Abstraction in Data-Sparse Task Transfer for Interactive Robots



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Robots in routine and isolated environments





Rapidly-Reconfigurable Manufacturing





Accommodate changes in human feedback

Flexible to:

scheduling
interruptions

Detect novel-appearing objects

Customized:

- visuals
- branding
- trim

Adapt to:
specialty end-effector
broken tools

Adapt motion for novel end-effector or tool

Image by PTC

Rapidly-Reconfigurable Manufacturing

Assistive Robots in the Home

Changing lighting conditions -**Assistive Robots in the Home**

Changing lighting conditions **Novel-appearing** objects -

Assistive Robots in the Home

Changing lighting conditions

Novel-appearing objects

-00

Variations of tools

Assistive Robots in the Home

• **Problem** - Multiple Sources & Types of Novelty

• Approach - Relationship Between Novelty and Interaction

• Abstraction Represented in Interactions

• Abstracting Task Knowledge

• Future Work - Reasoning over Interaction

Source Env.



Source Env.



Potential Target Environments

Dissimilarity

...........

Source Env.

Potential Target Environments



Dissimilarity

Source Env.

Potential Target Environments



Dissimilarity

Source Env.

Potential Target Environments



Dissimilarity





One approach: More training data



Rather than attempt to pre-train a robot for all task variations it will encounter...

Assume that a robot will inevitably encounter novelty that it is unprepared to address



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Instead: adapt to specific novelty



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Assume that a robot will inevitably encounter novelty that it is unprepared to address



Approach: Learn from a human teacher or teammate's domain knowledge of the task

Instead: adapt to specific novelty

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Knowledge





[1] Fitzgerald, T., Short, E., Goel, A., Thomaz, A., "Human-Guided Trajectory Adaptation for Tool Transfer", AAMAS, 2019.



Knowledge



[1] Fitzgerald, T., Short, E., Goel, A., Thomaz, A., "Human-Guided Trajectory Adaptation for Tool Transfer", AAMAS, 2019.



Knowledge



Interaction









[1] Fitzgerald, T., Short, E., Goel, A., Thomaz, A., "Human-Guided Trajectory Adaptation for Tool Transfer", AAMAS, 2019.

Knowledge

Interaction

[2] Fitzgerald, T., Goel, A., Thomaz, A. "Abstraction in Data-Sparse Task Transfer" Artificial Intelligence Journal. 2021.

[3] <u>Fitzgerald</u>, T., Thomaz, A., Goel, A., "Human-Robot Co-Creativity: Task Transfer on a Spectrum of Similarity" Eighth International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC). Atlanta, Georgia. June 2017.



[3] <u>Fitzgerald</u>, T., Thomaz, A., Goel, A., "Human-Robot Co-Creativity: Task Transfer on a Spectrum of Similarity" Eighth International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC). Atlanta, Georgia. June 2017.



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Demo #1

Provides a trajectory *T* of actions:

 $T_0 = \left\langle a_0^0(O), a_1^0(O), \dots \right\rangle$





Demo #1



Provides a trajectory T of actions:

 $T_0 = \left\langle a_0^0(O), a_1^0(O), \dots \right\rangle \qquad T_1 = \left\langle a_0^1(O), a_1^1(O), \dots \right\rangle$

Provides another trajectory *T*₁:







Demo #1



Provides a trajectory T of actions:

 $T_0 = \left\langle a_0^0(O), a_1^0(O), \dots \right\rangle \qquad T_1 = \left\langle a_0^1(O), a_1^1(O), \dots \right\rangle \qquad T_2 = \left\langle a_0^2(O'), a_1^2(O'), \dots \right\rangle$

Provides another trajectory *T*₁:

Demo #3

Provides *T*¹ wrt new objects O':



Provides a trajectory *T* of actions:

$$T_0 = \left\langle a_0^0(O), a_1^0(O), \dots \right\rangle$$



Assistance



Provides a trajectory *T* of actions:

 $T_0 = \left\langle a_0^0(O), a_1^0(O), \dots \right\rangle$

Provides a param object $o^* \in O$: $\forall a \in T, a' = a(o^*)$



Assistance



Correction



Provides a trajectory *T* of actions:

 $T_0 = \left\langle a_0^0(O), a_1^0(O), \dots \right\rangle$

Provides a param object $o^* \in O$: $\forall a \in T, a' = a(o^*)$ Provides a sample of a transform ϕ : $\forall a \in T, a' = \phi(a(O))$



Assistance



Correction



Structure dictates the abstraction of the information derived from feedback

How do we align this with the information the robot needs?

