Rohan Chitnis

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

PhD in Computer Science, May 2021 (expected).

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Graduated with Highest Honors (GPA in top 3%). GPA: 3.951 / 4.0.

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, May 2016.

Experience

Airbnb Inc., San Francisco, CA (Software Engineering Intern) 06/2016 - Present

• Improving machine learning models used by the Search Ranking team.

UC Berkeley Robot Learning Lab (Adviser: Pieter Abbeel)

02/2013 - 05/2016

- Performed work in (hierarchical) combined task and motion planning for execution of long-horizon tasks.
- Integrated reinforcement learning to improve existing approaches.
- Lead coordinator of lab outreach program, providing tours to visitors of varied ages.

UC Berkeley Oscii Lab (Adviser: John DeNero)

04/2015 - 05/2016

- Conducted research in Natural Language Processing.
- Worked on improving performance of neural machine translation, which uses a recurrent neural network with an attention mechanism for machine translation, by introducing novel Huffman code compression techniques.

eBay Inc., San Jose, CA (Software Engineering Intern)

05/2014 - 08/2014

- Developed an end-to-end pipeline involving data querying and machine learning to build
 a classification model for checkout transactions, used in determining whether to offer
 buyers the option to place items on hold.
- Collected data using Hadoop MapReduce under the Apache Pig framework.
- Model achieved 85% accuracy on noisy data sets, using AdaBoost with a decision tree.

Selected Publications

Guided Search for Task and Motion Plans Using Learned Heuristics. Rohan Chitnis, Dylan Hadfield-Menell, Abhishek Gupta, Siddharth Srivastava, Pieter Abbeel. Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2016.

Learning an Interface to Improve Efficiency in Combined Task and Motion Planning. Rohan Chitnis, Dylan Hadfield-Menell, Siddharth Srivastava, Abhishek Gupta, Pieter Abbeel. Proceedings of the IROS Workshop on Machine Learning in Planning and Control of Robot Motion (MLPC), 2015.

Variable-Length Word Encodings for Neural Translation Models. Rohan Chitnis, John DeNero. Proceedings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2015.

Combined Task and Motion Planning Through an Extensible Planner-Independent Interface Layer. Siddharth Srivastava, Eugene Fang, Lorenzo Riano, Rohan Chitnis, Stuart Russell, Pieter Abbeel. Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2014.

Honors/ Awards

 NSF GRFP Fellow, 2016. Awarded NDSEG Fellowship (declined).

Hertz Fellowship Finalist, 2016. One of 40 finalists nationwide.

Runner-up for the CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Male Researcher Award, 2016. Sole recipient of the EECS Mark D. Weiser Excellence in Computing Scholarship, 2015.

Member of the EECS Honors Degree Program.

UC Berkeley Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (OGSI) Award recipient, 2015.

UC Berkeley Regents' and Chancellor's Scholar.

National Merit Scholar.

Technical Skills

Fluency in: Python, Java, Scala, C, C++, Scheme, LaTeX.

Software: Unix/Linux, Robot Operating System (ROS), OpenCV, MongoDB, Apache Pig, Apache Spark, Hadoop MapReduce, scikit-learn, scikit-image.