and submit a one-page proposal before the meeting.
Mid-term report: Each team is required to submit a mid-term report of 3 pages to report the results of project. Preliminary experimental results and plan for the remaining parts of the project are required.
Final report and presentation: At the end of semester, each team will be asked to submit a report (minimum of 7 pages excluding references) and do a presentation on their research project. The presentation should be done by all team members and the contributions of each team member should be made clear in both presentation and in report.
Example projects from Stanford Deep Learning classes can be found at:
http://cs230.stanford.edu/projects.html
http://cs231n.stanford.edu/2017/reports.html

Late Policies

For homework assignment, 25% is deducted for each late day for up to three days (including weekends) after which submissions are not accepted. Late project reports will not be accepted.

Grading Scale

Final letter grades will be based on absolute percentage as follows:
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = <60

Course Topics, Calendar of Activities, Major Assignment Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to machine learning</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Introduction to deep learning</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Loss functions and shallow models</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Loss functions and shallow models</td>
<td>Chapter 2, Project proposal due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Training and optimization</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Training and optimization</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Regularization and generalization</td>
<td>Chapter 4, Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Regularization and generalization</td>
<td>Chapter 4, Project mid-term report due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Convolutional neural networks</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Convolutional neural networks</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Recurrent neural networks</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit [http://disability.tamu.edu](http://disability.tamu.edu).

Academic Integrity

All homework assignments are individual and collaboration among students is strictly prohibited. Project reports should be treated as scientific publications, and all rules governing paper-writing apply.

*For additional information please visit: [http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu)*

*“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”*