Ankesh Anand

ankeshanand.com

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Education

Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms (MILA)

PhD in Machine Learning, supervised by Aaron Courville

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Integrated M.Sc. in Mathematics and Computing

Montreal, Canada Fall 2017 - Present Kharagpur, India 2011 - 2016

Publications

• Blindfold Baselines for Embodied QA (arxiv)

Ankesh Anand, Eugene Belilovsky, Kyle Kastner, Hugo Larochelle, Aaron Courville ViGIL Workshop at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2018

• HoME: a Household Multimodal Environment (arxiv)

Simon Brodeur, Ethan Perez*, **Ankesh Anand***, Florian Golemo*, Luca Celotti, Florian Strub, Jean Rouat, Hugo Larochelle, Aaron Courville

International Conference on Learning Perpessentations (ICLP) Workshop Track 2018

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) Workshop Track, 2018

• We used Neural Networks to Detect Clickbaits: You won't believe what happened Next! (arxiv)

Ankesh Anand, Tanmoy Chakraborty, Noseong Park European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), 2017

• MMGAN: Manifold Matching Generative Adversarial Networks (arxiv)

Noseong Park, **Ankesh Anand**, Joel Ruben Antony Moniz, Kookjin Lee, Tanmoy Chakraborty, Jaegul Choo, Hongkyu Park, Youngmin Kim

International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), 2018

Work Experience

Microsoft Research

Montreal, Canada

Research Intern (part-time)

December 2018-present

 Working on problems at the intersection of Reinforcement Learning and Representation Learning

VISA Inc.

Bangalore, India

 $Software\ Engineer$

August 2016-August 2017

- Full stack development for the VISA Developer Platform

HackerEarth

Bangalore, India

Backend Engineering Intern

May-July 2015

- Developed a new problem recommendation engine for HackerEarth, built resume parsing services and a real-time notification system for end-users.

Google Summer of Code

Remote

Student Developer

May-August 2015

 Built an online analytics platform for BRL-CAD which provides aggregated analytics for logs and performance metrics collected across different machines and platforms.

Max Planck Institute for Software Systems

Kaiserslautern, Germany

May-July 2014

Visiting Scholar, Large Scale Internet Systems Group

— Worked with an incubated startup named AirClock to build to

 Worked with an incubated startup named AirCloak to build tools for anonymized aggregated analytics using noise augmentation and selective filtering.

Projects

• Learning Generalized Representations for Zero-shot RL

Advisors: Prof. Aaron Courville, Hugo Larochelle

- Used Domain Adversarial Learning to build state representations that are invariant to factors of variation that are not shared across tasks.
- Preliminary experimental results show that such representations are able to generalize across instances of the SONIC game with different textures
- Intrinsically motivated exploration via uncertainty-aware models

Advisors: Prof. Aaron Courville, Hugo Larochelle

- Developed a novel exploration method that guides an agent's towards regions that lead to most reduction in it's model uncertainty
- Preliminary results on delayed Mujoco tasks show that such an exploration bonus can outperform baselines and explore faster.

Honors and Awards

- Hult Prize, 2015: Regional Finalist at the Hult Prize 2015 in Dubai: the worlds largest student competition for social entrepreneurship
- Penn Apps, 2016: Finalist at PennApps Spring 2016, America's largest collegiate hackathon.
- Inter IIT Tech Meet, 2015: Winner of the OpenSoft contest for developing an Android app that makes Information accessible to areas with low connectivity using Wifi P2P networks .
- Scholarships: Recipient of the NTSE (National Talent Search Examination) scholarship (2009-11) awarded by NCERT, India and the INSPIRE Scholarship (2012-16) awarded by the Department of Science and Technology India.

Technical Skills

- Programming Languages:
 - **Proficient:** Python, JavaScript, C++
 - Intermediate: Java, MATLAB
- Machine Learning Libraries: PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, numpy, Pandas
- Web Development: Django, Flask, NodeJS, ReactJS, HTML5, CSS3, MySQL