Akshit Kumar ak4599@columbia.edu akshitkumar.github.io

EDUCATION Columbia University, Graduate School of Business, New York, NY 2020-present

Ph.D. candidate in Decision, Risk and Operations division. GPA: 9.96/10.00

Advisors: Prof. Omar Besbes and Prof. Yash Kanoria

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

2018-2020

Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering. GPA: 4.27/4.00.

Advisor: Prof. Vijay Subramanian

Masters' Thesis: Finite Time Guarantees for Empirical Dynamic Programs

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India

2014-2018

Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering, minor in Robotics. GPA: 8.81/10.00

Advisor: Prof. Rahul Vaze, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Bachelors' Thesis: Speed Scaling under QoS constraints with finite buffer

Research Interests Dynamic Resource Allocation, Online Algorithms, Reinforcement Learning

The Multi-secretary problem with many types with Omar Besbes and Yash Kanoria. EC'22: Publications Proceedings of the 2022 ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (forthcoming).

> Low-cost aerial imaging for small holder farmers with Ranveer Chandra et al. COMPASS '19: Proceedings of the 2nd ACM SIGCAS Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies ★ Best Paper Award at COMPASS'19

> Speed scaling under QoS constraints with finite buffer with Parikshit Hegde and Rahul Vaze. WiOpt'18: 16th International Symposium on Modeling and Optimization in Mobile, Ad Hoc, and Wireless Networks.

Working Papers

Feature Based Dynamic Matching with Yilun Chen and Yash Kanoria. Submitted (2022)

Finite Time Analysis of Empirical Dynamic Programs with Vijay Subramanian and Daniel Vial. Under Preparation (2021)

Breaking the Unit Throughput Barrier in Distributed System with Parikshit Hegde and Rahul Vaze. Working Paper (2021)

Patents

US20180213186 A1 Low-cost, Long-term Aerial Imagery

US20180213187 A1 Aerial imaging of a region using above ground aerial camera platform

Industry Internships Nokia Bell Labs, Paris, France

May 2018 - August 2018

Worked on developing and analysing decoding schemes for distributed wireless systems with applications in 5G and Internet of Things.

Microsoft Research, Bangalore, India

June 2016 - August 2016

Worked on designing low cost solutions to enable precision agriculture for small farm holders.

Industry Category Winner at Microsoft OneWeek Hackathon

Teaching EXPERIENCE Columbia University, Teaching Assistant

Business Analytics (EMBA core) Foundations of Optimization (PhD core) Spring 2022 Fall 2021

University of Michigan, Grader

Probability (PhD core) Winter 2019 Analysis of Societal Networks (PhD elective) Fall 2019

Awards

Best Paper Award, COMPASS'19, 2019

Industry Category Winner at Microsoft OneWeek Hackathon, 2016

Recipient of Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) Fellowship by Government of India, 2014 Recipient of National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) scholarship by Government of India, 2011

SKILLS

Programming: Python, C/C++, JavaScript, PHP, HTML, CSS

Tools: Git, LATEX, ROS

Selected Projects

Feature Based Dynamic Matching

Devised a novel algorithm dubbed "Fair Allocate and Match" (FAM) to dynamically match demand units to existing supply. Proved near-optimality of the FAM algorithm as a function of the market thickness and dimensionality of the problem.

The Multi-secretary problem with many types

Extended the network revenue management problem to encompass infinite types and distributions with gaps. Developed a novel algorithmic principle dubbed "Conversativism w.r.t Gaps" and proved near-optimality of the algorithm.

Finite Time Analysis of Empirical Dynamic Programs

Proved finite time bounds for biased and unbiased operators for stochastic approximation algorithms using Lyapunov method.

Breaking the Unit Throughput Barrier in Distributed System

Derived closed form expressions for throughput in coded slotted aloha scheme with power control. Developed an optimization framework to heuristically improve throughput for distributed system under the path loss setting. Full paper can be found at https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.07430

Low-cost aerial imaging for small holder farmers

Developed a low-cost long-term aerial imagery system with lighter-than-air gas filled balloon system with novel battery efficient application and instant feedback system for online path planning to enable precision agriculture in developing countries like India.

Speed scaling under QoS constraints with finite buffer

Devised near-optimal policies for the problem of dynamic speed scaling for optimizing the service cost under QoS constraints.

SELECTED TALKS

The multi-secretary problem with many types

MSOM Annual Conference, Munich RMP Annual Conference, Online EC'22, Boulder INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis

June 2022 July 2022

June 2022

October 2022

Speed scaling under QoS constraints with finite buffer WiOpt'2018, Shanghai, China

May 2018