YUXIN CHEN
Department of Computer Science
University of Chicago

Algorithmic Aspects of Machine Teaching: Tractability, Interpretability, and Robustness

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ABSTRACT

Machine teaching studies the interaction between a (machine) teacher and a learner, where the teacher’s objective is to find an optimal training sequence to steer the learner towards a target concept. It provides a rigorous formalism for a number of real-world applications including personalized educational systems, adversarial attacks, and imitation learning. In this talk, I will discuss the algorithmic challenges in modeling and teaching realistic (typically human) learners. I will start by introducing the machine teaching problem under the well-studied “version space” learner's model, and show that finding the optimal set of training examples amounts to a combinatorial optimization problem which is NP-hard. I will then focus on more realistic learner’s models, and discuss our recent work in teaching certain classes of limited capacity learners (e.g., learners with limited memory and/or limited computational/perceptual capability).

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