Kshitij Goyal

PhD Researcher in Machine Learning

GitHub | Personal webpage

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Experience

PhD Researcher @ DTAI lab, KU Leuven *Oct' 2018- present*
Topic: Machine Learning for Verifiable Artificial Intelligence; *Advisor*: Prof. Hendrik Blockeel

- **Learning Models that Provably Satisfy Domain Constraints**
  - Developed a new framework and an optimisation approach to learn models that can **certify domain constraints** (e.g., safety constraints, fairness constraints) for **all possible predictions**.
  - Proposed a constraint propagation technique to propagate domain constraints through a neural network.
  - Proposed multiple **novel evaluation metrics** to accurately measure constraint satisfaction of the learned models.
- **Automatic Playlist Generation for a Music Streaming Service**
  - Developed an approach to **automatically identify** dynamic public playlist given **only positive examples**.
  - Proposed a clustering based method to **identify** new public playlists from user data, leading to an identification of more than **50 new playlists** previously not identified by the music experts.
- **Identifying Feature Interaction Constraints to Improve Predictive Performance in Tree Based Models**
  - Conceptualised an approach to use the **feature interactions** from the data, calculated using **mutual information**, as constraints in the existing XGBoost framework.
  - Interaction Constraints led to an average **improvement of 5%** in the performance for various regression problems.

Business Analyst - Zynga Games, Bangalore, India *April - Sep' 2017*

- Analysed key performance metrics for multiple mobile games to **provide insights** for business strategies in addition to developing an **in-house tool** to perform A/B tests on newly rolled updates.

Business Analyst - Accenture Management Consulting, Bangalore, India *June 2014 - Mar' 2017*

- As part of a team, developed **fraud detection techniques** for a reliability management system for an automotive giant to **reduce post-sale expenses**. Proposed approach resulted in a projected **reduction** in warranty spend by **$249** over the course of 4 years.
- Optimised stock levels at central warehouses across multiple locations for a European telecom giant. **Improved** the total stock value by **9%** by proposing a **rebalancing solution** between different warehouses.

Data Analyst Intern - Media iQ Digital, Bangalore, India *May - July 2013*

- **Developed forecasting models** to predict **digital impressions** won by an airline carrier for a given bid.

Education

MSc in Artificial Intelligence, KU Leuven *(graduated magna cum laude)* *Sep' 2017 - Sep' 2018*
Master thesis: Proposed and implemented a variant of the classic RankNet approach of ranking documents which personalises the results based on user profiles.

MSc (Integrated) in Mathematics and Scientific Computing, IIT Kanpur, India *June 2009 - May 2014*
Master thesis: Analysis of middle censored data under a shifted exponential distribution

Skills

General: Machine Learning · Constrained Optimisation · Satisfiability and Logic · Deep Learning · Data Mining
Programming: Python · SQL · R · Java
Libraries: PyTorch · NumPy · Scikit-learn · Pandas · XGBoost · Altair · z3py · Scoop
Languages: English (Full Professional Proficiency) · Hindi (Native)

Publications

1. Feature Interactions in XGBoost. (pdf) *AIMLAI-ECML 2019*
   K. Goyal, S. Dumancic, H Blockeel
2. SaDe: Learning Models that Provably Satisfy Domain Constraints. (pdf) *ECML 2022*
   K. Goyal, S. Dumancic, H Blockeel
3. Automatic Generation of Product Concepts from Positive Examples. (pdf) *BNAIC 2022*
   K. Goyal, W. Meert, H Blockeel, E. V. Wolputte, K. Vanderstraeten, W. Pijpops, K. Jaspers
4. DeepSaDe: Provably Satisfying Domain Constraints in Neural Networks. *(In submission)*
   K. Goyal, S. Dumancic, H Blockeel

Leadership & Awards

- Teaching assistant for three courses: taught exercise sessions and prepared assignments *2018 - 2022*
- Thesis advisor to 5 students: projects in areas of **personalised search**, **music streaming, game theory & constrained learning** *2018 - 2022*
- Department representative for the thesis administration for MSc Computer Science at KU Leuven *2019 - 2022*
- Research paper **reviewer** for ECML'19 and ECML'22
- Nominated for the **best paper award** at BNAIC'22
- Awarded **2nd prize** at the KU Leuven Datathon *2017-2018*
- Participated in the **DeepLearn Summer School**, Gran Canaria *2022*
- Awarded the prestigious **INSPIRE** scholarship by the government of India for undergraduate studies *2009-2014*