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REVIEW ARTICLE

Exploring learning-assisted optimization for mobile crowd sensing

P. Ananthi*, A. Chandrabose

Abstract

Introducing sensing mobile crowds (SMC), a novel paradigm for real-time location-dependent urban sensing data collection. It is critically important to optimize the SMC process such that it provides the highest sensing quality at the lowest feasible cost due to its practical use. As an alternative to the combinatorial optimization algorithms utilized in previous research, a new approach to SMC optimization is to apply learning approaches to extract knowledge, such as patterns in participants' behavior or correlations in sensing data. In this work, we thoroughly research learning-assisted optimization approaches for SMC. Using the existing literature as a starting point, we will describe various learning and optimization methods and evaluate them from the perspectives of the task and the participant. How to combine different approaches to get a complete solution is also discussed. Lastly, we point out the limitations that exist at the moment, which might lead to research directions in the future.

Keywords: Mobile crow sensing, Machine learning, Deep learning, Learning optimization methods, Reinforcement learning.

Introduction

Mobile crowd sensing (MCS) has revolutionized the way data is collected and analyzed, leveraging the capabilities of mobile devices carried by individuals to gather real-time information about their environments. This paradigm capitalizes on the vast number of mobile users and the sensors embedded in their devices, such as GPS, accelerometers, and cameras. MCS applications span various domains, including environmental monitoring, urban planning, public health, and transportation, making it an attractive approach for researchers and practitioners alike. However, despite its potential, MCS faces significant challenges that necessitate the development of advanced optimization techniques to enhance its effectiveness, Chen, Y., & Wang, H. (2020); Han, J., Zhang, Z., & Wu, X. (2020).

One of the primary challenges in MCS is the efficient allocation of tasks among mobile users. With the dynamic nature of user mobility and varying levels of participation, optimizing task assignments is critical to ensure data quality and timeliness. Traditional methods often fall short, as they do not adequately consider the real-time capabilities and preferences of individual users. In this context, learning-assisted optimization techniques have gained traction. These techniques utilize machine learning (ML) and data-driven approaches to adapt to changing conditions, user behaviors, and environmental factors, ultimately leading to improved task allocation strategies.

Reinforcement learning (RL) is a particularly promising avenue within learning-assisted optimization. By leveraging feedback from the environment, RL algorithms can learn optimal policies for task assignment over time, dynamically adapting to user engagement and context. This adaptability is crucial in MCS scenarios where users may enter or leave the sensing area or where the quality of data collected may vary due to environmental factors. Furthermore, the integration of RL with deep learning techniques has enabled the development of hybrid models that enhance decision-making processes in complex and dynamic environments, Dai, Z., Wang, H., Liu, C. H., Han, R., Tang, J., & Wang, G. (2021, May), Tao, X., & Song, W. (2020, May).

Edayathangudy G.S Pillay Arts and Science College (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli), Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, India.

***Corresponding Author:** P. Ananthi, Edayathangudy G.S Pillay Arts and Science College (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli), Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, India, E-Mail: ananthi.csc@gmail.com

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Another significant aspect of learning-assisted optimization in MCS is resource management. Efficiently utilizing the limited computational, battery, and communication resources of mobile devices is essential for the sustainability of crowd-sensing applications. Learning-assisted methods can analyze historical data to predict resource consumption patterns, allowing for proactive management strategies that minimize energy expenditure while maximizing data quality. This optimization is especially pertinent in contexts where users may be reluctant to participate due to battery concerns or data usage restrictions.

Moreover, privacy and security concerns remain significant barriers to user participation in MCS. Learning-assisted optimization techniques can also play a role in addressing these issues. By employing privacy-preserving algorithms and anonymization techniques, researchers can enhance user trust, encouraging greater participation and data sharing. Machine learning models can learn to identify and mitigate privacy risks, ensuring that sensitive information remains protected while still allowing for meaningful data collection.

In summary, the intersection of learning-assisted optimization and mobile crowd sensing presents a promising frontier for research and application. As MCS continues to grow in popularity and relevance, the need for sophisticated optimization techniques becomes increasingly clear. This literature review aims to explore the current state of research in this area, highlighting the potential of learning-assisted approaches to overcome existing challenges and enhance the efficacy of mobile crowd-sensing applications. By systematically analyzing the advancements in this field, we hope to identify gaps in the literature and propose directions for future research, ultimately contributing to the development of more efficient, responsive, and user-friendly MCS frameworks.

