

# Anuj Mahajan

Whiteson Research Lab  
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📄 [Anuj-Mahajan.github.io](https://Anuj-Mahajan.github.io)



## Research Interests

Reinforcement Learning, Learning Theory, Mathematical Optimization

## Selected Publications<sup>+</sup>

Anuj Mahajan, Mikayel Samvelyan, Lei Mao, Viktor Makoviyshuk, Animesh Garg, Jean Kossaifi, Shimon Whiteson, Yuke Zhu, and Animashree Anandkumar. TESSER-ACT: Tensorised actors for multi-agent reinforcement learning. In *Thirty-eighth International Conference on Machine Learning*. 2021 [ICML].

Tarun Gupta, Anuj Mahajan, Bei Peng, Wendelin Boehmer, and Shimon Whiteson. UNEVEN: Universal value exploration for multi-agent reinforcement learning. In *Thirty-eighth International Conference on Machine Learning*. 2021 [ICML].

Anuj Mahajan, Tabish Rashid, Mikayel Samvelyan, and Shimon Whiteson. MAVEN: Multi-agent variational exploration. In *Thirty-third Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*. 2019 [NeurIPS].

Matthew Fellows\*, Anuj Mahajan\*, Tim GJ Rudner, and Shimon Whiteson. VIREL: A variational inference framework for reinforcement learning. In *Thirty-third Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*. 2019 [Spotlight, NeurIPS].

Anuj Mahajan and Theja Tulabandhula. Symmetry detection and exploitation for function approximation in deep RL. In *Proceedings of the 16th Conference on Autonomous Agents and MultiAgent Systems*. International Foundation for Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems, 2017 [AAMAS].

Happy Mittal, Anuj Mahajan, Vibhav G Gogate, and Parag Singla. Lifted inference rules with constraints. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 28*, pages 3501–3509. Curran Associates, Inc., 2015 [NeurIPS].

Anuj Mahajan, Sharmistha Jat, and Shourya Roy. Feature selection for short text classification using wavelet packet transform. In *Proceedings of the Nineteenth Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning*, pages 321–326. Association for Computational Linguistics, 2015 [CoNLL].

## Education

2017–Current **Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science**, *University of Oxford*, U.K., Supervisor: Prof. Shimon Whiteson.

2011–2016 **Master of Technology in Computer Science & Engg (Dual degree)**, *Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi*, **Thesis** : Exploring new techniques for MAP Inference in MRFs.

2011–2016 **Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science & Engg (Dual degree)**, *Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi*.

<sup>+</sup> Updated list available at Google Scholar: [here](#)

\* Equal contribution

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## Work Experience

### Industrial

- 2021-Current **Research Scientist Intern**, *DeepMind*, London, UK.  
Open Ended Learning Systems
- 2020-2021 **Research Intern**, *J.P. Morgan Chase*, London, UK.  
Safe Reinforcement Learning for long term decision making with constraints.
- 2019-2020 **Research Intern**, *NVIDIA*, Santa Clara, USA.  
Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning using tensorised function approximations.
- 2016-17 **Budding Scientist**, *Conduent Labs India (erstwhile Xerox Research Centre India)* .  
Worked in the Machine Learning and Statistics Group in the following areas:
- Deep Reinforcement Learning
    - Learning symmetries for sample efficient Reinforcement learning.
  - Probabilistic Graphical Models
    - Finding a boosting framework for training Restricted Boltzmann Machines.
    - Analyzing dynamic pricing policy for public transport systems.
  - Ranking for Duelling Bandits
    - Using structural properties of the tournament graph of preference matrices having low rank under link transformations for efficient ranking.
  - Personalizing applications based on usage
    - Using deep learning for modeling disease dynamics and care from user behavior collected from mobile application.
- 2014 **Research Intern**, *Xerox Research Centre India*.  
Worked on developing feature selection methods and improving the accuracies of machine learning algorithms for short text data like tweets. Developed new method IADWPT for feature selection.

### Teaching

- 2019 **Tutor**.  
Tutor for Machine learning for Computer Science & Philosophy undergrads, Trinity term, Hertford College, University of Oxford.
- 2019 **Teaching Assistant**.  
TA for Reinforcement Learning course floated in Hilary term for Doctoral students in Autonomous Intelligent Machines and Systems(AIMS), University of Oxford.
- 2015-16 **Teaching Assistant**.  
TA for undergrad and graduate bridge courses, IIT Delhi. The work included taking demos for assignments, conducting help sessions and grading answer sheets. TA-ship courses:
- Machine Learning (COL774) Spring semester 2015-16.
  - Computer Networks (COL334) Fall semester 2015-16.

### Reviewing

- NeurIPS** Neural Information Processing Systems, 2021, 2020, 2019
- ICML** International Conference on Machine Learning, 2021
- AISTATS** Artificial Intelligence and Statistics, 2021
- ICLR** International Conference on Learning Representations, 2021
- JMLR** Journal of Machine Learning Research, 2020

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## Technical skills

Python, Java, C/C++, Prolog, SQL, Ocaml, Assembly

Pytorch, Tensor Flow, Docker, Matlab, Mathematica, Knime, Android, web2py, Eigen, OpenAI Gym

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## Relevant Courses

Advanced Machine Learning, Computational Learning theory, Machine Learning, Probabilistic Graphical Models, Adv. Algorithms, Data Mining, Computer Vision, Theory of Computation, Computational Biology, Numeric & Scientific Computing

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## Scholarships

- Awarded J.P. Morgan AI fellowship 2020.
- Awarded IBM PhD fellowship 2020 (declined).
- Awarded Google Deepmind Scholarship 2017-20 for doctoral studies at University of Oxford.
- Awarded Drapers Hertford graduate Scholarship 2017-20 for doctoral studies at University of Oxford.
- Awarded Microsoft Student Travel Grant for presenting research paper at CoNLL 2015, Beijing, China.
- Awarded Microsoft Student Travel Grant for presenting research paper at NeurIPS 2015, Montreal, Canada.
- Kishore Vaigyanic Protsahan Yojana(KVPY) fellowship awarded by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.(**Given to 200 fellows chosen from around one million applicants**)
- Awarded Indian National Association of Engineers (INAE) grant 2015.
- National Talent Search Examination(NTSE) fellowship awarded by NCERT, Department of Education, Government of India.(**500 scholars chosen from around one million applicants**)

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## Awards & Achievements

- Uber AI resident 2020 (Program rescinded due to covid19)
- Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Institute Merit Award : Received the prestigious IITD merit award given to **top 5% students in the institute**.
- Winner, Microsoft 'code.fun.do' : Programming event organized by Microsoft on 16-17/02/2013
- Won the Award of Excellence in Australian National Chemistry Quiz(ANCQ) for securing **All India Rank - 1** for three consecutive years (2006-08)
- Represented the state at Indian National Mathematics Olympiad and Astronomy Olympiad.
- Secured 8th position in the Regional Mathematical Olympiad, 2008 organized by NBHM, Government of India.
- Best Research Poster award at the Xerox open house 2014 poster presentation event.