

EDUCATION

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** Chennai, India
Dual Degree (B.Tech, M.Tech) in Engineering Design, Stream: Automotive Engineering. Aug 2011 - Jun 2016
Minor in Systems and Controls Engineering. CGPA: 8.30/10.0.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Physics-Informed Model-Based Reinforcement Learning** (Paper | Webpage | Code)
Adithya Ramesh and Balaraman Ravindran
Learning for Dynamics and Control Conference (L4DC), 2023
Deep Reinforcement Learning Workshop, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022
The Multi-disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM), 2022
The RBCDSAI-FAI conference on Deployable AI, 2022 (Best Paper)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and AI, IIT Madras** Chennai, India
Research Associate Oct 2021 - Present
 - **Physics-Informed Model-Based Reinforcement Learning**
Research Guide: Prof. Balaraman Ravindran, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras
 - We apply model-based RL to robotic systems undergoing rigid body motion without contacts. In our model-based RL algorithm, we learn a model of the environment, essentially its transition dynamics and reward function, use it to generate imaginary trajectories and backpropagate through them to update the policy, exploiting the differentiability of the model. We compare two versions of our algorithm, one which uses a standard deep neural network based dynamics model and the other which uses a much more accurate, physics-informed neural network based dynamics model.
 - We show that, in model-based RL, model accuracy mainly matters in environments that are sensitive to initial conditions, where numerical errors accumulate fast. In these environments, the physics-informed version of our algorithm achieves significantly better average-return and sample efficiency. In environments that are not sensitive to initial conditions, both versions of our algorithm achieve similar average-return, while the physics-informed version achieves better sample efficiency.
 - We also show that, in challenging environments, physics-informed model-based RL achieves better average-return than state-of-the-art model-free RL algorithms such as Soft Actor-Critic, as it computes the policy-gradient analytically, while the latter estimates it through sampling.
- **Honeywell** Bengaluru, India
R & D Engineer/Scientist II, Advanced Technologies Division, Honeywell Aerospace Jun 2018 - Mar 2021
 - **Multi-Agent Co-operation using Reinforcement Learning**
 - Considered multi-agent problems where the agents must learn an efficient communication protocol to co-operate and execute a task. Considered a representative problem where two agents with complementary sensing modalities (depth and color), have partial information about a target and must communicate, navigate to reach it simultaneously.
 - Adopted a centralized training and decentralized execution approach based on the MADDPG algorithm. Treated depth data as a point cloud and processed it using a PointCNN. Processed color data using a standard CNN. Successful in ~ 99% of 4800 training configurations. Successful in ~ 59% of 1200 test configurations.
 - **Autonomous Navigation for Quadrotors using Reinforcement Learning**
 - Developed a RL based autonomous navigation system for quadrotors, in simulation. The task is to navigate to a goal position in the shortest path, without colliding with stationary obstacles, in an unknown environment. The RL agent uses the relative position of the goal and a depth image to determine which direction to move. A control algorithm then moves the quadrotor a small distance in that direction and the process repeats. Used the DQN algorithm for training.
 - Successful in ~ 92% of 4800 training configurations. Successful in ~ 72% of 1200 test configurations.
 - **LSTM based Speaker Recognition**
 - Developed a LSTM based text-independent speaker recognition system. Trained on ~ 2000 hours of audio from 6000 speakers. Achieved an accuracy of ~ 91.8% on a test dataset containing 1250 speakers.
 - Explored use cases such as authentication of users in a speech based building automation system and enhancing automatic transcription of communication between aircrafts and air traffic control. Drove collaboration with Microsoft Research, India in development of light-weight recurrent neural networks for deployment on resource constrained edge devices.

• **Predible Health**

Deep Learning Engineer

Bengaluru, India

Sep 2017 - May 2018

- **Biomedical Image Processing**

- Developed CNNs to classify nodules in lung CT scans as benign or malignant. Achieved sensitivity of $\sim 90\%$, specificity of $\sim 81\%$ after performing 5-fold cross-validation on a dataset of $\sim 40k$ images.
- Experimented with CNNs for liver CT segmentation, prostate MRI segmentation.

• **Self Employed**

Entrepreneur

Chennai, India

Jun 2016 - Sep 2017

- **Cooking Robot**

- Envisioned a system with two robotic arms and a camera, which can perceive the kitchen environment and dexterously manipulate objects, to autonomously prepare food.
- Initially, considered classical computer vision based perception, and planning and control based manipulation. As I researched further, came across deep learning and RL for the first time. Learnt the fundamentals of deep learning and RL, worked on simple projects and explored the relevant literature.
- Decided to go with deep learning based perception and RL based manipulation for the cooking robot. As I worked on the details, I gradually understood that it was a tough problem and that the required technology would probably take many more years. Hence, I decided to not pursue the project further.