Background Study on Mobile Crowdsensing

Mobile crowd sensing (MCS) is an innovative paradigm that harnesses the power of mobile devices carried by individuals to collect and disseminate data from their surroundings. This approach leverages the ubiquity of smartphones, tablets, and wearable devices equipped with a range of sensors—such as GPS, accelerometers, cameras, and environmental sensors—to facilitate the gathering of real-time data across diverse contexts. The evolution of MCS is rooted in the convergence of advancements in mobile technology, wireless communication, and social networking, enabling a wide array of applications that benefit from collective data collection efforts, Nguyen, T. N., & Zeadally, S. (2021).

The concept of crowd sensing can be traced back to the early 2000s when researchers began exploring the potential of using mobile devices for participatory sensing. Initial applications focused on specific areas such as environmental monitoring, traffic management, and health-related data collection. Over time, as mobile technology advanced, the concept evolved into what we now recognize as MCS, characterized by its scalability, flexibility, and user-driven data acquisition. The proliferation of smartphones and mobile networks has further accelerated the adoption of MCS, allowing users to contribute data anytime and anywhere, leading to the emergence of platforms and applications that tap into this collective intelligence. MCS typically comprises several key components, including Pius Owoh, N., & Mahinderjit Singh, M. (2020):

Data collection

Users contribute data using their mobile devices, which can include various types of information such as location data, photos, audio recordings, and sensor readings. This data is often shared through mobile applications designed for specific sensing tasks, such as environmental monitoring or social media reporting.

Task assignment

The efficient allocation of tasks among participants is critical to the success of MCS. This process involves identifying which users are best suited to collect specific types of data based on their location, availability, and device capabilities. Task assignment strategies must adapt to the dynamic nature of user mobility and the fluctuating number of active participants.

Data processing and analysis

Once collected, the data must be processed and analyzed to extract meaningful insights. This step may involve cleaning the data, filtering out noise, and applying algorithms to derive patterns and trends. The analysis can be performed locally on the device or remotely on cloud servers, depending on the application and requirements.

Data sharing and visualization

The results of the data analysis are typically shared with stakeholders or presented to the public through visualizations, reports, or dashboards. Effective data-sharing mechanisms are essential for ensuring that the insights generated are accessible and actionable.

User engagement and incentives

Engaging users in MCS initiatives is crucial for sustained participation. Incentives, whether monetary or social, can motivate users to contribute data regularly. Designing user-friendly applications and ensuring that the data collection process is seamless and rewarding are essential for maintaining user interest.

Applications of MCS

MCS has a wide range of applications across various domains, Yu, Z., Ma, H., Guo, B., & Yang, Z. (2021):

Environmental monitoring

Citizens can report pollution levels, noise, and other environmental factors, contributing to data that can influence policy and promote public awareness.

Public health

MCS has been used for tracking disease outbreaks, monitoring health trends, and collecting data related to health behaviors in specific communities.

Transportation

Users can contribute real-time traffic data, report accidents, and provide insights into public transportation systems, helping to improve urban mobility.

Disaster management

MCS can facilitate rapid data collection during natural disasters, aiding emergency response efforts by providing real-time information about affected areas.

Background Study on the Machine Learning, Deep Learning and Reinforcement Learning

The advent of machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and reinforcement learning (RL) has significantly impacted various domains, including mobile crowd sensing (MCS). These advanced computational techniques provide powerful tools for optimizing data collection, processing, and analysis in MCS applications, enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency. Understanding the foundations and developments in these areas is crucial for exploring their applications in MCS.

Machine Learning in Mobile Crowd Sensing

Machine learning encompasses a broad range of algorithms and statistical models that enable systems to learn from data and improve their performance over time without being explicitly programmed. In the context of MCS, ML techniques play a vital role in several key areas, Zhu, X., Luo, Y., Liu, A., Tang, W., & Bhuiyan, M. Z. A. (2020), Trivedi, A., Bovornkeeratiroj, P., Breda, J., Shenoy, P., Taneja, J., & Irwin, D. (2021):

Data classification and prediction

ML algorithms can analyze collected data to classify events, predict outcomes, and identify patterns. For instance, classification algorithms such as decision trees, support vector machines, and random forests can be used to categorize data collected from users regarding environmental conditions or public health events.

