Varun Belagali

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Education

Stony Brook, USA

Stony Brook University

Aug 2022 - Present

- PhD in Computer Science, GPA: 4/4.
- Pursuing Thesis in Computer Vision advised by Prof. Dimitris Samaras.
- Coursework: Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Robotics, Distributed Systems, Database Systems.

Bengaluru, India

R V College of Engineering

Aug 2016 - Aug 2020

- B.E. in Computer Science and Engineering, GPA: 9.22/10.
- Coursework: Operating Systems, Analysis of Algorithms, Neural Networks, Data Structures, Compilers.

Research Interest

· Self-supervised Learning

Research Papers

- 1. **Belagali, V.***, Yellapragada, S.*, Graikos, A., Kapse, S., Li, Z., Nandi, T. N., ... & Samaras, D. Gen-SIS: Generative Self-augmentation Improves Self-supervised Learning, **arXiv** preprint 2024.
- 2. Li, X., **Belagali, V.**, Shang, J. & Ryoo, M. S. Crossway Diffusion: Improving Diffusion-based Visuomotor Policy via Self-supervised Learning, **ICRA** 2024.
- 3. **Belagali, V.**, Zhou, L., Li, X. & Samaras, D. HyperMAE: Modulating Implicit Neural Representations for Efficient MAE Training, **NeurIPS** 2023 Workshop SSLTheoryPractice23.
- 4. Zhou, L., **Belagali, V.**, Bae, J., Prasanna, P. & Samaras, D. INRFormer: Neuron Permutation Equivariant Transformer on Implicit Neural Representations, **NeurIPS** 2023 Workshop NeurReps.
- 5. **Belagali, V.**, Rao, A. & Ghosh, P. K. Weakly supervised glottis segmentation using bounding box labels, **Interspeech** 2023.
- 6. Roy, A., **Belagali, V.** & Ghosh, P. K. Air tissue boundary segmentation using regional loss in real-time Magnetic Resonance Imaging video for speech production, **Interspeech** 2022.
- 7. Roy, A., **Belagali, V.** & Ghosh, P. K. An error correction scheme for improved air-tissue boundary in real-time MRI video for speech production, **ICASSP** 2022.
- 8. **Belagali, V.**, Rao, A., Gopikishore, P., Krishnamurthy, R. & Ghosh, P. K. Two step convolutional neural network for automatic glottis localization and segmentation in stroboscopic videos, **Biomedical Optics Express** 2020.

Work Experience

Research Assistant - CV Lab

Stony Brook University

Sep 2022 – Present

• Self-supervised learning

Masked Autoencoders: Explored the usage of implicit neural representations to efficiently train Masked Autoencoders (MAE). Our method, HyperMAE [3], achieved comparable image classification performance to MAE while using 46% - 72% of pre-training compute.

Robotics: Worked on improving diffusion-based visuomotor policy learning by using self-supervision [2]. State reconstruction task as self-supervision led to significant performance improvement of 17%.

Self-augmentations: Exploring usage of synthetic images generated from self (image)-conditioned diffusion models to improve SSL models. Proposed disentanglement pretext task for self-supervised learning using synthetic interpolated images [1].

Research Associate - Spire Lab Indian Institute of Science

Oct 2021 - July 2022

- *Medical Imaging:* Designed a method for weakly supervised glottis segmentation in high-speed videoen-doscopy using bounding box labels [5]. The method enhanced the segmentation quality by 20%.
- Loss Functions: Analyzed the drawbacks of existing deep learning methods for air tissue boundary segmentation in rt-MRI videos. Designed the use of regional losses and metrics to improve segmentation accuracy by 28.5 %[6, 7].

Software Engineer

Citrix

July 2020 - Sep 2021

• *Cloud Engineering:* Developed traffic manager tool in C# to handle cloud services during regional outages which improved time to mitigate by 20%. Led the cloud cost optimization project to reduce the cost by 65%.

Skills

- Languages: Python, C++, Matlab, Java, C#, C, SQL.
- ML libraries: PyTorch, Keras, OpenCV, Detectron, HuggingFace
- **Technologies**: Azure, Jenkins, Splunk, New Relic.

Teaching Assistant

- CSE 512: Machine Learning (Graduate level, Fall 2024, SBU)
- CSE 378: Introduction to Robotics (Undergraduate level, Fall 2023, SBU)
- CSE 416: Software Engineering (Undergraduate level, Spring 2023, SBU)
- ISE 369: Introduction to Political Informatics (Undergraduate level, Spring 2023, SBU)