Introduction to Conversational AI

Have you ever wondered how Siri works? Or Alexa? Better yet, have you ever been *frustrated* because these conversational systems just don't seem to understand what you really want? In this tutorial, the speaker will introduce the science underlying conversational systems like Alexa and Siri. Together, we'll go over the big research challenges in artificial intelligence, natural language understanding and machine learning that need to be overcome for conversational AI to become truly trustworthy. In particular, the speaker will highlight many of the challenges and lessons learned from leading the Texas A&M team in the 2021-22 Alexa Prize TaskBot Challenge.

For this tutorial, the speaker's plan is to do a hybrid of lecture plus some exercises we can do together. What the audience will need: a laptop; we'll use google colab to run some exercises, so there's no special software. Registration is not needed.

Background knowledge advisable: The speaker would like to keep it open to anyone.

James Caverlee, Ph.D.
Professor
Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering
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Date: Monday, March 21
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. US Central Time
Meeting ID: 998 4499 3279
Passcode: 724615
Faculty host: Yu Ding, TAMIDS

Biography

Dr. James Caverlee is a Professor at Texas A&M University in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. His research targets topics from recommender systems, social media, information retrieval, data mining, and emerging networked information systems. His group has been supported by NSF, DARPA, AFOSR, Amazon, Google, among others. Dr. Caverlee was general co-chair of the 13th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM 2020), and has been a senior program committee member of venues like KDD, SIGIR, SDM, WSDM, and ICWSM.

You can also click this link to join the seminar https://tamu.zoom.us/j/99844993279?pwd=TkJodWFVRURyMmkwakI4SWZGeVJTQT09

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