Task assignment and resource allocation

ML models can learn user behaviors, preferences, and capabilities to optimize task assignments. By analyzing historical data on user participation and task performance, ML can facilitate effective resource allocation, ensuring that tasks are assigned to the most suitable participants based on their proximity, availability, and sensor capabilities.

Anomaly detection

In MCS, detecting anomalies in collected data is crucial for ensuring data integrity. ML techniques, such as clustering and outlier detection algorithms, can help identify data points that deviate significantly from expected patterns, flagging potential errors or unusual events for further investigation.

Personalization

ML can enhance user engagement by personalizing the MCS experience. By analyzing user interactions and preferences, ML algorithms can tailor task suggestions and notifications, improving user participation and data quality.

Deep Learning in Mobile Crowd Sensing

Deep learning, a subset of machine learning, utilizes neural networks with multiple layers to model complex patterns in large datasets. Its hierarchical approach enables it to capture intricate relationships within data, making it particularly effective for high-dimensional and unstructured data, such as images and videos. In MCS, deep learning has several applications, Wang, E., Zhang, M., Cheng, X., Yang, Y., Liu, W., Yu, H., ... & Zhang, J. (2020), Chen, Z., Zhang, Y., Simsek, M., & Kantarci, B. (2020, June):

Image and video analysis

Many MCS applications involve capturing visual data, such as photos or videos. Deep learning techniques, particularly CNNs, excel at processing and analyzing visual content. For instance, they can be employed to monitor environmental changes, detect pollution, or assess urban infrastructure conditions from user-submitted images.

Natural language processing (NLP)

In MCS applications that gather textual data, such as user reports or social media posts, deep learning models like recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and transformers can analyze and understand language. This capability enables the extraction of meaningful information from unstructured text data, facilitating sentiment analysis or event detection, Rashid, M. T., & Wang, D. (2021, October).

Sensor data fusion

Deep learning can enhance the analysis of multimodal data collected from various sensors on mobile devices. By integrating and processing data from multiple sources, deep learning models can improve the accuracy of data interpretations and provide a more comprehensive view of the sensing environment.

Real-time processing

The ability of deep learning models to process data in real time is beneficial for MCS applications requiring immediate responses or alerts, such as disaster management or public health monitoring.

Reinforcement Learning in Mobile Crowd Sensing

Reinforcement learning is a branch of machine learning focused on training agents to make sequences of decisions through interactions with an environment. In MCS, RL is particularly valuable for optimizing dynamic processes and enhancing user engagement, Dai, Z., Liu, C. H., Han, R., Wang, G., Leung, K. K., & Tang, J. (2021), Tao, X., & Hafid, A. S. (2020), Sun, L., Yu, X., Guo, J., Yan, Y., & Yu, X. (2021):

Dynamic task assignment

RL algorithms can learn optimal strategies for assigning tasks to users based on feedback from previous interactions. By continuously adjusting task assignments based on user responses and environmental changes, RL can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of data collection.

User engagement strategies

RL can be applied to develop strategies for enhancing user participation in MCS. By modeling user behaviors and preferences, RL can learn the best ways to incentivize users, such as through notifications, rewards, or personalized experiences, ensuring sustained engagement.

Resource management

RL approaches can optimize the management of mobile device resources, such as battery life and data usage, by learning to make decisions that minimize consumption while maximizing data quality and participation.

Adaptation to environmental changes

The dynamic nature of MCS environments necessitates adaptability. RL allows for real-time adjustments to task assignments and strategies based on the evolving context, enabling MCS systems to remain effective under varying conditions.

