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Machine Learning and Deep Learning: A Comprehensive Overview

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Abstract: Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) are two core areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that have significantly transformed technology and research. Deep learning (DL), a branch of machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) is nowadays considered as a core technology of today's Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR or Industry 4.0). Due to its learning capabilities from data, DL technology originated from artificial neural network (ANN), has become a hot topic in the context of computing, and is widely applied in various application areas like healthcare, visual recognition, text analytics, cyber security, and many more. However, building an appropriate DL model is a challenging task, due to the dynamic nature and variations in real-world problems and data. Moreover, the lack of core understanding turns DL methods into black-box machines that hamper development at the standard level. This paper presents a comprehensive overview of ML and DL, their theoretical foundations, methodologies, applications, and current trends. The paper aims to clarify the distinctions and synergies between ML and DL and provide insights into their practical implications in various domains such as healthcare, finance, robotics, and computer vision.

Keywords: Deep learning · Artificial neural network · Artificial intelligence · Discriminative learning · Generative learning · Hybrid learning · Intelligent systems

I. INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a transformative force in the modern technological landscape. At the core of AI are Machine Learning and Deep Learning. ML refers to algorithms that allow computers to learn patterns from data and make decisions without explicit programming. DL is a subset of ML DL enables machines to process vast amounts of unstructured data using layered neural networks. This paper aims to distinguish between these two paradigms and understand their synergy in building intelligent applications.

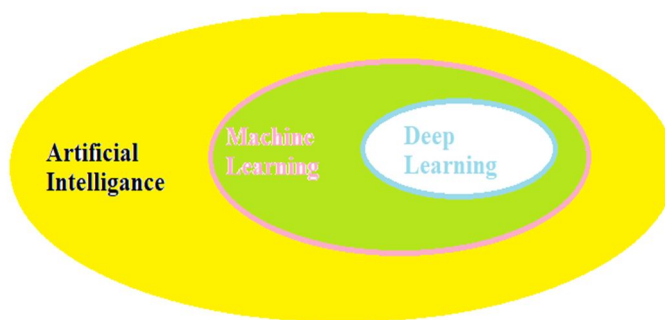


Figure 1: AI, ML, and DL Relationship

II. MACHINE LEARNING

A. Definition and Concept

Machine Learning is a data-driven approach where algorithms learn from data to make predictions or decisions. Machine Learning involves developing models that can generalize from historical data to predict or classify new data. It is classified into three main types:

1) *Supervised Learning*

The learning algorithm for this kind of machine learning is trained using labelled data. The data are referred to be labelled because it consists of pairs, the desired output that can be defined as a supervisory signal and input that can be expressed as a vector.

Supervised learning occurs when the correct result is known beforehand. Over time, the learning algorithm refines its predictions of this output in an effort to narrow the gap between its predictions and the actual output.

When the output is discrete, the supervised learning algorithm may create a classifier function, and when the output is continuous, a regression function is generated from the training data. The learned function accurately predicts the output corresponding to any given input by making plausible generalisations of the patterns and features from the training data to fresh input data.

2) *Unsupervised Learning*

This approach trains the learning algorithm using an input dataset devoid of any labelled outputs, in contrast to supervised learning. For each input item, there is no right or wrong output, and unlike supervised learning, there is no human involvement to correct or adapt. Unsupervised learning is hence more arbitrary than supervised learning.

Unsupervised learning's primary objective is to obtain a deeper understanding of the data by recognising its basic structure or pattern of distribution. The algorithm tries to represent a specific detected input pattern while reflecting it on the general structure of input patterns as it learns on its own. As a result, the various inputs are grouped depending on the features that were taken from each input item. Unsupervised learning is used to solve association and clustering issues.

Unsupervised learning is used to extract features from unlabelled data and categorise or label them when the input data are not labelled. AE begins with the original input, encodes it into a compressed form, and then decodes it to recreate the original input.

3) *Reinforcement Learning*

Learning via interaction with the environment of the problem is called reinforcement learning. Instead of being explicitly instructed on what to do, a reinforcement learning agent learns via its own activities. It chooses a current course of action based on previous encounters (exploitation) and fresh options (exploration). Thus, it might be characterised as a learning process based on trial and error. The reinforcement learning agent receives a signal in the form of a monetary reward value that indicates whether or not an action was successful. The agent aspires to develop the ability to choose options that maximise the worth of the monetary reward. Actions may have an impact on future circumstances and reward values in addition to the current situation and current reward value. Learning agents often have objectives established, and they can sense the state of the environment they are in to some extent. As a result, they can act to change the environment's state and get closer to the goals they have been given. Based on how each approach learns, reinforcement learning and supervised learning differ from one another.

