MLC Town Hall notes 7/10/22

Slides: 🟧 MLC Town Hall 7/10/22

Say hi!

Who's here (put your name here if you wish)
- Rosanne Liu (Rosanne Liu#2484 on Discord)
- Jason Yosinski (jasonyo#5233 on Discord)
- Rahul Kadam (Rahulkadam#1777 on Discord)
- David Drakard (briefly)
- Harry Saini (Harry Saini#6637 on Discord)
- Amber Wang (Amber W #4648 on Discord)
- Jacob Sanders (jacosand#5192 on Discord)
- David Murphy (dfm794#3755 on discord)
- Andre Chang (ac#8068 on Discord)
- Vaisakh M(Vaisakh#0406 on Discord)
- Andrey Kurenkov (regal-algorithm#6085)
- Peter David Fagan (peterdavidfagan#7637)
- Luis Granados (luis g#1980 on Discord)
- Sriharsha Hatwar (Sriharsha Hatwar#6038)
- Marcelo Guktiérrez(efectomiller#3951)
- Francisco 'Cisco' Zabala (datasith#6501)

A few misc notes taken live

- Local groups on Discord: seems like a good idea
- David Drakard: My company is interested in us doing some kind of public presentation / event. This could be joint local (ie discord local group) + online with MLC which I think would be very cool. They want me to prepare the content so it's somewhere in the backlog! :/ (probably intro to attribution)
- #current-conference : let's do this!
  - People at whatever conference is currently going on can chat here, e.g. about meeting up at that conference.

- From a few directions it seems an MLC blog would be useful.
- People sometimes need an institution e.g. for obtaining access to datasets.
- Swag!! Stickers!!
- People who are generally up for helping with something:
  - David Murphy, Rahul Kadam, Raghavan, Cisco Zabala, Sriharsha (after September)
- Fargo (Rosanne's dog) turned 2 today!

Brainstorming and Discussion

Section 0: Something you're proud of recently!

- The new robotics IG! (+1)
- Prod-in-ml IG wrapup with a Q&A with Chip Huyen
- My tweet thread was well received :P https://twitter.com/savvyRL/status/1540555792331378688?s=20&t=pLfHeQIBU5TZioQCS4Qq-A
- Finally got around to writing new blog posts / articles (LaMDA's Sentience is Nonsense - Here's Why https://lastweekin.ai/p/lamdas-sentience-is-nonsense-heres)
- have an intuition of what to do next in my research (been stuck for one week o more, Idk)
- [Rahul] Just conducted two days workshop on Autonomous Vehicle Detection using YOLOv5 (https://codicals.super.site/)
- Stephen: Finally started reading lecture notes from a course in NN training dynamics (been on a todo bucket list for a long time)
- Peter: Participated in my first academic workshop (as a student respondent)
- Jason: Derived some fundamental signal vs. noise for wind and pressure, got GPS packets working!
- Rosanne: getting 2 interns (student researchers) at Google!
- Daniel: miraculously got Kaggle silver medal
- Started mentoring a visiting undergrad that's part of a D&I initiative
- Marcelo:In the great work of my research group on Computer Vision and Artificial Intelligence.
- Jacob: Built my first machine learning model (outside of self-study CS231n problem sets) to predict reaction barriers for hydrogen atom transfer reactions

Section 1: New stuff (showing off MLC members and work, Discourse)

Showing off MLC members and work: Feelings and ideas
- Blog is easy / effective way
  - Can either link to external personal website (and get writer more views of their website) or host the post on MLC blog ; either way, can promote new blog posts via Twitter
  - Discussion: We could skew towards linking to individual blogs. But MLC blog also useful for some (have no blog, group posts)
- Maybe a newsletter too? Monthly (or Bi-monthly) email to show off (would not take that long to write, just bullet points - can have a shared doc and one person to do a last look over)
  - Good idea! Standing Google doc where people push their wins vs. authors pulling.
  - Showcase a member every time
  - Suggested platforms: Substack, Discourse, Notion, Mailchimp, Github pages, use DLCT email list.
  - If not DLCT, allow DLCT people to self-add to new mailing list
- Can just have discord channel where people post stuff to re-tweet related to MLC, and embed twitter feed on website
  - Use hashtag for re-tweets (let MLC people know about it)
  - Have a discord channel for tweet/re-tweet requests
- A metric on the number of researchers whose development was impacted by MLC (especially those who are first generation researchers etc.) +2
  - Or set of metrics (# papers, #help get admitted, #workshops, #started learning about AI, #people met through MLC, etc.)
  - Mechanism: Regular internal survey that people can self report various event
  - Also passive tracking of interactions on Discord, other stuff
  - # connections made
- A key feature will be for it to be easy for everyone to edit, so there's no admin bottleneck (Jason) +2
- I have around 200 mails who can also subscribe for articles that you mentioned (Rahul).

