

# Aneesh Komanduri

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Email:** [akomandu@uark.edu](mailto:akomandu@uark.edu)  
**Website:** <https://akomand.github.io/>  
**GitHub:** <https://github.com/akomand>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests generally lie in the areas of causal inference, representation learning, and generative modeling, with applications in trustworthy and robust machine learning. I am also interested in exploring interpretability and control in large-scale pretrained generative models.

## EDUCATION

**University of Arkansas** Fayetteville, Arkansas  
**Ph.D.**, Computer Science **2021 - 2026**

- **Advisor:** Dr. Xintao Wu

**M.S.**, Computer Science, GPA: 4.0 **2021 - 2024**

- **Relevant Courses:** Statistical Methods, Regression Analysis, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Computer Vision, Natural Language Processing, Advanced Information Retrieval, AI Ethics

**B.S.**, Computer Science/Engineering & Applied Mathematics **2017 - 2021**

- Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Social Awareness & Intelligent Learning Lab (SAIL)** Fayetteville, Arkansas  
*Graduate Research Assistant* **Oct 2021 - Present**

- Working at the intersection of causal inference and representation learning using generative models to obtain disentangled causal representations for robust learning in downstream tasks
- Proposed theory and learning frameworks toward identifiable causal representation learning in the label-supervised setting using VAE and flow-based models
- Currently working on counterfactual generation via diffusion-based causal representation learning, applications of causal generative models in fairness-aware learning, and causality in large-scale generative models such as large language models (LLMs) and pre-trained diffusion models

  
**Data Science & Artificial Intelligence Lab** Fayetteville, Arkansas  
*Undergraduate Research Assistant* **Aug 2019 - May 2021**

- Research focused on graph representation learning and using Bayesian methods to account for uncertainty in noisy graph data to improve node classification
- Designed and developed a cyber-argumentation discourse-based platform and utilized natural language processing and knowledge graph-based models for user opinion modeling

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Aneesh Komanduri**, Chen Zhao, Feng Chen, and Xintao Wu. “Causal Diffusion Autoencoders: Toward Counterfactual Generation via Diffusion Probabilistic Models.” *Proceedings of 27th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI)*. 2024.

**Aneesh Komanduri**, Yongkai Wu, Feng Chen, and Xintao Wu. “Learning Causally Disentangled Representations via the Principle of Independent Causal Mechanisms.” *Proceedings of the 33rd International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*, 2024.

**Aneesh Komanduri**, Xintao Wu, Yongkai Wu, and Feng Chen. “From Identifiable Causal Representations to Controllable Counterfactual Generation: A Survey on Causal Generative Modeling.” *Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)*. 2024.

**Aneesh Komanduri**, Yongkai Wu, Wen Huang, Feng Chen, and Xintao Wu. “SCM-VAE: Learning Identifiable Causal Representations via Structural Knowledge.” *IEEE International Conference on Big Data (BigData)*, 2022.

**Aneesh Komanduri** and Justin Zhan, “Neighborhood Random Walk Graph Sampling for Regularized Bayesian Graph Convolutional Neural Networks.” *IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)*, 2021.

## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

**UNITE, Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP)** Fayetteville, Arkansas  
*Lead Research Mentor* ([https://github.com/akomand/AEOP\\_Research\\_2021](https://github.com/akomand/AEOP_Research_2021)) **2020, 2021**

- Guided High School students from underrepresented communities with research in data science
- Created lesson plans to teach data/text preprocessing, classification/regression, word embeddings, entity extraction, topic modeling, language models, transformers, implementations in Python, deep learning pipeline in PyTorch, and applications in question answering
- Assisted students in the development of a machine learning research paper and helped students present research to be evaluated by the Department of Defense education initiative

**University of Arkansas** Fayetteville, Arkansas  
*Teaching Assistant* **Jan 2020 - Dec 2020**

- **Courses:** CSCE 2004 (Programming Foundations I) and CSCE 3193 (Programming Paradigms)
- Taught two lab sections weekly for a total of over 45 computer science & engineering students and held office hours for over 200 students
- Created, debugged, graded, and provided feedback on object-oriented and functional programming assignments (C++/Java/Python) and exams and held office hours for 200+ students

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Doctoral Academy Fellowship 2021-2025  
 Congressional Letter for STEM Outreach, U.S. House of Representatives July 2021  
 Blanche Bledsoe Rosecrans and Clarence J. Rosecrans Scholarship 2020-2021  
 Lawrence Jesser Toll, Jr. Endowed Scholarship 2020-2021  
 Silas Hunt Distinguished Scholarship 2017-2021

## SERVICE

### Conference Reviewer

- International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR'25**)
- Learning on Graphs Conference (**LoG'24**)
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS'24**)
- IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (**ICMLA'24**)

### Journal Reviewer

- Transactions on Machine Learning Research (**TMLR**)
- Journal of Data-centric Machine Learning Research (**DMLR**)
- International Journal of Data Science and Analytics (**IJDSA**)

### Workshop Reviewer

- ICML 2024 Workshop on Structured Probabilistic Inference and Generative Modeling

## SKILLS

- Languages: Python, C/C++, Java, Javascript, SQL
- ML Frameworks: PyTorch, Tensorflow, scikit-learn, Pyro
- Machine Learning: Large Language Models, Diffusion Probabilistic Models, Parameter Efficient Fine-tuning (e.g., LoRA), Variational Autoencoders, Normalizing Flows, Causality
- Technologies: Flask, Django, AWS, Databricks, Postgres, Apache Spark, ReactJS

- Applications: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Jupyter Notebook, VSCode, PyCharm, Git, RStudio, MATLAB

INDUSTRY  
EXPERIENCE

**Phillips 66**

Bartlesville, Oklahoma

*Digital Security and Cloud Engineering Intern*

**May 2020 - Aug 2020**

- Developed infrastructure as code templates with Terraform and built CI/CD pipelines for the creation of resources such as SQL Servers, Blob Storages, Key Vaults, and Firewall rules for Azure Data Factory in a production environment
- Automated the process of keeping inventory on cloud instance security group rules for accounts throughout the company by creating a Python script to pull data using the Dome9 REST API