B. *Key Algorithms*

- Linear Regression
- Logistic Regression
- Decision Trees and Random Forests
- Support Vector Machines (SVM)
- K-Means Clustering
- Naive Bayes Classifier



Figure 2: Common Machine Learning Algorithms

C. Application

ML is used in spam detection, recommendation systems, speech recognition, medical diagnosis, and fraud detection. It is also used in Machine Learning is used in email filtering, credit scoring, recommender systems, diagnostics, stock trading, and language translation.

III. DEEP LEARNING

A. Definition and Concept

Deep Learning extends ML by using multi-layered neural networks. These networks automatically learn hierarchical features from large datasets. Deep Learning mimics the human brain using neural networks, especially deep neural networks (DNNs) with many hidden layers. DL is capable of processing unstructured data such as images, audio, and text.

The foundation of deep learning is artificial neurons that mimic the human brain's neurons. A perceptron, also called an artificial neuron, mimics the behaviour of a real neuron by receiving information from a collection of inputs, each of which is given a certain amount of weight. The neuron uses these weighted inputs to compute a function and provide an output. N inputs are sent to the neuron (one for each feature). Then, it adds up the inputs, performs some kind of operation on them (the activation), and produces the output. The significance of an input is measured by its weight. The neural network will place more importance on inputs that carry more weight. The output of the neural network can be fine-tuned for each individual perceptron by adjusting its bias parameter. It ensures the best feasible model-data fit. An activation function is a transformation between inputs and results. Applying a threshold results in an output. Linear, identity, unit, binary step, sigmoid, logistic, tanh, ReLU, and SoftMax are some examples of activation functions. Since a single neuron is unable to process many inputs, multiple neurons are employed in order to reach a conclusion. A neural network is made up of perceptron's that are coupled in different ways and run on distinct activation functions. Any neural network with more than two layers is considered a deep learning model. In data processing, "hidden layers" refer to the intermediate levels between input and output. These layers have the potential to enhance precision. Although neural networks can resemble the brain, their processing power is nowhere near that of the human brain.

B. Key Architectures

- Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)
- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)
- Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)

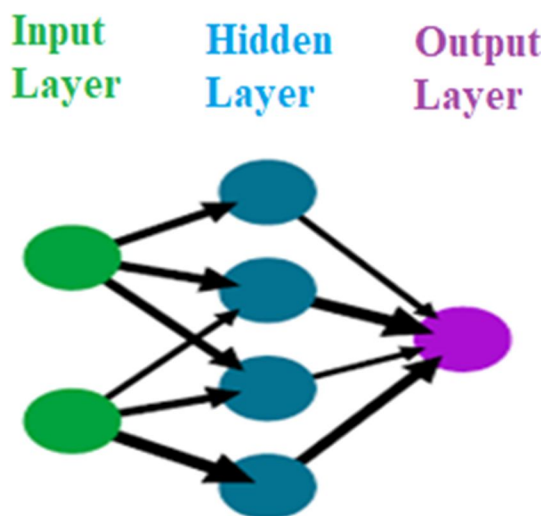


Figure 3: A Simple Neural Network Structure

C. Applications

DL is applied in image and speech recognition, autonomous vehicles, natural language processing (NLP), and game AI.

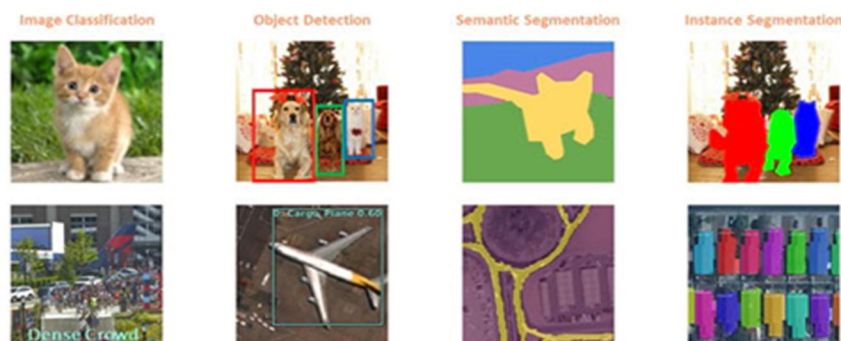


Figure 4: Deep Learning Use Cases

IV. COMPARISON BETWEEN ML AND DL

ML uses algorithms to learn from data and make predictions, while DL uses neural networks, particularly those with many layers, to learn and make intelligent decisions. Deep Learning often excels at complex tasks involving unstructured data like images and speech, and requires large datasets and significant computational power. Deep learning is a subset of machine learning, where the machine learning algorithms are structured into neural networks with multiple layers.