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Spectrum of Generalization Problems

Source Env.

Potential Target Environments



Dissimilarity

Relationship between: task similarity

Spectrum of Generalization Problems

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Dissimilarity

Relationship between:

task similarity

optimal abstraction of the task representation for transfer

Spectrum of Generalization Problems

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Dissimilarity

Relationship between:

task similarity optimal abstraction of the task representation for transfer grounded information in new environment

Source Environment





Demonstration representation:

 $T = \langle a_0, \rangle$ $\ldots, a_m \rangle$ $a_{1},$

[1] Fitzgerald, T., Goel, A., Thomaz, A. "Abstraction in Data-Sparse Task Transfer" Artificial Intelligence Journal. 2021.

Source Environment





Demonstration representation:

$$T = \left\langle \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{0}}(p_0), \quad \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{1}}(p_1), \quad \dots, \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{m}}(p_m) \right\rangle$$

[1] Fitzgerald, T., Goel, A., Thomaz, A. "Abstraction in Data-Sparse Task Transfer" Artificial Intelligence Journal. 2021.

Source Environment





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[1] Fitzgerald, T., Goel, A., Thomaz, A. "Abstraction in Data-Sparse Task Transfer" Artificial Intelligence Journal. 2021.



Demonstration representation:

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Potential Target Environments



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Dissimilarity

T = Tiered Task Abstraction Action Models Parameterization Fns. Feature Selectors Feature Values

Parameterized by grounding in new environment:

[1] Fitzgerald, T., Goel, A., Thomaz, A. "Abstraction in Data-Sparse Task Transfer" Artificial Intelligence Journal. 2021.



Target Environments



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Target Environments



	Displaced Objects	Replaced Objects	New Task Constraints
Abstraction 1 (Least-abstracted)	100%	0%	0%
Abstraction 2	100%	100%	0%
Abstraction 3 (Most-abstracted)	100%	90%	80%



	Displaced Objects	Replaced Objects	New Task Constraints
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Abstraction 2	90%	100%	40%
Abstraction 3 (Most-abstracted)	100%	100%	70%

Target Environments



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Takeaways:

Similarity indicates level of abstraction



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Generality-efficiency tradeoff



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Takeaways:

Similarity indicates level of abstraction

Generality-efficiency tradeoff

Approach 1:

- Choose an abstraction
- Match to an interaction type

Contributions

Taxonomy of transfer problems

Contributions

- Taxonomy of transfer problems
- Tiered Task Abstraction (TTA) for representing tasks at multiple levels of abstraction

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- Taxonomy of transfer problems
- Tiered Task Abstraction (TTA) for representing tasks
 at multiple levels of abstraction
- Case-study demonstrating TTA on a physical robot's pick-and-place task

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Assistance



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[1] Fitzgerald, et al., 2018 "Human-Guided Object Mapping for Task Transfer." ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction (THRI)

[2] Fitzgerald, et al., 2016 "Situated Mapping for Transfer Learning" Conference on Advances in Cognitive Systems



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Correction



Provides a sample of a transform ϕ :

 $\forall a \in T, a' = \phi(a(O))$

[3] Fitzgerald, et al., 2019 "Human-Guided Trajectory Adaptation for Tool Transfer" AAMAS

[4] Fitzgerald, Goel, Thomaz, 2021"Learning and Modeling Constraints for Creative Tool Replacement".Frontiers in Robotics and AI



Assistance



Correction











Crosswalks Click verify once there are none left. Image: Constraint of the second sec

Crowd-sourced Labels

[1] Cui, Y., Koppol, P., Admoni, H., Niekum, S., Simmons, R., Steinfeld, A., <u>Fitzgerald, T.</u> "Understanding the Relationship between Interactions and Outcomes in Human-in-the-Loop Machine Learning". IJCAI 2021.

For details, see our full paper:

Fitzgerald, Tesca, Ashok Goel, and Andrea Thomaz. "Abstraction in data-sparse task transfer." *Artificial Intelligence* (2021)

Questions?



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