• **Airwood Pvt Ltd**

Intern

Chennai, India

Dec 2014 - May 2015

- **Flight Controller for Quadrotors**

- Worked towards developing a flight controller for quadrotors. Developed complementary filter based state estimation algorithms and PID based control algorithms.
- Owned all aspects of development - software and hardware. Extensively performed flight tests.

PROJECTS

- **Mixed State Entanglement in Quantized Chaotic Systems** (Master's Thesis) ([Link](#))

Research Guides: Prof. Arul Lakshminarayan, Department of Physics, IIT Madras

Prof. Sandipan Bandyopadhyay, Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras

- Quantum chaos is known to impact entanglement in a non trivial manner. Whether it will potentially aid or hinder a quantum computer remains unanswered. Almost all previous work on entanglement in quantized chaotic systems have dealt only with pure states. In reality, even a carefully prepared and isolated system tends to interact with its environment, which has the effect of leaving it in a mixed state. Thus, we studied mixed state entanglement in quantized chaotic systems.
- We considered a prototypical system, the quantum coupled standard map. We studied its entanglement under time evolution for initial states that are mixed, for different interaction strengths between the standard maps and different dimensions of the surrounding environment.
- We found that, for a given interaction strength, as we increase the environment dimension, the tendency to get entangled reduces and there exists a critical dimension in most cases, beyond which the state remains separable at all times. Such a phenomenon is potentially a problem in situations where entanglement is desirable, such as in quantum computing.

- **RL Repository** ([Link](#))

- Implemented RL algorithms such as DQN, A3C, DDPG, MADDPG, PPO, SAC, etc, from scratch in Pytorch. Tested the implementations on tasks from OpenAI Gym, Deepmind Control Suite. Open sourced the code on Github.

- **Chaotic Dynamics in Robotic Manipulation** (Course Project)

- Studied chaotic dynamics in robotic manipulation that can occur for certain values of controller gains and model mismatch. Simulated a parallel manipulator, a planar 5-bar, to track a periodic trajectory. Calculated Lyapunov exponents and plotted phase space plots to identify chaotic dynamics.

- **Hardware Projects**

- Worked on a few projects that involve both software and hardware, such as a ground robot, automatic transmission for a geared bicycle, electric assisted bicycle, WiFi based control of electric home appliances, dimmer circuit for incandescent light bulbs, etc, as a hobby.

SKILLS

- **Operating Systems** - Linux, Windows
- **Programming Languages** - Python, C, C++
- **Deep Learning Frameworks** - Pytorch
- **Scientific Computing** - Numpy, Scipy, Mathematica, Matlab
- **Visualization Tools** - Matplotlib, Tensorboard
- **Robotic Frameworks** - ROS
- **Robotic Simulators** - Mujoco, Deepmind Control Suite, OpenAI Gym, Airsim, Gazebo
- **Development Tools** - SSH, Docker, Git
- **Microcontrollers** - Arduino, NodeMCU
- **CAD** - Autodesk Inventor
- **Document Preparation** - Latex, Microsoft Office

AWARDS AND SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded the NTSE (National Talent Search Exam) scholarship by NCERT, Government of India in 2007.
- Awarded the KVPY fellowship by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in 2011.
- All India Rank 2264 in IIT Joint Entrance Examination 2011 (top 0.45% of 0.5 million candidates).
- All India Rank 642, Tamil Nadu State Rank 20 in All India Engineering Entrance Examination 2011 (top 0.06% of 1.1 million candidates).
- Featured in the top 1% of 40,000 candidates in the National Standard Examination in Physics 2011 and subsequently participated in the Indian National Physics Olympiad 2011.
- Cleared qualifying stages and participated in the Indian National Mathematics Olympiad 2010 and the Indian National Olympiad in Informatics 2009, 2010.

RELEVANT COURSE WORK

- Deep Learning
- Reinforcement Learning
- Data Structures and Algorithms
- Mathematics - Calculus, Linear Algebra, Probability, Optimization, Numerical Methods etc
- Physics - Mechanics, Electromagnetism, Optics etc
- Kinematics and Dynamics of Machinery
- Analog and Digital Circuits
- Mechatronic System Design
- Modern Control Theory
- Mechanics and Control of Serial, Parallel Robotic Manipulators
- Vehicle Dynamics

TEACHING

- Teaching Assistant for Reinforcement Learning course at Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras in spring 2022 and spring 2023.
- Teaching Assistant for Electronics Lab course at Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras in spring 2016.
- Teaching Assistant for Computer-Aided Design Lab course at Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras in fall 2015.