Literature Review

The internet of things auto (IOTA) has evolved rapidly in practically every technology field over the last decade. IOTA-based mobile crowd-sensing technology is being developed in this study using machine learning to detect and prevent mobile users from engaging in fake sensing activities. It has been determined through testing and evaluation that our method is effective for both quality estimation and incentive allocation. Using the IOTA Bottleneck dataset, multiple performance metrics were used to demonstrate how well logit-boosted algorithms perform. After applying logit-boosted algorithms on the dataset for the classification, Logi-XGB scored 95.7 percent accuracy, while Logi-GBC scored 90.8 percent accuracy. As a result of this, Logi-ABC had an accuracy rate of 89%. Logi-CBC, on the other hand, got the highest accuracy of 99.8%. Logi-LGBM and Logi-HGBC both scored 91.37% accuracy, which is identical. On the given dataset, our Logi-CBC algorithm outperforms earlier Logit-boosted algorithms in terms of accuracy. Using the new IoTA-Botnet 2020 dataset, a new proposed methodology is tested. In comparison to prior Logit-boosted algorithms, the new model Logi-CBC has the highest detection accuracy of 99.8%, Hameed, M., Yang, F., Ghafoor, M. I., Jaskani, F. H., Islam, U., Fayaz, M., & Mehmood, G. (2022).

The authors proposed a deep learning-based fast truth inference mechanism, called DLFTI, to achieve fast trust computing and accurate truth discovery in MCS. First, we introduce the degrees-of-trust (DOT) to characterize the sensing ability of workers and establish worker profiles based on DOT to recognize workers' trustworthiness dynamically. Then, we abandon the unrealistic assumption of priori GTD in previous studies and instead utilize the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), recognized trustworthy workers and the deep matrix factorization (DMF) method to construct three-level GTD and three-level ETD, which are used for fast trust computing of workers and accurate truth discovery of tasks respectively. Finally, we conduct extensive simulations on a real-world dataset to corroborate the significant performance of DLFTI, Tang, J., Fan, K., Yin, P., Qu, Z., Liu, A., Xiong, N. N., ... & Zhang, S. (2023).

Mobile crowdsensing (MCS) is a sensing paradigm where individuals collectively perform a sensing task using their smart devices. Sensing tasks can be classified as one-time or continuous. In the former, only one-time readings from the devices of the recruited workers are needed. However, in continuous sensing tasks, collecting information continuously during a specific period is required. Due to workers' mobility, ensuring a satisfactory level of the quality of information (QoI) of the sensing data is challenging since workers may leave the area of interest (AoI) before the task is over, causing low area coverage. Current existing recruitment systems for continuous sensing rely on historical mobility traces to recruit the group of workers. However, since workers' mobility patterns are dynamic in nature, thus, a real-time prediction of their locations in the AoI needs to be considered to ensure that the required value of QoI is achieved. Hence, in this work (1) machine learning is employed to predict users' location during the sensing period and (2) a novel recruitment system is proposed for continuous sensing tasks. The simulation results, using a real-life trajectories dataset, show the efficacy of the proposed solution when compared to benchmark, Nasser, R., Aboulhosn, Z., Mizouni, R., Singh, S., & Otrok, H. (2023).

The study has been conducted in the Kasbah of Algiers, where the four following types of damages have been considered: Efflorescence, spall, crack, and mold. The CNN is designed and trained to be integrated into a mobile application for a participatory crowd-sensing solution. The application should be widely and freely deployed so any user can take a picture of a suspected damaged wall and get an instant and automatic diagnosis through the embedded

CNN. In this context, we have chosen MobileNetV2 with a transfer learning approach. A set of real images has been collected and manually annotated and has been used for training, validation, and testing. Extensive experiments have been conducted to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed solution using a 5-fold cross-validation procedure. Obtained results show in particular, a mean weighted average precision of 0.868 ± 0.00862 (with a 99% of confidence level) and a mean weighted average recall of 0.84 ± 0.00729 (with a 99% confidence level). To evaluate the performance of MobileNetV2 as a feature extractor, we conducted a comparative study with other small backbones, Meklati, S., Boussora, K., Abdi, M. E. H., & Berrani, S. A. (2023).

