Neural Topological SLAM for Visual Navigation

Webpage: https://devendrachaplot.github.io/projects/Neural-Topological-SLAM



Devendra Singh Chaplot



Carnegie Mellon University



Ruslan Salakhutdinov



CVPR-2020



Abhinav Gupta



Saurabh Gupta

tacebook Artificial Intelligence Research



Semantic Priors and Common-Sense



- Humans use semantic priors and common-sense to explore and navigate everyday
- Most navigation algorithms struggle to do so

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• Agent observations are panoramic images





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- Take actions to navigate to the goal location





- Agent observations are panoramic images Take actions to navigate to the goal location Take the `stop' action at the goal location





- Agent observations are panoramic images Take actions to navigate to the goal location Take the `stop' action at the goal location
- Sequential goals

Prior work

Prior Work



- + Reward
- Reward

End-to-end Learning

- High sample complexity
- Ineffective in large environments \bullet

Prior Work





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- Reward

End-to-end Learning

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Modular Metric Maps

- Can not learn semantic priors
- Pose error accumulation

Topological Maps



Topological Maps



Observation





- **Nodes**: areas
- **Regular nodes**: Explored areas
- Ghost nodes: Unexplored areas

O Agent's Current Node Regular Nodes

Observation





Goal Image

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Goal Image

- **Nodes**: areas
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- **Edges**: Spatial relationship between nodes

Four learnable functions

Four learnable functions

 $\mathcal{F}_G(I_1)$ = Geometric Prediction: Free directions $\mathcal{F}_S(I_1, I_2)$ = Semantic Prediction: Closeness to target $\mathcal{F}_L(I_1, I_2)$ = Localization $\mathcal{F}_R(I_1, I_2)$ = Relative Pose Prediction

Geometric Prediction

Geometric Prediction

$\mathcal{F}_G(I_1)$ = Geometric Prediction: Free directions





Geometric Explorable Area Prediction (\mathcal{F}_G)

Semantic Prediction

Semantic Prediction

$\mathcal{F}_{S}(I_{1}, I_{2})$ = Semantic Prediction: Closeness to target









Localization

Localization

$\mathcal{F}_L(I_1, I_2)$ = Localization





$$\mathsf{calization}(\mathscr{F}_L) \longrightarrow \mathbf{0}$$

Relative Pose Prediction

$\mathcal{F}_R(I_1, I_2) = \text{Relative Pose}$



- $\mathcal{F}_G(I_1)$ = Geometric Prediction: Free directions
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 $\begin{aligned} \mathscr{F}_G(I_1) &= \text{Geometric Prediction: Free directions} \\ \mathscr{F}_S(I_1, I_2) &= \text{Semantic Prediction: Closeness to target} \\ \mathscr{F}_L(I_1, I_2) &= \text{Localization} \\ \mathscr{F}_R(I_1, I_2) &= \text{Relative Pose Prediction} \end{aligned}$



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 $\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_{L}(I_{1},I_{2}) \\ \mathcal{F}_{S}(I_{1},I_{2}) \\ \mathcal{F}_{R}(I_{1},I_{2}) \end{aligned}$

Global Policy

 $\begin{aligned} \mathscr{F}_G(I_1) &= \text{Geometric Prediction: Free directions} \\ \mathscr{F}_S(I_1, I_2) &= \text{Semantic Prediction: Closeness to target} \\ \mathscr{F}_L(I_1, I_2) &= \text{Localization} \\ \mathscr{F}_R(I_1, I_2) &= \text{Relative Pose Prediction} \end{aligned}$



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Single supervised learning model





Single supervised learning model



- No reinforcement learning, no interaction needed
- Can be trained completely with static data



Observation



Goal Image



Topological Map and Pose



Observation





Observation



Goal Image



Topological Map and Pose



Node Locations

Ghost nodes

Selected Ghost node



Observation



Goal Image



Topological Map and Pose



Node Locations

Ghost nodes

Selected Ghost node



Observation





Observation





Observation

Goal Image

Observation

Goal Image

Results

		RGB	RGBD	RGBD (No Noise)	RGBD (No Stop)
End-to-end Learning	LSTM + Imitation	0.10	0.14	0.15	0.18
	LSTM + RL	0.10	0.13	0.14	0.17
Modular Metric Maps	Occupancy Maps + FBE + RL	N/A	0.26	0.31	0.24
	Active Neural SLAM	0.23	0.29	0.35	0.39
Topological Maps	Neural Topological SLAM	0.38	0.43	0.45	0.60

Results

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0.13	0.14	0.17
0.26	0.31	0.24
0.29	0.35	0.39
0.43	0.45	0.60

NTS is better than occupancy map models, captures and uses semantic priors.

Sequential Goals and Ablations

SPL

Sequential Goals and Ablations

Semantic score function improves efficiency when no prior experience with environment is available.

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Thank you

Email: **Twitter:**

Devendra Singh Chaplot

Webpage: <u>http://devendrachaplot.github.io/</u> chaplot@cs.cmu.edu @dchaplot

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