Discourse: Feelings and ideas
- (David D) Is it possible to give permission to add categories? I would like to add: Job postings, Mentoring offers, Open projects, Seeking projects/collaborators
- Categories will be really helpful. I like how Pytorch Forums is organized.
- Like the idea a lot! (+1)
- Sign up here to volunteer trying it out! https://discourse.mlcollective.org/

Section 2: Interest Groups and Discord

Feelings and ideas
- A lot of IG's notion page are very outdated
  - Example: CV: Notion page was active, but now people have switched to Discord events. Used to post meeting recordings on Notion but now just post to Discord pinned message.
  - Example: RL: One admin had used Notion a lot, but now Notion page kind of dead. Considering removing in favor of info on the wiki, but that's also not up to date. Notion started as a historical record, but now meetings aren't recorded, so benefit of historical record decreased. Also people didn't know how to use Notion. Going forward: will probably put general info on wiki pointing to Discord channel.
- Harry: Currently most IG's use notion as their homepage, should we link it on the MLC main page. (Vaisakh: I think we should)
- Harry: Also there's a new discord feature coming up in a few months. It's kind of a homepage for the whole server, we can use it to highlight active groups and activities.
- Daniel: 1) archive inactive channels until there are committed folks to help run it. 2) Move more active groups to top of list (e.g. robotics and production-ml) (-1 doesn't seems a good thing as it might restrict the new users and it can still be useful when a user wants to discuss a problem/idea in that area (Sriharsha))
  - (many opinions here)
  - Calendar works well because it's guaranteed up to date
  - Opinion: once people are a user, inactive channels don't bother them
  - Newcomers can be confused though.
- Create separate discords (or slack!) for separate IGs? (-3 Most of IG projects are interlinked)
- Useful view into what's most active: https://discord.com/developers/servers/785992161132806174/analytics/engagement?interval=2&start=2022-05-16&end=2022-07-11

ACTION: IG organizers: please update all info visible about your IGs. If info is out of date, either delete it or update it.

ACTION: Rosanne and Jason to create prioritized list of actions and post to #mlc-organization

Section 3: Everything else

Topic for inspiration:

-

Feelings and ideas

-

Zoom Chat log:

Me to Everyone (10:01 AM)
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1J6dXZbb9qGC8eDDdAJ7KU5NkjZ4JGSvQwah09RdlS
UE/edit#slide=id.p
Slides:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1J6dXZbb9qGC8eDDdAJ7KU5NkjZ4JGSvQwah09RdlS
UE/edit#slide=id.p
Notes:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sExUpnHSetmIiiC6Ef7_pvGHccVLCgUaCjNM3CrX-ak/ed
it#
Me to Everyone (10:06 AM)
Put your name in the notes too if you wish!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sExUpnHSetmIiiC6Ef7_pvGHccVLCgUaCjNM3CrX-ak/ed
it#
David D to Everyone (10:08 AM)
Go ahead Andre
Andre Xian Ming Chang (andrexianmin) to Everyone (10:08 AM)
Can you hear me?
Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:09 AM)
No @andre
Andre Xian Ming Chang (andrexianmin) to Everyone (10:11 AM)

My mic is broken. I'm Andre and joining from seattle
Me to Everyone (10:11 AM)
Hi Andre (and all!)
Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:11 AM)
Hi Andre
Me to Everyone (10:12 AM)
Slides:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1J6dXZbb9qGC8eDDdAJ7KU5NkjZ4JGSvQwah09RdlSUE/edit#slide=id.p
Notes:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sExUpnHSetmIiiC6Ef7_pvGHccVLCgUaCjNM3CrX-ak/edit#
Harry Saini to Everyone (10:14 AM)
@Jason, you've shared an edit link for slides which asks for access, could you make it view only?
Me to Everyone (10:14 AM)
@Harry: done
Me to Harry Saini (Direct Message) (10:14 AM)
(Though if you're part of the all@mlcollective.org list, you'll still be able to edit)
Harry Saini to Me (Direct Message) (10:15 AM)
I'm not
Me to Harry Saini (Direct Message) (10:15 AM)
ok
David D to Everyone (10:18 AM)
good idea
Andre Xian Ming Chang (andrexianmin) to Everyone (10:18 AM)
i think is great idea
Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:18 AM)
intresting
Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:19 AM)
I am a college student. It would be good to have ML group in collages.
Harry Saini to Everyone (10:19 AM)
@Rahul, we have #how-to-grad-school in our Discord.
Andre Xian Ming Chang (andrexianmin) to Everyone (10:20 AM)
do we do conference?
Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:20 AM)
thanks @harry
Rosanne Liu to Everyone (10:21 AM)
#whatevercof
Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:21 AM)
Hey, do you have any channel for someone who is just starting? You know all these channels are really overwhelming for someone who is just starting out in ML, Like me
Sriharsha to Everyone (10:22 AM)
Apologies, i missed the first few mins is the intention of local channels only for meetups?