Deep learning excels at tasks involving unstructured data, such as image and speech recognition, where manual feature engineering would be difficult. Deep learning requires large amounts of data to train effectively and often requires significant computational power. Machine learning can be used for a wider range of tasks and can work with smaller datasets, making it a more versatile option in some cases. The key differences are summarized in the table 1.

Table 1: Comparison between Machine Learning and Deep Learning

Feature	Machine Learning	Deep Learning
Data Requirement	Low to Medium	High
Feature Engineering	Required	Automated
Execution Time	Faster for Small Data	Slower due to Complexity
Accuracy	Moderate	High for Large datasets
Interoperability	Higher	Lower

V. TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS

Machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) frameworks provide tools and libraries for building, training, and deploying AI models. Popular ML frameworks include TensorFlow, PyTorch, and scikit-learn, while deep learning frameworks often utilize GPU acceleration and offer higher-level APIs like Keras.

In addition to these, there are also cloud-based machine learning platforms like Amazon Machine Learning and Azure ML Studio, which provide services for creating, training, and deploying models.



Figure 5: Popular ML and DL Frameworks

A brief summary of various frameworks is given below:

➤ TensorFlow

TensorFlow is a free end-to-end open-source platform that has a wide variety of tools, libraries, and resources for Machine Learning. It was developed by the Google Brain team and initially released on November 9, 2015. We can easily build and train Machine Learning models with high-level APIs such as Keras using TensorFlow. TensorFlow is available for Python and C APIs and also for C++, Java, JavaScript, Go, Swift, etc. but without an API backward compatibility guarantee. Third-party packages are also available for MATLAB, C#, Julia, Scala, R, Rust, etc.

➤ Theano

Theano is an open-source project that is a Python library that allows us to manipulate and evaluate mathematical expressions, especially those that handle multidimensional arrays. It was developed by the Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms (MILA) at the University of Montreal and initially released in 2007. Theano also provides integration facilities with NumPy by using `numpy.ndarray` in functions that can be compiled to run efficiently on either CPU or GPU architectures. Theano also provides dynamic C code generation which evaluates expressions faster. Theano uses recent GPU's to even surpass the speed of C on a CPU by many levels.

➤ Scikit-learn

Scikit-learn is a free software library for Machine Learning coding primarily in the Python programming language. It was initially developed as a Google Summer of Code project by David Cournapeau and originally released in June 2007. Scikit-learn is built on top of other Python libraries like NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Pandas, etc. and so it provides full interoperability with these libraries. While Scikit-learn is written mainly in Python, it has also used Cython to write some core algorithms in order to improve performance. We can implement various Supervised and Unsupervised Machine learning models on Scikit-learn like Classification, Regression, Support Vector Machines, Random Forests, Nearest Neighbors, Naive Bayes, Decision Trees, Clustering, etc. with Scikit-learn.

➤ CAFFE

CAFFE (Convolutional Architecture for Fast Feature Embedding) was originally developed at the Berkeley Vision and Learning Center at the University of California and released on 18 April 2017. It is a deep learning framework written in C++ that has an expression architecture easily allowing us to switch between the CPU and GPU. Caffe also has a MATLAB and Python interface and Yahoo has also combined Apache Spark with Caffe to create CaffeOnSpark. Caffe is the perfect framework for image classification and segmentation as it supports various GPU- and CPU-based libraries such as NVIDIA, cuDNN, Intel MKL, etc. And the more said about its speed the better! Caffe can currently process over 60M images in a day with a single NVIDIA K40 GPU which makes it one of the fastest options today.

