

Work/ Idea Journal

Sriram Somasundaram

1 Introduction

The following is just a journal of my daily activities and thoughts. Many ideas will be cursory without background knowledge, which I may research thoroughly and pursue more in depth.

2 Days

2.1 July 26, 2017

Work Spent about twenty minutes today with some friends figuring out the best way to implement a n-dimensional array in C using dynamic allocation and trying to make the memory contiguous and easily accessible. I was also trying to understand how Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs) are generated for audio parametrization in speech processing. A lot of the signal processing to parametrize the audio is motivated by how we hear in the cochlea, but the last step is a Discrete Cosine Transform. Apparently the DCT is similar to Principal Component Analysis, which both involve something called a Karhunen-Loève transform. Somehow the eigenvectors of the covariance matrix are involved, and I was trying to make sense of what those meant and how using those as a basis minimized mean squared error. Also, I tried out some of the TFLearn library (higher-level API for Tensorflow) just for classification using DNNs and tried to do sequence generation.

Ideas Maybe make a web app template with database support, auth, which uses a couple of modern tools in a pipeline for startups and new developers to use. LSTM for web syntax then link of text descriptions of websites and try to be able to generate websites (HTML, CSS, JS) given a text description of the desired site. Look at what is being done for generating images from text ([Ex 1](#) and [2](#))

2.2 July 27, 2017

Work Checked out the tflearn implementation for LSTM and text generation. Thought about how to use the LSTM as a language model that learns word and character sequence probabilities. Needed to refer to Parallel Phone Recognition and Language modeling. Also, was trying to learn about latent semantic analysis and latent dirichlet allocation.

Ideas Gather the titles and topics of arXiv papers and try to predict the direction research is heading to. May have to build some semantic model along with a sequence one.

2.3 July 30, 2017

Work Was my birthday yesterday, so I have taken a brief respite. I recently ran into some git ssh key issue after trying to ssh in a cluster I haven't accessed in years to delete data. A quick debug command is to ssh to the git server using a verbose option to see what key is being used and what user is being recognized. Also, may have to check ssh-agent and listing keys in ssh-add.

2.4 July 31, 2017

Work Looked a bit at graph databases and the difference between the git services. Also, wanted to learn a bit more about the network programming and sockets: [Beej's guide](#). Was looking at airmon-ng and how to decrypt packets.

Ideas Need to learn about the exact implementation for style transfer. Based on a naive understanding, I believe that some portion of style either from somewhere deep in a convolutional neural net or somewhere else is extracted from an image and applied to one with content. Could one do something similar to voice with i-vectors or some other stylistic representation of one's voice. May have to do with diarization. Really need to look at the papers and think.

2.5 August 2, 2017

Work Looked at protocol buffer and Cap'n Proto. Last day of company work. Made a documentation "guide for dummies" in LaTeX for the Kaldi toolkit that my team worked with that had conceptual, file specific, and implementation details. Went bouldering with coworkers for the first time, and my fingers got blasted.

Ideas Cooler helmet or head protection that fulfills helmet requirements in cities with many motorcycles/ bikes and high temperatures.

2.6 August 4, 2017

Work Looked a bit at support vector machines.

Ideas Gathering data from cell providers is quite creepy. However, the data could be tremendously valuable if you couple location info with user data. There are tons of applications that could range from tracking macro patterns (stuff even as minute as demographic that visit theater on opening night of movie) to targeting ads. Another one I thought of today while waiting at a red light: Use live location data (similar to whatever updates waze or google maps on traffic) and figure out the flow of cars through streets to optimize a network of signal light decisions. I know that traffic systems already have complex rules and algorithms in place that incorporate the weight plates, checking if traffic is backed up in a lane, coordinating subsequent lights down a straight road, letting cars one by one into the freeway during peak hours, etc. Anyways, use the data to make better decisions for traffic lights. Manage the flow on demand, optimizing based on the exact data on the streets coupled with existing methods. It is a vague suggestion but worth more investigation.