The authors proposed a multi-agent deep reinforcement learning-based method named communication-QMIX-based multi-agent DRL (CQDRL) to solve a task assignment problem in a decentralized fashion. The CQDRL method not only inherits the merits of GDRL over handcrafted heuristic and metaheuristic methods but also exploits computation potentials in mobile devices and protects workers' privacy with a decentralized decision-making scheme. Our extensive experiments show that the CQDRL method can achieve significantly better performance than other traditional methods and performs fairly close to the centralized GDRL method, Xu, C., & Song, W. (2023).

The authors proposed a novel approach for learning and predicting the micro-environment of users from their trajectories enriched with environmental data represented as multidimensional time series plus GPS tracks. We put forward a multi-view learning approach that we adapt to our context and implement it along with other time series classification approaches. We extend the proposed approach to a hybrid method that employs trajectory segmentation to bring the best of both methods. We optimize the proposed approaches either by analyzing the exact geolocation (which is privacy invasive), or simply applying some a priori rules (which is privacy friendly). The experimental results, applied to real MCS data, not only confirm the power of MCS and air quality (AQ) data in characterizing the micro-environment but also show a moderate impact of the integration of mobility data in this recognition. Furthermore, and during the training phase, multi-view learning shows similar performance as the reference deep learning algorithm without requiring specific hardware. However, during the application of models on new data, the deep learning algorithm fails to outperform our proposed models, El Hafyani, H., Abboud, M., Zuo, J., Zeitouni, K., Taher, Y., Chaix, B., & Wang, L. (2024).

The authors designed a privacy-preserving incentive scheme based on DRL and Stackelberg game model which is dedicated to MCS. The proposed incentive mechanism is based on a two-stage Stackelberg game, in which the service provider is the leader and the user devices are the followers. We construct the relationship between user devices as a non-cooperative game and prove the existence and uniqueness of Nash equilibrium (NE) in this game. Considering the cost and quality of sensing data, we use the reputation constraint mechanism as the evaluation standard of data quality and include sensing cost as an indicator. Different from the traditional NE derivation method, we adopt a deep reinforcement learning (DRL) approach (called PPO-DSIM) to derive NE and the optimal sensing strategy while protecting the user's private information. Numerical simulation results show the convergence and effectiveness of the PPO-DSIM, Zhang, J., Li, X., Shi, Z., & Zhu, C. (2024).

Mobile crowd sensing (MCS) with human participants has been proposed as an efficient way of collecting data for smart city applications. However, there often exist situations where humans are not able or reluctant to reach the target areas, due to for example, traffic jams or bad road conditions. One solution is to complement manual data collection with autonomous data collection using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with various sensors. In this paper, we focus on the scenarios of UAV-assisted MCS and propose a task allocation method called "UMA" (U AV-assisted M ulti-task A llocation method) to optimize the sensing coverage and data quality. The method incentivizes human participants to contribute sensing data from nearby points of interest (PoIs), with a limited budget. Meanwhile, the method jointly considers the optimization of task assignment and trajectory scheduling. It schedules the trajectories of UAVs, considering the locations of human participants, other UAVs and PoIs that human participants rarely visit. In detail, UAVs take care of two tasks in our proposal. One is to calibrate the data collected by the human participants whom the UAVs come across along their trajectories. The other is to collect data from the PoIs which are not covered by other UAVs or human participants, Gao, H., Feng, J., Xiao, Y., Zhang, B., & Wang, W. (2022).

The authors aimed to design an end-to-end machine learning pipeline, which involves multimodal data collection, feature extraction, feature selection, fusion, and classification to distinguish between depressed and non-depressed subjects. For this purpose, we created a real-world dataset of depressed and non-depressed subjects. We experimented with: various features from multi-modalities, feature selection techniques, fused features, and machine learning classifiers such as Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machines (SVM), etc. for classification. Our findings suggest that combining features from multiple modalities performs better than any single data modality, and the best classification accuracy is achieved when features from all three data modalities are fused. Feature selection method based on Pearson's correlation coefficients improved the accuracy in comparison with other methods. Also, SVM yielded the best accuracy of 86%. Our proposed approach was also applied on the benchmarking dataset, and results demonstrated that the multimodal approach is advantageous in performance with state-of-the-art depression recognition techniques, Thati, R. P., Dhadwal, A. S., Kumar, P., & P, S. (2023).

