AI and Emerging Technologies

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Overview

Outline

- Importance of AI
- Progressing further?
- Enabling AI in HEP
- Challenges, barriers and opportunities:
 - Software, hardware and AI-ops
 - Skills/training and capacity building
 - Knowledge-exchange within/beyond HEP
- Emerging Technologies
- Next-steps and summary



CoPilot 'AI in HEP'



Importance of Al

- Al is becoming increasing vital to a very wide range our physics programme
 - Can enhance almost all aspects of our experiments and some of theory:
 - Object reconstruction, event selection, simulation, event generation, data quality, detector control/monitoring, coding, trigger, hardware design, documentation....
 - Many examples where applying AI has been truly transformational



GN2 Flavour Tagging on ATLAS

- ATLAS Thesis Award
- 5 x ATLAS Outstanding Achievement Awards
- Result of in-depth AI training in STFC CDT Programme

Progressing Further?

- AI has potential for further transformative change
 - Pushing the boundary:
 - Many (all?) students use AI tools to write code
 - Could envisage AI models that assist in the full analysis chain
 - Focus more on physics rather than code frameworks?



- Feed raw data into Large Language Models which can reconstruct objects
 - Solve CPU issues?
- Auto-encoders that can compress our data with little loss of information
 - Assist with data storage issues?
- Marking all our exams/course work.....
- Need to be able fully exploit this potential and opportunities (funding/impact)
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Enabling AI in HEP

- Initially via Swift-HEP and ExaTEPP started an initiative for enabling AI in HEP
 - Proposed a work package on AI in Swift-HEP 2.0
 - Launched an AI Working Group in the interim
 - Enabling AI in HEP experiment and theory
 - Community-wide endeavour
 - Focus on challenges, barriers and opportunities in:
 - Software, hardware and ML-Ops
 - Skills/Training and capacity building
 - Knowledge exchange and wider engagement
 - First exploratory workshop on 1st October@UCL
 - Please register to take part in the discussion (open to all):
 - https://indico.cern.ch/event/1450122/
 - Will be used to inform our input to ECFA on AI
 - Also engaging with STFC AI Strategy and other ECFA AI work

Exploratory meeting on enabling AI in HEP experiment and theory: software/tools, operations, wider engagement and skills capacity

1 October 2024 University College London Europe/London timezone

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26/09/2024

Software, Hardware and ML-Ops

- Considerations:
 - Software
 - Do we have easy access to the latest libraries, tools and techniques?
 - Can we easily/effectively deploy the models we train?
 - Software stacks
 - Hardware (e.g. FPGAs)
 - Are we adhering to the FAIR principle?
 - Would HEP specific software be helpful?
 - > Al-ops
 - Are our models reproducible?
 - Are they robust with changing conditions (detectors, beam, simulation)?
 - Do they cause undesirable biases?
 - Are they explainable?
 - > Hardware
 - Do we have access to the necessary modern hardware for training, model development and deployment?
 - How can we make our usage more sustainable?
 - Do we have the necessary skills to exploit the hardware/software



Fast-ML in hardware trigger

Skills, Training and Capacity Building

- Need effective AI-training for HEP: model development, deployment, AI-ops...
 - Ability to bring in latest developments
 - What form should it take and how should it be provided?
 - Available for PhD, PDRAs, academics, technical staff?
 - In-depth courses available to PhD students at beginning of PhD?
 - STFC/UKRI CDT's great example of creating AI expert practitioners
 - View themselves as HEP and AI experts
 - Bring new tools/techniques into our field
 - Augment training with interactions with foundational/industry experts? Collaborate internationally? Hold in person to build national cohorts?...
- Capacity building: once we've trained world-leading AI practitioners....
 - Skillset that is in extremely high-demand in industry other research areas
 - Some leaving field good for wider socioeconomic impact
 - How do we ensure enough stay in the field?
 - Career progression opportunities and job security
 - Training (interactions with industry/foundational-AI experts)
 - Ability to stay at the cutting-edge (software/hardware)

Knowledge Exchange and Wider Engagement

- Several layers on which this can be considered:
 - Build into HEP train fully fledged expert AI partitioners
 - Effective bridges between the AI and HEP communities (e.g. CDT)
 - Across HEP
 - Areas enriched in ML expertise, encourage KE:
 - e.g. AI forums, inter-disciplinary PhDs or co-supervision of PhDs (CDTs), develop common tools, mapping/linking expertise
 - PPTAP identified this as a key area to build upon
 - Foundational AI experts (e.g. Computer Science, Statistics....)
 - Many keen to engage providing a unique perspective
 - Better engage SciML and other expertise in Ada Lovelace Centre
 - Industry
 - Big possible gains from engaging with industry
 - Training, hardware access, tools/techniques, funding
 - Hartree and CDT programmes plus direct engagement already ongoing
 - Good examples to build upon and grow community-wide
- Effectively engaging KE can have a transformative effect upon our field

Can we improve our approach?

Emerging Technologies

• Focussed on AI as now a mature development

- > Need to make sure we horizon scanning for next breakthrough technologies
 - Ready to harness them
 - Understand potential, develop skills, build capacity
- Example: Quantum Algorithms (QA)
 - Potential for QA to have large impact in HEP
 - UK teams already exploring potential
 - e.g. <u>tracking</u>, <u>parton-shower</u>
 - No real funding for this work in the UK
 - Government priority area and large-scale funding being deployed
 - Significant long-term opportunities
- Need mechanisms to ensure we prepare for future breakthroughs

Next Steps

- Al is already a vital tool for our field and its importance will only grow
 - Can touch upon almost all areas of our entire programme
 - Provide truly transformational impacts
 - > Vital that we are prepared to fully exploit the opportunities it affords
 - Enable/enhance our programme, more funding streams, enhanced impact
 - Need to similarly ensure we engage with other emerging technologies
- To ensure we can fully exploit AI need to focus on challenges and barriers in:
 - Training, skills and capacity building
 - Knowledge exchange and wider engagement (within, beyond, industry)
 - Software, hardware and AI-Ops
 - Other issues?
- All will be discussed in the exploratory meeting on enabling AI in HEP
 - Please register for workshop and take part in discussion
 - <u>https://indico.cern.ch/event/1450122/</u>
 - Help provide important input to ECFA submission on AI

Backup