



**ADVANCING BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
THROUGH AI + DIGITAL HEALTH**

**RL-Driven Pain Care
Recommendations
– Dr. Pratik Gajane**



**MICHIGAN INSTITUTE
FOR CLINICAL &
HEALTH RESEARCH**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN


May 21, 2024

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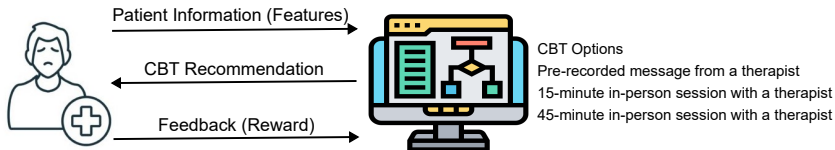
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- ▶ Collaborators for this work :
 - ▶ John D. Piette*,
 - ▶ Sean Newman*, and
 - ▶ Mykola Pechenizkiy†.

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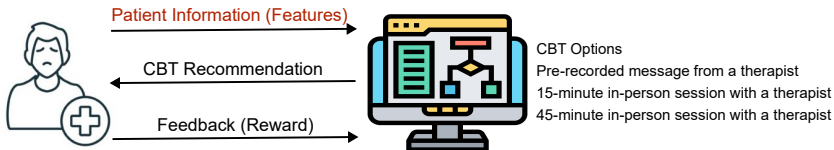
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Personalized CBT for Chronic Pain via Reinforcement Learning



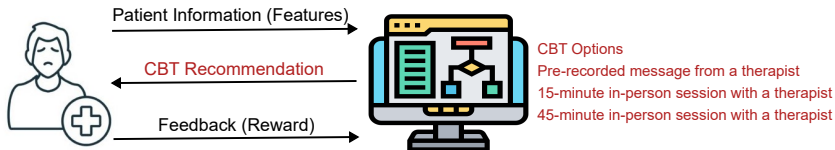
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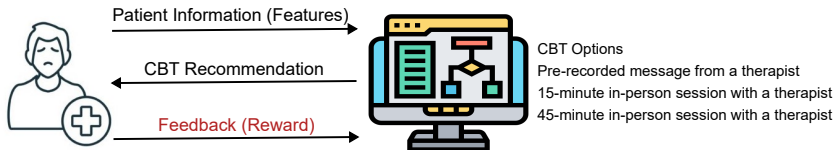
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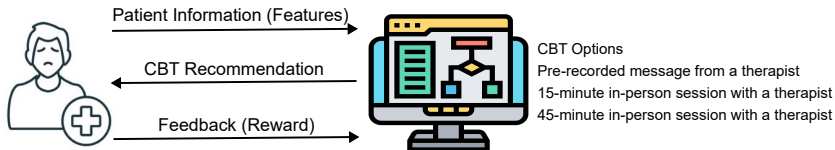
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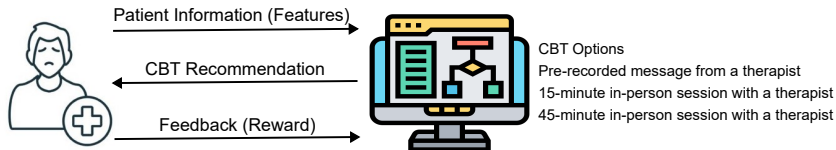
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- ▶ Earlier patient interactions (features, recommendation, reward) used to select recommendations in the subsequent interactions.
- ▶ Performance criterion: $Utility = Average\ received\ reward.$
High utility reflects effective CBT recommendations.

RL-based CBT Recommendations: Advantages and Concerns

- ▶ A recent clinical trial [1] showed that RL-based CBT treatments led to
 - ✔ high utility (leading to improved patient outcomes) and,
 - ▶ effective allocation of scarce clinical resources.

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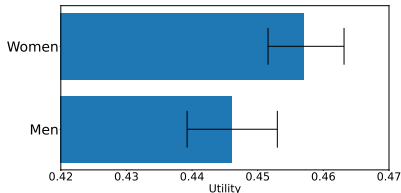
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✗ Utility for women
> Utility for men,
 $p=0.01$, Cohen's $d=0.32$.



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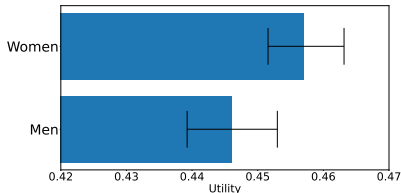
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- ▶ High utility **Yes**
 Equity w.r.t. gender **No**



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High Utility and Equity via Feature Selection

▶ Patient Features

Pain interference 1

Session Number

CBT skill practice this week

Sleep quality this week

Pain interference 2

% days this week with steps goal met

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- ▶ We evaluated the RL algorithm with 22 feature combinations, and almost all resulted in gender disparities ($p < 0.05$ and Cohen's d around 0.3).

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 - ✔ Utility for men: Highest among all combinations
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- ▶ If the RL algorithm makes recommendations based on **Optimal Features**
High utility **Yes**
Equity w.r.t. gender **Yes**

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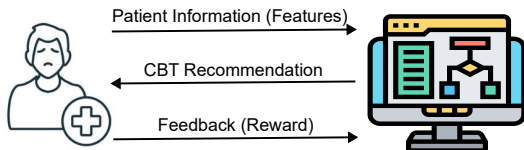
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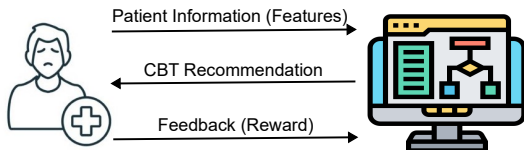


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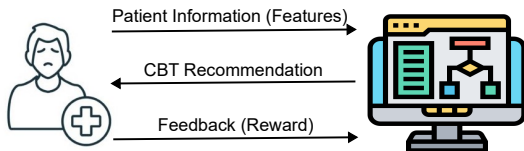


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Results for Our RL algorithm with Feature Selection

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- ▶ This led to 17% improvement in our algorithm's frequency of using Optimal Features initially (first decile of interactions).

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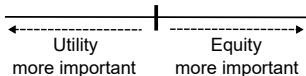
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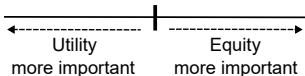
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- ▶ Equity w.r.t. other attributes.

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- ▶ the algorithm observes this interaction and learns to make a reliable recommendation in similar future interactions.

Thank you

For more details about this work, see arxiv.org/abs/2402.19226 
or my webpage pratikgajane.github.io .



If you'd like to chat, email me at pratik.gajane@gmail.com.