The authors integrated a carefully designed graph attention network (GAT) into deep reinforcement learning (DRL) and developed a GAT-based DRL method (GDRL) to solve an NP-hard task allocation problem. Compared with manually crafted heuristics, our approach features the flexibility and self-adaptability of DRL, enabling the solver to interact with and adjust to new environments and generalize its experience to different situations. Extensive numerical results show that our proposed method can achieve significantly better results than the reference schemes in various experiment settings, Xu, C., & Song, W. (2023).

The authors proposed a novel mobile crowdsensing-based geospatial physical distance monitoring model capable of efficient pandemic monitoring and management. The work consists of two major contributions: analysis of human mobility information to find probable hot-spot regions and monitoring of the physical distance mandate. Another objective of this paper is to devise a mobile crowdsourcing analytics model to find out the quality of the crowdsensing information and infer any implicit knowledge without affecting the quality of the output. Furthermore, we have also designed an Android application to implement the mobile crowdsensing system, named *SocialSense*, and provide effective pandemic management. A theoretical analysis of latency calculation supports the proposed model. We observe from the experimental results that the accuracy in hot-spot identification and physical distance monitoring are better in the case of the proposed model than the existing approaches. The trustworthiness of the crowdsourcing data is also improved in terms of accuracy than the existing approaches, De, D., Ghosh, S., & Mukherjee, A. (2023).

The authors proposed a heuristic approach to make a data transmission plan between mobile phone users and edge servers, which can help an MCS system leverage network resources in edge servers to facilitate data uploading efficiently. In this article, we reinvestigate the data uploading problem in Xu and Song (2022), analyze the heuristic approach's drawbacks, and propose a deep reinforcement learning (DRL)-based method to complement these drawbacks. Specifically, the authors show that the heuristic approach may not sufficiently address heterogeneous cases, although it can achieve high efficiency in homogeneous scenarios. Furthermore, we find that the heuristic method is not a one-fit-for-all method and cannot adjust itself when facing new scenarios. Instead of making a new fixed heuristic to deal with these new scenarios, we design an adaptive method based on DRL and graph neural networks (GNNs) to learn heuristics, enabling the new method to handle all possible situations in theory. Specifically, the authors trained a DRL agent with a group of data-uploading instances and then generalized the agent to other instances. Extensive numerical results show that the DRL-based approach achieves a high approximation ratio and performs stably in all sorts of experiment settings, Xu, C., & Song, W. (2022).

The authors proposed a new framework based on Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL) for offloading computation-intensive tasks of PoW to edge servers in a blockchain-based MCS system. The proposed framework can be used to obtain the optimal offloading policy for PoW tasks under the complex and dynamic MCS environment. Simulation results demonstrate that our method can achieve a lower weighted cost of latency and power consumption compared to benchmark methods, Chen, Z., & Yu, Z. (2023).

The authors proposed a decentralized multi-agent deep reinforcement learning framework called "DRL-UCS(AoIth)" for multi-UAV trajectory planning, which consists of a novel transformer-enhanced distributed architecture and an adaptive intrinsic reward mechanism for spatial cooperation and exploration. Extensive results and trajectory visualization on two real-world datasets in Beijing and San Francisco show that, DRL-UCS(AoIth) consistently outperforms all nine baselines when varying the number of UAVs, AoI threshold and generated data amount in a timeslot, Wang, H., Liu, C. H., Yang, H., Wang, G., & Leung, K. K. (2023).

The authors conducted a systematic literature review to comprehensively analyze state-of-the-art works that address various aspects of AI-based MCS systems. The review focuses mainly on the applications of AI in different components of MCS, including task allocation and data aggregation, to improve its performance and enhance its security. This work also proposes a novel classification framework that can be adapted to compare works in this domain. This framework can help study AML in the context of MCS, as it facilitates identifying the attack surfaces that adversaries can exploit, and hence highlights the potential vulnerabilities of AI-based MCS systems to adversarial attacks, motivating future research to focus on designing resilient systems, Nasser, R., Mizouni, R., Singh, S., & Otrok, H. (2024).

