Lukas Schäfer

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Intern — 11/2020 -- 03/2021
Dematic - Technology and Innovation — Remote

- Applying state-of-the-art AI technology to automate large-scale robotic warehouse logistics.

Navigation Software Engineer, University of Edinburgh — 09/2018 -- 08/2019
HYPED -- University of Edinburgh Hyperloop Team — Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- Developing navigation system of "The Flying Podsman" Hyperloop prototype using sensor filtering, processing and control techniques to estimate location, orientation and speed of the pod
- Finalist for the SpaceX 2019 Hyperloop competition in California in Summer 2019

PUBLICATIONS

[1] **Lukas Schäfer**, F. Christianos, J. Hanna, and S. V. Albrecht, "Decoupling exploration and exploitation in reinforcement learning," in *ICML Workshop on Unsupervised Reinforcement Learning (URL); (Revised Under Review)*, 2021.

[2] G. Papoudakis, F. Christianos, **Lukas Schäfer**, and S. V. Albrecht, "Benchmarking multi-agent deep reinforcement learning algorithms in cooperative tasks," in *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), Datasets and Benchmarks Track*, 2021.

[3] R. Zhong, J. Hanna, **Lukas Schäfer**, and S. V. Albrecht, "Robust on-policy data collection for data efficient policy evaluation," *(Under Review)*, 2021.

[4] T. McInroe, **Lukas Schäfer**, and S. V. Albrecht, "Learning temporally-consistent representations for data-efficient reinforcement learning," *(Under Review)*, 2021.

[5] F. Christianos, **Lukas Schäfer**, and S. V. Albrecht, "Shared experience actor-critic for multi-agent reinforcement learning," in *34th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2020.

EDUCATION

PhD Data Science & Artificial Intelligence — 12/2019 -- Present
University of Edinburgh — Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- Supervisors: Stefano V. Albrecht (primary) and Amos Storkey (secondary)
- Expected graduation: December 2023
- Project: Sample Efficiency and Generalisation in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning
- Receiving **Principal's Career Development Scholarship** from the University of Edinburgh
- Research: Reinforcement Learning, Multi-Agent Systems, Generalisation, Exploration, Intrinsic Rewards

M.Sc. Informatics — 09/2018 -- 08/2019
University of Edinburgh — Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- Degree classification: **Distinction** (77.28%)
- Received **DAAD** (German Academic Exchange Service) **graduate scholarship** and **Stevenson Exchange Scholarship**
- Modules include: Reinforcement Learning, Algorithmic Game Theory and its Applications, Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition, Probabilistic Modelling and Reasoning, Decision Making in Robots and Autonomous Agents

B.Sc. Computer Science, minor subject Japanese — 10/2015 -- 09/2018
Saarland University — Saarbrücken, Germany

- Degree classification: grade of **1.2** (German scale) equivalent to UK **1st class honours**

Abitur - Secondary School — 08/2008 -- 06/2015
Warndtgymnasium Geislautern, Völklingen — Geislautern, Germany

- **Grade of 1.0**; school year's best student award, computer science and mathematics award of Saarland University

SKILLS

Programming
Competent
Python • C++
Familiar
C • Java • Rust • SML • HTML • CSS • Matlab • Bash

Technologies and Tools
PyTorch • TensorFlow • Keras • NumPy • UNIX • Git

Languages
Native in German • Fluent in English • Intermediate in French • Beginner in Chinese • Beginner in Japanese

DISSERTATIONS

M.Sc. Dissertation, Autonomous Agents Research Group — 05/2019 -- 08/2019
Curiosity in Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning (74%)

- Applied curiosity as intrinsically computed exploration bonuses for multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL)
- Implemented count- and prediction-based curiosities for value-based and policy-gradient MARL methods using PyTorch
- Evaluated the influence of curiosity on cooperative and competitive MARL under partial observability and sparse rewards in a multi-agent particle environment
- Applied curiosity led to improved stability and convergence of policy-gradient MARL trained with sparse reward signals

B.Sc. Dissertation, Foundations of Artificial Intelligence (FAI) Group — 04/2018 -- 07/2018
Domain-Dependent Policy Learning using Neural Networks in Classical Planning (1.0)

- Transferred domain-dependent policy learning Action-Schema Networks to classical automated planning
- Keras implementation, adjusted training for classical planning and extended the FastDownward planning framework
- Extensive evaluation and analysis on IPC domains identifying limitations in generalisation and scalability

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Edinburgh — 10/2019 -- Present
Reinforcement Learning, School of Informatics

- **Delivering lectures** and **designing RL coursework** coveringwide range of topics from single- to multi-agent and deep RL
- Marking project and exam for reinforcement learning course
- Advising students on various challenges regarding lecture material and content

Voluntary Lecturer and Coach, Saarland University — 09/2017 -- 10/2017
Mathematics Preparation Course

- Assisted the organization of the mathematics preparation course for upcoming computer science students
- Explained formal languages and predicate logic to ~ 250 participants in daily lectures of the first week
- Supervised two groups to provide feedback and further assistance in daily coaching-sessions
- The course received **BESTE-award** for special student commitment 2017 of Saarland University

Teaching Assistant, Saarland University — 10/2016 -- 03/2017
Programming 1, Dependable Systems and Software Group

- Taught first-year students concepts of functional programming, basic complexity theory and inductive correctness proofs in weekly tutorials and office hours
- Collectively created learning materials and discussed student progress as part of the whole teaching team

REVIEWING

- Reviewer for **NeurIPS 2021 Datasets and Benchmarks Track**
- Reviewer for **NeurIPS 2020 workshop** "**The pre-registration experiment**: an alternative publication model for machine learning research"

For software project experience, see **lukaschaefer.com/#projects**

[References available on request - Last updated on October 5, 2021]