

DSC4008: DEEP LEARNING

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Deep Learning

Subject Code

DSC - Data Science

Course Number

4008

Academic Unit

Data Science (DS)

College/School

College of Computing (CC)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

SDSC3006 Fundamentals of Machine Learning I or DSC3006 Fundamentals of Machine Learning I

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

SDSC4008 Deep Learning

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course provides students with an extensive exposure to deep learning. Topics include shallow and deep neural networks, activation functions and rectified linear unit, construction of deep neural networks and matrix representations

including deep convolutional neural networks and deep recursive neural networks, computational issues including backpropagation, automatic differentiation, and stochastic gradient descent, complexity analysis, approximation analysis including universality of approximation, design of deep neural network architectures and programming according to various applications.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Understand the basic ingredients of deep learning and constructing deep neural networks by matrix representations	20	x		
2	State clearly application domains and the properties of deep neural networks with various architecture	20	x	x	
3	Conduct complexity analysis and approximation analysis of deep learning methods	30	x	x	x
4	Apply deep learning algorithms to typical datasets, design new algorithms from theoretical understanding of complexity and approximation, and solve some practical problems in data science by deep learning algorithms	30	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Learning through teaching is primarily based on lectures.	1, 2, 3, 4	39 hours in total
2	Take-home assignments	Learning through take-home assignments is primarily based on interactive problem solving and hand-on computer exercises allowing instant feedback.	2, 3, 4	after class

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Hand-in assignments	1, 3, 4	30	These are skills based assessment to enable students to demonstrate the basic concepts, methods and algorithms of deep learning, and applications of deep learning algorithms in some applications. (0-30%)	Yes
2	Projects	2, 3, 4	30	The projects provide students chances to demonstrate their achievements on deep learning methods learned in this course.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

30

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs

Note: To pass the course, apart from obtaining a minimum of 40% in the overall mark, a student must also obtain a minimum mark of 30% in both continuous assessment and examination components.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Hand-in assignments

Criterion

Ability to learn the basic concepts, apply methods and algorithms of deep learning, and develop applications of deep learning algorithms.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Formative take-home assignments

Criterion

Ability to grasp basic principles of deep learning, understand deep neural network structures, and apply deep learning algorithms to some practical data sets.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

Ability to solve learning tasks using deep learning algorithms.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- Review of neural networks: activation functions, sigmoidal functions and rectified linear unit.
- Construction of deep neural networks and matrix representations: fully connected networks represented by full matrices, deep convolutional neural networks represented by convolutional matrices, deep recursive neural networks represented by structured matrices, and pooling.
- Computational issues: backpropagation and automatic differentiation, overfitting and the role of rectified linear unit in deep learning, non-convex optimization and saddle problems in training deep neural networks. underfitting, gradient vanishing
- Complexity analysis: regularization for deep learning, learning ability in terms of the number of hidden neurons and depth of the deep neural networks.
- Approximation analysis: universality of approximation of functions, better approximation by deeper layers.
- Generative Models: VAE, GAN, Flow-based Models and Diffusion Models
- Network Architectures: CNN, ResNet, Transformer
- Adversarial Robustness: Adversarial Attacks, Adversarial Defense
- Design of deep neural network architectures and programming according to various applications of deep learning.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lecture slides and other related material
2	Neural Networks and Deep Learning: a Textbook by Charu C. Aggarwal. Springer. 2018

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Neural Networks and Deep Learning: a Textbook by Charu C. Aggarwal. Springer. 2018