The authors proposed an adaptive task recommendation method (ATRec) based on reinforcement learning. Specifically, we formalize the adaptive task recommendation problem for each target worker as an interactive Markov decision process (MDP). Then, we use an improved matrix decomposition technique to construct worker-personalized latent factor states based on information such as task content and spatio-temporal context, enabling us to use a unified MDP to learn optimal strategies for different workers. After that, we design an adaptive update algorithm (AUA) based on deep Q network (DQN) to more accurately learn the dynamic changes of workers' preferences to adaptively update the task recommendation list of workers. In addition, the authors proposed a personalized dimension reduction method (PDR) to reduce the size of the task set. Through comprehensive experimental results and analysis, we demonstrate the effectiveness of the ATRec approach. Compared with existing methods, ATRec can better solve the problem of adaptive task recommendation and can more accurately predict workers' preferences and make recommendations, Yang, G., Xie, G., Wang, J., He, X., Gao, L., & Liu, Y. (2024).

A model has been proposed to achieve better data integrity by filtering out fake reviews from real-time data sets using the machine learning approach. Our model uses data fuzzification over a mathematical model that categorizes users or customer feedback using ratings provided by Customers or reviewers in the Mobile Crowdsensing Environment. In this model, users can provide feedback for the desired location through various electronic gadgets using the specifically developed Android App or web-based applications. This feedback will be stored in a cloud platform. The said dataset can be analyzed through fuzzy logic to detect genuine reviews for maintaining data integrity, which can be used in various real-time applications, such as medical, tourism, education, etc. It is also categorized into three categories such as honest, suspicious, and malicious. Further accuracy of the proposed model has been judged using various machine learning (ML) algorithms such as Naive Bayes (NB), Bayes Net (BN), support vector machine(SVM), Decision tree (J48), and Random Forest(RF) in Cross-Validation modes. Initially, it achieves 99.79% of accuracy using the Random Forest algorithm that has been enhanced to 100% using cost-benefit analysis in cross-validation mode, Sahoo, R. K., Pradhan, S., Sethi, S., & Udgata, S. K. (2023).

Problem Statement

Despite its potential, MCS faces several challenges:

Data quality

The reliability and accuracy of the data collected can vary significantly depending on the user's device, sensor quality, and environmental conditions.

User privacy and security

Users may be hesitant to participate due to concerns about their privacy and the security of their data. Developing robust privacy-preserving techniques is essential to encourage participation.

Resource management

Efficiently managing the limited resources of mobile devices, such as battery life and data usage, is critical for sustainable MCS operations.

Scalability

As the number of participants grows, maintaining effective coordination, task assignment, and data processing becomes increasingly complex.

Research Future Direction

The evolving landscape of mobile crowd sensing (MCS) presents numerous opportunities for future research, particularly in the context of learning-assisted optimization techniques. As MCS applications become increasingly complex and integrated into various domains, addressing existing challenges and leveraging advancements in machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and reinforcement learning (RL) will be critical. The following are potential future research directions:

Enhanced privacy-preserving techniques

As MCS involves collecting sensitive user data, future research should focus on developing robust privacy-preserving methods that allow for data collection and sharing while safeguarding user privacy. Techniques such as federated learning and differential privacy can be explored to enable collaborative data analysis without exposing individual data points. This will encourage greater user participation and trust in MCS initiatives.

Context-aware task assignment

Research should explore context-aware algorithms that consider various factors such as user mobility, environmental conditions, and social interactions—when assigning tasks. Context-aware learning models can enhance the adaptability of task assignments, ensuring that tasks are efficiently allocated based on real-time situational awareness. This would improve data collection quality and relevance in dynamic environments.

Integration of multimodal data sources

The potential for integrating multimodal data sources (e.g., textual, visual, and sensor data) in MCS offers rich opportunities for analysis. Future research can focus on developing hybrid models that combine ML and DL techniques to analyze and interpret multimodal data effectively. This integration can lead to more comprehensive insights and facilitate a better understanding of complex phenomena in urban environments, health monitoring, and environmental assessments.

Adaptive learning strategies

The dynamic nature of MCS environments necessitates adaptive learning strategies that can evolve based on user interactions and environmental changes. Future research should investigate reinforcement learning techniques that continuously learn and adapt to changing conditions, optimizing task assignments and resource management in real time. This adaptability can enhance the overall efficiency of MCS applications.

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