Sudeep Raja Putta

Contact Information

Xerox Research Centre India
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Research Interests

Reinforcement Learning, Machine Learning Theory, Optimization and Algorithms

Education

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur July 2012 to May 2016
Bachelor of Technology (Honors), Computer Science and Engineering
CGPA: 8.88/10.0

Work Experience

Xerox Research Center India, Bangalore June 2016 to present
Budding Scientist Mentor: Theja Tulabandhula, Ph.D
Machine Learning and Statistics group, Algorithms and Optimization group

Research Experience

Pure Exploration in Episodic Fixed-Horizon Markov Decision Processes
Research Project, Xerox Research Center India Sept 2016 to present

- Proposed an algorithm based on **PSRL** and **Pure Exploration Thompson Sampling** for Pure Exploration in episodic fixed horizon MDPs.
- Empirically showed that our algorithm achieves **Deep exploration** and requires fewer episodes to reach a fixed confidence level.
- Empirically showed that our algorithm achieves good posterior distributions within a fixed budget.

Memory based Function Approximation
Research Project, Xerox Research Center India July 2016 to present

- Proposed **Q-value approximation** heuristics using **K-Nearest Neighbour** regression and **LRU** memory.
- Implemented dynamic nearest neighbour searching using R-trees.
- Investigated the dependence of the performance of the agent on the LRU memory size using environments in **OpenAI Gym**.

Human Activity Recognition in Temporally Untrimmed Videos
Bachelor's Thesis Project, IIT Kharagpur July 2015 to April 2016

- Trained deep neural networks consisting of **convolutional layers** and **recurrent LSTM layers** for human activity recognition and detection in videos.
- Used a subset of the UCF-101 and Thumos'15 dataset to train and test the networks.
- Showed that using Dense optical flow images along with RGB frames gave higher accuracy than late fusion of optical flow and RGB features.

Ambulance Response Time Optimization
Research Project, IIT Kharagpur Nov 2014 to Jan 2015

- Modelled the problem of Ambulance Facility location in a city as a **Facility Location problem**.
- Created a graph using traffic and accident data collected from on the city of Bangalore.
- Used a Tabu search heuristic to find a set of locations to position ambulances, in order to reduce response time.

Papers under review

1. **Sudeep Raja Putta**, Theja Tulabandhula "Pure Exploration in Episodic Fixed-Horizon Markov Decision Processes". *Under review at AAMAS 2017.*

Online Certification

Machine Learning Engineer Nanodegree, Udacity June 2016
Capsotone Project : Human Activity Recognition Using Smartphones

Research Internships

Tracking Idea Evolution in Discussion Forums
Cognitive Solution Group, IBM Research Labs, Bangalore — May 2015 to July 2015
- Developed heuristics for identifying the Ideas proposed in a forum and for tracking their evolution in form of a tree using **Latent Dirichlet Allocation**.

Text Recognition using Bidirectional LSTMs
Centre for Visual Information Technology, IIIT Hyderabad — May 2014 to July 2014
- Trained **Bidirectional LSTM** neural networks with a **CTC** layer for recognizing words from raw images of Indian language scripts.

Awards

Winner of **Xerox Research Innovation Challenge 2015**
For the work done on **Ambulance Response Time Optimization**

Runners up at **Microsoft Code Fun Do 2015**
For developing the mobile app **Artify**, similar to Prisma

Technical Experience

Programming — Python, C++, C, Java
Packages — Numpy, Scipy, Scikit-learn, Keras, OpenCV

Presentations

Xerox Research Center India
- Pure Exploration in Episodic Fixed-Horizon MDPs — November 2016
- Introduction to Reinforcement Learning — September 2016

Deep Learning Reading Group, IIT Kharagpur
- Deep Learning for Activity Recognition — March 2016
- Training Deep Networks — March 2016

IBM Research Labs, Bangalore
- LDA and related Topic Models — May 2015

Extra Curricular Activities

Blogging about mathematics, machine learning and algorithms
http://sudeepraja.github.io/blog/
Recent Posts:
- Bayesian Inference and the bliss of Conjugate Priors
- Multi Armed Bandits and Exploration Strategies
- Die rolls and Concentration Inequalities
- A Derivation of Backpropagation in Matrix Form

Conducted a quiz on Computer Science for High Schoolers — 12 Nov 2016
St.Paul's High School, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad