

Assistive Agents for Self-Represented Litigants

Mark Rucker and Matthew S. Gerber
University of Virginia

Daniel Becker
Thomson Reuters

Objectives

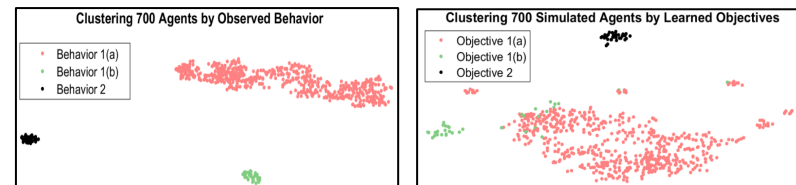
- Demonstrate application of Markov decision processes (MDPs) and reinforcement learning (RL) to assistive agents for legal services.
- Infer self-represented litigant (SRL) goals from observed behavior
- Identify new paths of research for SRL assistive agents

Deliverables

- A framework for inferring SRL goals
- An MDP that captures the SRL process
- Source code to infer SRL goals
- Submission to the 2018 Technology Initiative Grants (TIG) Conference

Novelty of Approach

- By modeling SRLs as reinforcement learners, we can better explain behavior.
- The MDP/RL framework allows assistive agents to optimize human behavior.



Benefits to IAB

- Improved legal outcomes for SRLs
- Improved access to legal services for SRLs
- Ability to use MDPs for human systems
- Proof of concept in creating SRL assistant