Usman Anwar

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Education

Information Technology University, Lahore September 2019 – Present
MS Data Science (CGPA: 3.84)
Thesis Paper: Inverse Constrained Reinforement Learning (*published at ICML*)

University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore August 2015 – May 2019
BS Electrical Engineering (CGPA: 3.52)
Undergraduate Thesis/FYP: Single Channel Acoustic Source Separation And Speech Enhancement

Government College University, Lahore August 2013 – May 2015
Associate's Degree Pre-Engineering (Grade: A+)

Work Experience

Senior Machine Learing Engineer February 2020 – Present
Scientific Computing Department
NetSol Technologies, Lahore

Research Assistant & Graduate Student Fellow July 2019 – June 2020
Center of Artificial Intelligence and Computational Science
Information Technology University, Lahore
Research Advisor: Dr. Ali Ahmed

Research Intern July – September 2018
Internet of Things Laboratory
Khwarizmi Institute of Computer Science, Lahore
Research Advisor: Dr. Ubaid Ullah Fayyaz

Junior Data Scientist June – August 2017
ADDO AI, Lahore

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant - Discrete Mathematics September 2019 – January 2020
Department Of Computer Science
Information Technology University, Lahore

Publications (In Reverse Chronological Order)

** denotes equal contribution*

D. Papadimitriou, **U. Anwar**, and D. Brown. Bayesian inverse constrained reinforcement learning. Under review at *NeurIPS 2021 Workshop on Safe and Robust Control of Uncertain Systems*, 2021

U. Anwar*, S. Malik*, A. Aghasi, and A. Ahmed. Inverse constrained reinforcement learning. In *Proceedings of the 38th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2021. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.09999

S. Malik*, **U. Anwar***, A. Ahmed, and A. Aghasi. Learning to solve differential equations across initial conditions. In *ICLR 2020 Workshop on Integration of Deep Neural Models and Differential Equations*, 2020. URL arxiv.org/abs/2003.12159

Research Projects

Robust Imitation Learning With Respect to Dynamics September 2021 – Current
Senior Collaborators: Dr. Ali Ahmed

The project explores imitation learning in the setting where the imitator agent and the demonstrator agent do not have identical dynamics and/or embodiments.

Learning Constraints in the Context of Reinforcement Learning August 2020 – Current
Senior Collaborators: Dr. Ali Ahmed & Dr. Daniel Brown

The project explores the idea of using demonstrations from experts to solve the problem of reward misalignment in reinforcement learning.

Label Informed Imputation June 2021 – Current
Senior Collaborators: Dr. Ali Ahmed & Dr. Alireza Aghasi

The project explores improving imputation performance by utilizing the labels present in classification and regression tasks. This can allow accurate imputation in otherwise impossible scenarios.

Solving Partial Differential Equations Across Initial Conditions August 2019 – January 2020
Senior Collaborators: Dr. Ali Ahmed & Dr. Alireza Aghasi

Showed that using generative adversarial training, Physics Informed Neural Networks (Raissi et al. 2018) can be enabled to generalize across initial conditions. The work has applications in aerodynamics, computational fluid modelling and various other engineering and scientific fields.

Accoustic Source Separation Using Deep Learning September 2018 – May 2019
Undergraduate Senior Project • Advisor: Dr. Ubaid Ullah Fayyaz • Website: https://acoustic-source-separation.github.io/

Implemented Deep Clustering Algorithm (Hershrey et al. 2015) in tensorflow and demonstrated its efficacy for the purposes of single channel speech separation from two speaker mixture. As a novel contribution, we showed that this technique could also be used to separate noise from mixtures and used for purposes of speech enhacement.

Selected Industrial Projects

Explainable Decision Making

Implemented and customized various methods for explaining and interpreting decisions made by machine learning systems. These included, but not limited to, gradient based saliency maps, SHAP and LIME. Further, an empirical study was conducted to understand what method works best under what circumstances. The findings were used to make a plethora of already developed machine learning systems explainable.

Callibrated Classifier Learning With Imbalanced Data

Lead the development of a machine learning based classifier learned from imbalanced data. By training the classifier under focal loss, a callibrated classifier was achieved allowing the use of softmax probabiities as uncertainty estimate.

Zero Shot Recommendation Engine

Developed a novel proprietry method for providing zero shot recommendations to first time customers based only on their partial profile data.

Selected Course Projects

Paper Discovery System Via Topic Modelling December 2019
Course: Information Systems

Demonstrated that using Embedded Topic Model (Dieng et al. 2018), unlabelled papers from NeurIPS could be categorized into semantically meaningful topics (e.g. reinforcement learning, neurscience *etc.*). The topics could be used for downstream tasks such as article recommendation.

Imitation Learning On Atari Games June 2020
Course: Deep Learning • Website: https://uzman-anwar.github.io/projects/2020/06/28/DL-Project/

Used Generative Adversarial Imitation Learning (Ho et al. 2016) to train a Reinforcement Learning agent from demonstrations of expert behaviour on two Atari games; *Pong* and *Breakout*.

Cloud Based Online Retailer Transactions and Clickstream Analytics June 2020
Course: Big Data Analytics

Developed the backend of an eCommerce retailer website with the perspective of processing, storing, and analyzing large amounts of retail data. ETL pipelines were added to process and gather checkout, logging, user and sessions data in a scalable way. Further, different analytics were performed on this data using AWS Quicksight.

Skills

• Python (Numpy, Scipy, Matplotlib) • Pytorch • Tenorflow • C • SQL • NoSQL

Leadership Activities

Managing Director & Co-Founder Spectra Magazine April 2017 – May 2020
Spectra Magazine is a student-powered online magazine aiming to enhance public understanding of science and shape the narrative of science journalism in Pakistan. So far, it has published more than 215 articles and mentored more than 200 high school and undergraduate students in science writing, editing and design. Read more about us at *www.spectramagazine.org/about*.

Awards & Honours

- *Free Registeration Award* at virtual MLSS 2021 Taipei
- *Graduated Student Fellowship* for being the top student in ITU, Lahore MSDS Program
- *Merit Scholarship*, ITU, Lahore
- *Honourable Mention* in International Kangaroo Mathematics Contest, 2009