

Short Summary

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What are problems with the previous RL learning or predictive model learning?

The previous approaches are all focused on leveraging the learning from the interaction dataset with the known actions). However, just having interaction dataset is not sufficient for an agent to deal with complex environment because interaction dataset is mostly for a specific task and most of the suitable interaction dataset is generated from the same kind of actions.

Therefore, it throws a question, can we use dataset from humans (could be video or similar work) to leverage from the observation data? But, we would also suffer from domain shift related to domain shift due to the different actions can be performed by human and robotic embodiments.

How to deal with leveraging the learning from interaction data and observation data, and

(Note this paper focuses on predict the next frame of the video)

This paper introduces a latent variable (z) that to model the action based on the observation data (observation data) and the sequences of state-action pair (interaction data). It uses variational distributions to approximate the latent variable (z) using the observation data separately whereas variational parameters are learnt by optimizing the evidence lower bound (ELBO). Then we can use the latent variable to predict the action, and then we can use the action to predict next frame.

To handle the domain shift, we can divide the latent variable z into z^{shared} and z^{domain} technique to allow the network to learn the difference.

