SOPHIE DAI

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EDUCATION

Princeton University   *August 2020 - Present*
PhD candidate in Electrical Engineering
California Institute of Technology   *September 2016 - June 2020*
Bachelor of Science
Major in Computer Science, Minor in Information and Data Sciences
GPA: 3.8

WORK EXPERIENCE

RealNetworks, NY   July 2017 - September 2017
Quality Assurance Intern

· Worked closely with quality assurance team in designing and performing regression tests on new software builds for spam text message recognition. Suggested improvements to increase the robustness of software. Developed program for test automation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

California Institute of Technology, CA   January 2019 - Present
Undergraduate Researcher, Dr. Anima Anandkumar's group

· Worked in collaboration with Dr. Doris Tsao's neuroscience group at Caltech, Dr. Richard Baraniuk's signal processing group at Rice, and researchers at Nvidia to propose *Convolutional Neural Networks with Feedback (CNN-F)* for robust vision. Developed experiments to show robustness of CNN-F in presence of noise, blur, and occlusion and showed that CNN-F is able to restore degraded images. Additionally, showed that CNN-F can be used for out-of-distribution (OoD) detection.

California Institute of Technology, CA   March 2019 - Present
Undergraduate Researcher, Dr. Yisong Yue's group

· Optimized model-based planning in reinforcement learning by *amortized planning*. Amortized planning improves the efficiency of gradient-based planning by introducing a neural network to learn a nonlinear function for gradient descent. Evaluated the performance of amortized planning on multiple reinforcement learning environments and model-based planning domains.
· Proposed a framework for multi-task bayesian optimization using GP-UCB and evaluated performance on real world applications such as hyperparameter tuning and nanophotonics design.

Gwangju Institute of Technology, CA   June 2018 - September 2018
Undergraduate Exchange Researcher, Dr. Kin Choong Yow's group

· Reduced the number of measurements needed for free-viewpoint television by using generative adversarial networks (GANs) for interpolation between different viewpoints. Searched the latent space of GAN via backpropagation for latent vectors corresponding to images of different viewpoints and generate images using linear interpolation along the latent vector.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

California Institute of Technology, CA

Teaching Assistant, Computing and Mathematical Sciences Department

Aided instructors in grading assignments and holding office hours

· CS1: Introduction to Computer Programming
· CS11: Computer Language Lab (C++ track)
· CS156: Learning Systems
· CS165: Foundations in Machine Learning and Statistical Inference

PUBLICATIONS

Huang, Y., Gornet, J., **Dai, S.**, Yu, Z., Nguyen, T., Tsao, D. Y., & Anandkumar, A. (2020). Neural Networks with Recurrent Generative Feedback. *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems.*

PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentations

· **Dai, S.**, Song, J., & Yue, Y. (2020). Multi-task Bayesian Optimization via Gaussian Process Upper Confidence Bound. *ICML Workshop on Real World Experiment Design and Active Learning*
· Huang, Y., **Dai, S.**, Nguyen, T., Bao, P., Tsao, D. Y., Baraniuk, R. G., & Anandkumar, A. (2019). Brain-inspired Robust Vision using Convolutional Neural Networks with Feedback. *NeurIPS NeuroAI Workshop*
· Nguyen T., Ho N., Huang, Y., **Dai, S.**, Patel, A. B., Jordan, M. I., Baraniuk, R. G., Anandkumar, A. (2019). Neural Rendering Model: Rethinking Neural Networks from the Joint Generation and Prediction Perspective for Semi-Supervised Learning. *DeepMath Conference*
· Huang, Y., **Dai, S**., Nguyen, T., Baraniuk, R. G., Anandkumar, A. (2019). Out-of-Distribution Detection Using Neural Rendering Generative Models. *Women in Machine Learning Workshop*