Sequences, Choices, and their Dynamics

(Keynote)

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ABSTRACT

Sequences arise in many online and offline settings: urls to visit, songs to listen to, videos to watch, restaurants to dine at, and so on. User-generated sequences are tightly related to mechanisms of choice, where a user must select one from a finite set of alternatives. In this talk, we will discuss a class of problems arising from studying such sequences and the role discrete choice theory plays in these problems. We will present modeling and algorithmic approaches to some of these problems and illustrate them in the context of large-scale data analysis.

Biography

Ravi Kumar has been a senior staff research scientist at Google since June 2012. Prior to this, he was a research staff member at the IBM Almaden Research Center and a principal research scientist at Yahoo! Research. He obtained his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Cornell University in 1998. His research interests include Web search and data mining, algorithms for massive data, and the theory of computation.