EDUCATION

M.S. Computer Science **University of California San Diego GPA**: 3.93/4 Sep 2016 - Jun 2018 **GPA**: 9.88/10 Jul 2011 - Jul 2015 **B.E.** Computer Engineering Thapar University, India

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

SDE Intern @ Amazon.com, Seattle, Washington

Jun 2017 - Sep 2017

- Interned at the DataForge team which provides a platform for running Big Data operational workloads consistently within service level agreement. Worked towards designing and implementing:
 - Support for primary key constraint and batch insert/update while ensuring consistent reads in Hive using type-2 tables and multi-version concurrency control concepts.
 - Support for ACID properties in Hive.
 - Support for non-blocking compaction (carefully discarding old data) to keep read operations efficient.
- Technologies: Java | Hive | DynamoDB

Member Technical @ Arcesium India Pvt. Ltd., India

Jul 2015 - Jul 2016

- Worked for the Straight Through Processing team. Important responsibilities:
 - Added support for **self-sanitization**, **self-recovery** and **fault tolerance** in the new infrastructure.
 - Added self-aware trigger mechanism for EOD trade files, minimizing data completeness issues by 30%.
- Technologies: Java | Spring Framework | MyBatis | Microsoft SQL Server

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND PROJECTS

Student Researcher with Prof. Julian McAuley @ UCSD

Apr 2017 - Present

Spoiler Detection

Python | Selenium

- To detect spoilers in book/movie reviews and produce some interesting linguistic insights on what constitute spoilers, developing a probabilistic graphical model with integrated language model.
- Data obtained from two popular review websites, then cleaned, pre-processed and explored.
- **Product Size Recommendation** Product fit prediction is critical to improve users' shopping experiences.
 - We decompose fit semantics using latent factor model and enhance prediction using Metric Learning technique. We see an improvement of around 18% over an algorithm developed by Amazon.
 - Data obtained from two online clothing retailers, then cleaned, pre-processed and explored.

Research Intern @ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

May - Jul 2014, Dec 2014 - May 2015

- Scalable Bayesian Matrix Factorization algorithm: reduces the cubic time complexity of existing Bayesian matrix factorization algorithm to linear. (C++ | Python | Matlab) (Link: goo.gl/ou2B7f)
- Scalable Variational Bayesian Factorization Machines: Supplements the existing framework with scalable alternative that gives state-of-the-art performance. (C++ | Python | Matlab) (Link: goo.gl/nH59G4)

OTHER PROJECTS

Jointly Modeling Aspects, Ratings and Sentiments with Temporal Dynamics

Pvthon

- We jointly model aspects of the products, user sentiment on products, associated ratings and temporal information in a probabilistic graphical model to predict the review ratings. For interpretability, model produces insights on the various aspects of products and user sentiment on them which explains the rating.
- Improves upon the original method by 1% and provides insight into users' preference change over time.

Review Ranking and Recommendation on Ciao Product Dataset

Java

- Reviews ranked and recommended by optimizing the Bayesian Personalized Ranking measure on biased Matrix Factorization and biased Tensor Factorization models.
- **Hierarchical Attention Network for Rating Prediction**

Python | Tensorflow

- Implemented an RNN with attention mechanism for rating prediction using product reviews. Attention mechanism allows the RNN to focus on sentences which best explain the rating given to an item.
- An Ensemble of CNNs for Traffic Lights Recognition

Python | Keras framework

- Ensemble of custom built CNNs trained on Nexar traffic lights challenge dataset while ensuring small model size which allows for a quick training even with scarce computational resources.
- Music Generation using Character-level RNN

Python | Keras framework

- Trained a character-level RNN to learn the structure of music files in ABC format and generated music from the trained network.
- **Hotel Recommendation System**

Python | Scikit-learn

Recommender system trained on Expedia Hotel Recommendation Dataset to recommend top 5 hotel clusters to users, built using ensemble of Random Forest, Naïve Bayes, SGD classifier and XGBoost models.