Andre Xian Ming Chang (andrexianmin) to Everyone (10:22 AM)

that would be cool. MLConference. And meet ppl in conferences (cvpr, etc)

Rosanne Liu to Everyone (10:24 AM)

https://mlcollective.org/wiki/

Notes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sExUpnHSetmIiiC6Ef7_pvGHccVLCgUaCjNM3CrX-ak/edit?usp=sharing

Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:31 AM)

how to contribute to MLC?

Andre Xian Ming Chang (andrexianmin) to Everyone (10:31 AM)

have this group tried to do ai-challenges?

David D to Everyone (10:33 AM)

Sorry everyone, I have to leave :(The direction looks great once again. Looking forward to reading the outcomes tomorrow.

Me to Everyone (10:33 AM)

Ok, David. FYI the next slide is about Discourse if you happen to be able to stick around!

David D to Everyone (10:34 AM)

ok

Rahul Kadam to Everyone (10:38 AM)

how about GitHub pages?

Itamar to Everyone (10:38 AM)

FOr starters it is difficult to know what interest groups have been doing

(in discord)

David D to Everyone (10:45 AM)

Sorry, have to go now. Will love to help out around discord and others. Some really great suggestions in.

discourse*

Me to Everyone (10:46 AM)

Thanks, David! And have a good day 🙂

Vaisakh to Everyone (10:52 AM)

Cool!

Me to Everyone (10:54 AM)

🥈 !!

Sriharsha to Everyone (10:55 AM)

congratulations on the medal!!

Rahul Kadam to Everyone (11:00 AM)

notion

peter to Everyone (11:19 AM)

Apologies I am having issue with my speaker

I'm going to rejoin on my laptop

Vaisakh to Everyone (11:21 AM)

Hi. I'm a Computer Vision IG mod. Our reading group sessions are going good as usual. I don't have any other updates. I'm here if people wanna know anything else.

David Murphy to Me (Direct Message) (11:23 AM)

Same for reinforcement learning, we have our regular 'deep dive' reading sessions, with the regulars. Searching for ways to make it more active

Abraham Owodunni to Everyone (11:23 AM)

Are we done?

everyone is silent

Me to Everyone (11:24 AM)

Abraham: people are typing thoughts in the notes. We'll discuss them in 1.5 min.

Daniel Lam to Everyone (11:25 AM)

We're writing questions/concerns/ideas in the google doc for "Interest Groups" for ~5 mins

Me to Everyone (11:25 AM)

Notes:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sExUpnHSetmIiiC6Ef7_pvGHccVLCgUaCjNM3CrX-ak/edit#

David Murphy to Everyone (11:25 AM)

Same for reinforcement learning, we have our regular 'deep dive' reading sessions, with the regulars. Searching for ways to make it more active

Harry Saini to Everyone (11:30 AM)

ML-prod actively uses notion i think.

Vaisakh to Everyone (11:31 AM)

@Amber Welcome to MLC. You can just go to #notification-roles channel and enable notifications from the CV Interest Group.

Abraham Owodunni to Everyone (11:33 AM)

Thank you @Jason

Vaisakh to Everyone (11:34 AM)

@Jason Will update the CV wiki page soon.

Vaisakh to Everyone (11:43 AM)

https://discord.com/developers/servers/785992161132806174/analytics/engagement?interval=2&start=2022-05-16&end=2022-07-11

@Rosanne @Jason There is this info about what channels are most active under 'Server Insights'.

Me to Everyone (11:46 AM)

Thanks, @Vaisakh

Vaisakh to Everyone (11:47 AM)

A CSV file can be downloaded too.

andrey kurenkov to Everyone (11:51 AM)

going to hop off, enjoyed the meeting!

Me to Everyone (11:52 AM)

Ciao, Andrey!

Rahul Kadam to Everyone (11:54 AM)

I really enjoyed talking to all of you. I have to leave right now, but I'll see you in the next session.

Cisco Z. to Everyone (11:54 AM)

SWAG!

Harry Saini to Everyone (11:55 AM)

Yahoo datasets does this, it was such a pain to get some of those datasets.

Andre Xian Ming Chang (andrexianmin) to Everyone (11:55 AM)

nice meeting. great know more about the group. thank you

Sriharsha to Everyone (11:56 AM)

@Jason Post September i will be revitalized (i hope)

Raghavan to Everyone (11:57 AM)

raghavan

Sriharsha to Everyone (11:58 AM)

Cool thanks for hosting this! Jason and Rosanne!

luisgranados to Everyone (11:59 AM)

I can help also.

Happy birthday!!!!!!!

steak night

Vaisakh to Everyone (12:01 PM)

Bye everyone

Steven Kolawole to Everyone (12:01 PM)

thank you!!!

Harry Saini to Everyone (12:01 PM)

Bye guysss!