➤ Apache Mahout

Apache Mahout is a free Machine Learning framework that is mainly focused on Linear Algebra. It was created by the Apache Software Foundation and released on 7 April 2009. It allows data scientists to implement their mathematical algorithms in an interactive environment. Earlier, most implementations of Apache Mahout used the Apache Hadoop platform. The core algorithms for clustering, classification, and batch based collaborative filtering in Apache Mahout use Apache Hadoop but these days primarily Apache Spark is used.

➤ Apache Spark

Apache Spark is an open-source cluster-computing framework that can provide programming interfaces for entire clusters. It was developed at Berkeley's AMPLab at the University of California and initially released on May 26, 2014. Spark Core is the foundation of Apache Spark which is centered on RDD abstraction.

➤ PyTorch

Pytorch is a Machine Learning library that is based on the earlier open-source Torch library. It was initially released in October 2016 and is in primary use now that Torch is not actively in development anymore. PyTorch provides TorchScript, which facilitates a seamless transition between the eager mode and graph mode. Moreover, the `torch.distributed` backend provides scalable

distributed training for Machine Learning and optimized performance. PyTorch also provides multiple libraries like Captum for model interpretability, PyTorch Geometric for Deep Learning on graphs, skorch for scikit-learn compatibility, etc.

➤ Amazon SageMaker

Amazon SageMaker is a fully integrated development environment (IDE) for Machine Learning that was initially released on 29 November 2017. Amazon Web Services provides this Machine Learning service for applications such as Computer Vision, Recommendations, Image, and Video Analysis, Forecasting, Text Analytics, etc. We can choose Amazon SageMaker to build, train, and deploy machine learning models on the cloud. The Amazon SageMaker Autopilot also has an automated machine learning capability that allows us to do all this automatically. Amazon SageMaker also allows us to create Machine Learning algorithms from scratch because of its connections to TensorFlow and Apache MXNet.

➤ Accord.NET

Accord.NET is a Machine Learning framework that is completely written in C#. It was developed by César Roberto de Souza and was initially released on May 20, 2010. Accord.NET provides coverage on various topics like statistics, machine learning, artificial neural networks with various Machine learning algorithms like Classification, Regression, Clustering etc. along with audio and image processing libraries.

➤ Microsoft Cognitive Toolkit

Microsoft Cognitive Toolkit is a Machine Learning or specifically, Deep Learning framework that was developed by Microsoft Research and initially released on 25 January 2016. We can easily develop popular deep learning models such as feed-forward DNNs, convolutional neural networks and recurrent neural networks using the Microsoft Cognitive Toolkit. This toolkit uses multiple GPUs and servers providing parallelization across the backend. We can use the Microsoft Cognitive Toolkit in a customizable manner as per our requirements with your metrics, networks, and algorithms.

VI. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

A. Challenges

- Data quality and labelling cost
- Model explain ability and bias
- High computational and energy costs
- Ethical concerns in AI decision-making

B. Emerging Trends

- Explainable AI (XAI)
- Federated Learning
- Edge AI and low-power DL models
- Self-supervised and few-shot learning
- Integration with quantum computing

AI and Machine Learning Trends in 2025

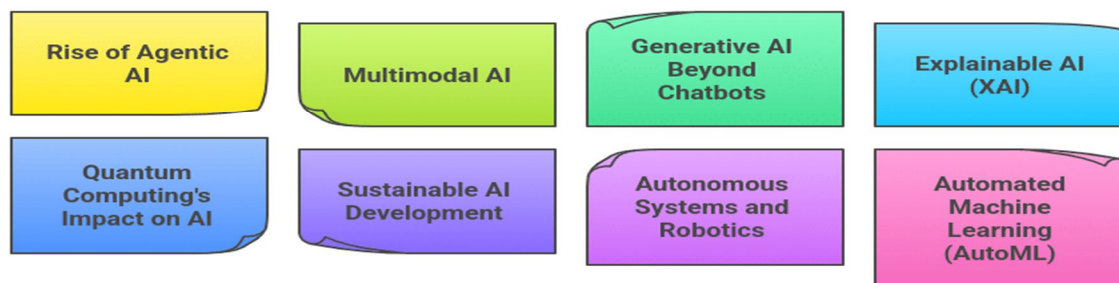


Figure 6: Emerging Trends in ML and DL

VII. CONCLUSION

ML and DL have revolutionized the way we process and analyse data. While ML provides a solid foundation, DL pushes the boundaries in handling complex, high-dimensional data. As computational power and data availability continue to grow, both ML and DL will play pivotal roles in shaping future technologies.

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