

Akella Ravi Tej

B.Tech. – Electronics & Communication Engineering – Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

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Interests

Computer Vision, Deep Learning, Generative Modeling, Robotics and Reinforcement Learning

Education

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee

GPA: 8.129/10

B.Tech in Electronics & Communication Engineering

Minor Specialization in Computer Science & Engineering

2014-2018

Exam Scores

Graduate Record Examination

329/340 (Verbal: 159, Quant: 170, AWA: 4.0)

TOEFL

106/120 (R: 29, L: 28, S: 22, W: 27)

Publication

A Randomized Kernel-Based Secret Image Sharing (SIS) Scheme [↗](#)

IEEE Workshop

Authors: Akella Ravi Tej, Rekula Ravi Teja, Vinod Pankajakshan

Jan 2017-Jul 2017

- o Proposed a novel SIS scheme that offers perfect threshold secrecy, optimal share size, and complete decentralization.
- o Accepted for presentation at IEEE International Workshop on Information Forensics and Security (WIFS), 2018 [↗](#).

Undergraduate Thesis Project.....

Review: Super Resolution as a Supervised Learning Problem

Working on a manuscript

Supervisor: Prof. Vinod Pankajakshan

Jul 2017-May 2018

- o Surveys recent work in the area of single image super resolution (SISR), covering advances in neural network architectures, learning algorithms, objective functions, and how they all overcome the ill-posed nature of SISR.
- o Special emphasis on perceptual loss functions for stabler training and generating more realistic-looking images.
- o Targeting the 36th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2019 [↗](#).

Experience

Research Projects and Internships.....

Bayesian Optimization with Guaranteed Monotonic Policy Improvements

Supervisors(remote): Prof. Anima Anandkumar, Bren Professor, CMS Caltech

Aug 2018-Present

- o Attempts to combine the benefits of Bayesian approaches [↗](#), such as targeted exploration and sample efficiency in gradient estimation, with the guaranteed monotonic policy improvements offered by TRPO method [↗](#).
- o Joint project by researchers at Caltech and Facebook AI Research to extend the work in *Azizzadenesheli et al.*, (2018) [↗](#) to continuous state-action space.

Statistical Modelling of Speech Signals [↗](#)

Supervisors: Prof. Ajit K Chaturvedi, Professor & Director, IIT Roorkee

Prof. R Balasubramanian, Associate Professor, IIT Roorkee

Jan 2018-May 2018

- o Reviewed common feature extractors used in pre-processing raw audio signals for speaker recognition task.
- o Experiments were performed with stacked LSTM architecture using the Voice Conversion (VCC) 2016 dataset.
- o Compared the performance of convolutional auto-regressive networks (dilated causal convolutions with a finite receptive field) with stacked LSTM networks (theoretically infinite receptive field) for high fidelity speech synthesis and automatic speech recognition tasks.

Underlying Cryptography behind Zero-Knowledge (ZK) Proofs

Supervisor(remote): Dr. R. Ramanujam, Professor, Institute of Mathematical Sciences

Jul 2017-Jan 2018

- o Examined the mathematical principles behind various advanced cryptographic protocols in the zk-SNARK pipeline.

- Paper Implementations.....
- Language Identification** [↗](#) by *Mathur et al.*, (2017)[↗](#)
- Character-level LSTM model for language identification based on *Stanford Language Identification Engine*(*SLIDE*).
- Disentangled Learning with β -Variational Auto-Encoders** [↗](#) by *Burgess et al.*, (2018)[↗](#)
- Balanced the trade-off between learning disentangled representations and reconstruction fidelity by adjusting the hyperparameter β to extract disentangled factors from *dsprites* dataset[↗](#).
 - Achieved more robust disentangling at a higher reconstruction fidelity using the modified objective function that performs a controlled increase of encoding capacity.
- Handwriting Synthesis** [↗](#) by *Graves et al.*, (2013)[↗](#)
- Mixture distribution parameterized using an LSTM network (Mixture Density Network) to generate realistic cursive handwriting, demonstrating the ability of recurrent neural networks to capture long-range structure.
- Face Recognition with One-Shot Learning** by *Schroff et al.*, (2015)[↗](#)
- Used a siamese network with triplet loss function to recognize faces from a single example.
- A Neural Algorithm of Artistic Style** by *Gatys et al.*, (2015)[↗](#)
- Generated artwork of high perceptual quality by blending low-level features and high-level features of two images.
- Debiasing Word Embeddings** by *Bolukbasi et al.*, (2016)[↗](#)
- Eliminated common biases in word embeddings such as gender, age, etc., emerging from unbalanced training sets.

Academic Achievements

- Recipient of **Nehru Memorial Scholarship** for overall excellence in undergraduate.
- Ranked of 315/13388 teams in **Codechef SnackDown-2016**: Global Competitive Programming Tournament.
- KVPY fellowship** (SX Stream-2014) in recognition of aptitude for research.
- Ranked in top 1% students of the country in **IIT-JEE Advance 2014**.
- Secured 99.99%tile in **IIT-JEE Mains 2014**.

Technical skills

Programming Languages: Python, Java, C, C++, MATLAB and Simulink

Frameworks: TensorFlow, PyTorch, Keras

Simulators: MuJoCo Physics Engine, Box2D Physics Engine, OpenAI Gym

Relevant courses

Undergraduate Courses.....

Linear Algebra: Mathematics-I(MAN 001) and Mathematical Methods(MAN 002)

Statistics: Probability and Statistics(MAN 006)

Machine Learning: Machine Learning(CSN 106)

Online Courses.....

Coursera: Deep Learning Specialization by *Andrew NG*, *deeplearning.ai* [↗](#)

- Neural Networks and Deep Learning [↗](#), Improving DNNs: Hyperparameter tuning, Regularization and Optimization [↗](#), Structuring Machine Learning Projects [↗](#), Convolutional Neural Networks [↗](#), Sequence Models [↗](#)

Coursera: Neural Networks for Machine Learning by *Geoffrey Hinton*, *University of Toronto* [↗](#)

Coursera: Machine Learning by *Andrew NG*, *Stanford University* [↗](#)

Other MOOCs: RL course by David Silver, Deep RL Bootcamp, Deep RL(CS 294-112) by Sergey Levine, CNN for Visual Recognition(CS231n) by Andrej Karpathy, NLP with Deep Learning(CS224n) by Christopher Manning.

Extracurricular Activities

- Tutor at **HashLearn**: Conducted over 200 online sessions and mentored 100+ students for IIT-JEE.
- Member of **Data Science Group**, a platform that brings together the students of IIT Roorkee who are passionate in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science to share ideas and collaborate.
- Member of the **Institute Athletics Team** and **National Sports Organization (N.S.O)**, IIT Roorkee.