Explaining a Reinforcement Learning Agent via Prototyping

Ronilo Ragodos, Tong Wang, Qihang Lin, Xun Zhou

University of Iowa

NeurIPS 2022

Goal & Challenges for Prototype-Based Explanations

Goal: A policy explainer that does not need access to expert agent internals, only demonstrations.

Idea: Find set of prototypical situations and relate state-action pairs to those prototypes.

Challenge 1: How to find the set of prototypical states that represent an agent's prototypical behaviors.

Challenge 2: How to define similarity between states and prototypes.

Explaining Why Agent Jumps Rightward Using Prototypes

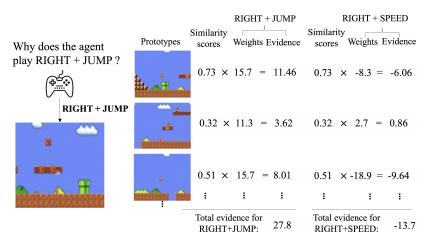


Figure 1: ProtoX's action choice depends on weighted sums of similarity scores between the input and each prototype.

ProtoX = Encoder + Prototypes + Linear Classifier

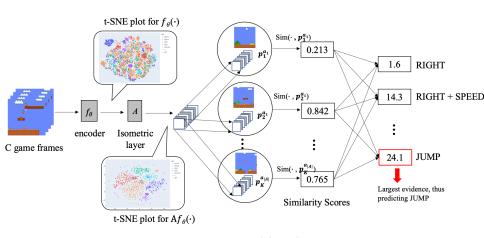


Figure 2: ProtoX Model Architecture

Potential Future Applications

- Explain a self-driving car
- ► Explain a (malfunctioning) robot



