Hitesh Ulhas Vaidya

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EDUCATION

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, NY

2018-2021

M.S., Computer Science, GPA: 3.4/4.0

- Thesis: "Self-Organizing Neural System for Lifelong Machine Learning"

- Advisor: Dr. Alexander Ororbia

University of Mumbai

Mumbai, India

2013–2017

B.E., Computer Engineering, GPA: 7.37/10.00

- Project: "Compression of Deep Neural Networks"

- Advisor: Prof. Avinash Shrivas

Research Experience

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, NY

Research Assistant, Software Design and Productivity Laboratory

November 2020 - Current

- Examining efficacy of different temporal networks to find software vulnerabilities through Abstract Syntax Trees
- Tackling security threats on stackoverflow dataset by using BERT

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, NY

Summer Intern, Machine and Neuromorphic Perception Laboratory (kLab)

May 2019 - August 2019

- Introduced a new streaming video dataset containing 51 classes which is bigger than all other existing ones
- Automated data preprocessing by curating other video datasets for image classification and conducted object tracking experiments

Rochester Institute of Technology

Rochester, NY

Research Assistant, Dr. Roger Chen

September 2018 - December 2018

- Predicted optimal locations for cab placement thus reducing customer waiting time by performing density estimation
- Extracted customer statistics like user's length of journey, number of vehicle transition points etc. by implementing linear regression
- Discovered correlation between consumer types and their travel pattern as a result of data analysis

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

Mumbai, India

Research Intern, Dr. Ganesh Ramakrishnan

August 2017 - May 2018

- Introduced first ever corpus/dataset for English to Hindi Neural Machine Translation of size 1.7M
- Performed experiments using LSTM neural network and achieved 85% accuracy (better than most models present then)
- Facilitated research and experiments on OCR system for Devanagari script by executing data preprocessing and building data pipeline

PUBLICATIONS

[1] R. Roady, T. L. Hayes, H. Vaidya, and C. Kanan, "Stream-51: Streaming classification and novelty detection from videos", in *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) Workshops*, Jun. 2020.

THESIS

A Self-Organizing Neural System for Lifelong Machine Learning
 Developing Neural Networks that would have low catastrophic forgetting for multiple tasks received in streaming manner

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

• CSCI 736: Neural Networks and Machine Learning

Spring 2020

Teaching Assistant

Designed new home works and projects for 35 graduate students. Further, graded them and guided students in development of their projects.

• CSCI 635: Introduction to Machine Learning

Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant

Conducted office hours for this graduate course to coach them on topics taught in this course. Additionally, evaluated students' home works and projects.

SKILLS

- Programming: Python, Java, C++, SQL, HTML5, CSS3, Latex
- Software/Frameworks: Tensorflow, PyTorch, Keras, Pandas, Scikit-learn, NLTK, Docker
- Cloud Services: Google Colab, Microsoft Azure

PROJECTS

Style transfer of facial makeup

May 2020 - May 2020

Tensorflow, Python

- Performed a comparative study of performance of approaches like HOG, Cycle-GAN and other generative models
- Remodeled use of Spatial Profile Loss for style transfer as proposed by Sarfraz, M. S. et al. '19

Neuro-cognitive Neural Networks with episodic memory

Feb 2020 - May 2020

Tensorflow, Python

- Conceptualized that selective retraining of connections can improve stability and learning of Neural Networks
- Overcame the challenge of developing data loaders in tensorflow 2.0 for custom labeled split-MNIST dataset
- Displayed performance improvement using proposed method over traditional neural network training methods

Empirical Study on benchmarks for lifelong learning based classification Sep 2019 - Dec 2019 Tensorflow, Python

- Examined catastrophic forgetting in Feed Forward Neural Networks (FFNs) on MNIST dataset
- Demonstrated that data ordering has an effect on learning curves of FFNs using metrics like Backward/Forward Transfer
- Backed this study with CNN implemented on Caltech-256 dataset

Visual Question Answering on images

Nov 2019 - Dec 2019

PyTorch, Python

- Built a system that given an image, answers questions asked about it, example, Which fruit is there in the image?
- Revamped the 'Karpathy' train/val split for MS COCO '17 dataset. Used it to train a new combination of CNN and RNN

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Member at RIT Indy Autonomous Challenge May 2020—August 2020

 Member of RIT's official team competing in this Autonomous driving challenge. Constructed automatic speed detection module using flow networks.
- Member at Badminton Club 2019–2020

REFERENCES

- Dr. Alexander G. Ororbia II: Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York. Email: ago@cs.rit.edu
- Dr. Ifeoma Nwogu: Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York. Email: nwogu@cs.rit.edu
- Dr. Nathan Cahill: Associate Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York. Email: ndcsma@cs.rit.edu
- Dr. Mehdi Mirakhorli: Associate Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York. Email: mxmyse@rit.edu