

Avijit Ghosh

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Algorithmic Fairness

Ethical AI

Machine Learning

AI Explainability

Computational Social Science

Education

Northeastern University

Ph.D. student in Computer Science

Boston, MA

2019 - Present

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur

B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering, M.Tech in Financial Engineering, Minor in Computer Science

Kharagpur, India

2014 - 2019

Experience

Fiddler Labs

Research Intern

Palo Alto, CA

Oct 2020 – Apr 2021

- Explain distributional shifts in Machine Learning model outputs by unifying Shapley based methods.
- Using optimal transport theory, proposed a threshold independent fairness metric that allows for real time explanations.
- Worked with the product team and civil rights lawyers in the deployment of Fiddler's Machine Learning model fairness dashboard. Introduced and incorporated intersectional fairness metrics in the product.

Northeastern University

Research Assistant at Khoury College of Computer Sciences | Advisors: Alan Mislove, Christo Wilson

Boston, MA

Sep. 2019 – Present

- Analyzing Fair ranking systems and showing how they fail in the presence of noisy protected attribute data. Currently looking at adversarial attacks on Fair retrieval systems.
- A cooperative fairness audit of the recommendation algorithm of [PyMetrics](#), a talent matching software. [Press Release](#), [Wired article](#).
- Investigated Facebook's Special Audiences system for opportunity advertisements and showed that the audience creation algorithm was still biased against women, seniors and minorities. Covered in the media by [Propublica](#), [The Federal Reserve](#) and [Mother Jones](#).
- Analyzed the ad reach and spend information obtained from Facebook's ad transparency feature and the personal targeting dataset from Propublica's Facebook ad dataset and showed that advertisers with higher budgets use more privacy sensitive targeting techniques like PII or Lookalike audiences. Findings published and presented at [IEEE ConPro 2019](#).

LIG, University of Grenoble Alps

Visiting Researcher | Advisor: Oana Goga

Grenoble, France

May 2019 – July 2019

- Study of how news companies promote different items on social media, investigating possible patterns of differential information spreading using both posts and ads.
- Extensive mining and analysis code developed in this project currently still being used in a long running facebook ad study between NYU, University of Grenoble, and other participating institutions.
- We also discovered and reported an exposed access token bug to [Facebook Bug Bounty](#).

Xerox Research Centre

Research Intern

Bangalore, India

May 2017 – July 2017

- Implemented XTrack, a Smart Vehicle Tracking and Battery usage minimizing Algorithm, using BLE to relay GPS information.
- Proposed a method for Uber-like Surge Price Prediction using Spatio-Temporal techniques like the Neural Hawkes and Recurrent Marked Temporal Point Process. Awarded the title of [Best Internship Project](#).

Google Summer of Code

GSoC Student at OpenMRS

Remote

Apr 2016 - Aug 2016

- Replaced the HTML XForms system used with native generated forms using the Forms REST Api in the android client of the Opensource Medical Record System. Added offline form saving. Configured Travis CI to automatically build and push the apk to play store.
- Overall, contributed [100K lines of code](#) and became the top code contributor in the project repository.

IIT Kharagpur

Undergraduate Researcher | Advisors: Niloy Ganguly, Saptarshi Ghosh - CNERG Lab

Kharagpur, India

2014 – 2019

- Automated Extraction of Catchwords from Legal Documents using a novel NER tagger to help categorize lengthy legal texts.
- Automatically position user comments against relevant news article paragraphs. Presented at [ECIR 2019](#).
- Savitr - A real-time location extraction system for disaster management using twitter. Presented at [WWW-SMERP 2018](#).
- Classification and Summarization of tweets during a disaster event, presented at [IBM Day 2016](#).

Publications

Archival

When Fair Ranking Meets Uncertain Inference

Avijit Ghosh, Ritam Dutt, Christo Wilson

SIGIR '21

Montreal, Canada / Virtual

Building and Auditing Fair Algorithms: A Case Study in Candidate Screening

Christo Wilson, Avijit Ghosh, Shan Jiang, Alan Mislove, Lewis Baker, Janelle Szary, Kelly Trindel, Frida Polli

FACCT '21

Toronto, Canada / Virtual

Characterizing Intersectional Group Fairness with Worst-Case Comparisons

Avijit Ghosh, Lea Genuit, Mary Reagan

AIDBEI@AAAI '21

Vancouver, BC / Virtual

Analyzing Political Advertisers' Use of Facebook's Targeting Features

Avijit Ghosh, Giridhari Venkatadri, Alan Mislove

Conpro@S&P '19

San Francisco, USA

Public Sphere 2.0: Targeted Commenting in Online News Media

Ankan Mullick, Sayan Ghosh*, Ritam Dutt*, Avijit Ghosh*, Abhijnan Chakrabarty

ECIR '19

Cologne, Germany

SAVITR: A System for Real-time Location Extraction from Microblogs during Emergencies

Ritam Dutt, Kaustubh Hiware, Avijit Ghosh, Rameshwar Bhaskaran

SMERP@WWW '18

Lyon, France

Preprints

Algorithms that "Don't See Color": Comparing Biases in Lookalike and Special Ad Audiences

Piotr Sapiezynski, Avijit Ghosh, Levi Kaplan, Alan Mislove, Aaron Rieke

Under Review

Unified Shapley Framework to Explain Prediction Drift

Aalok Shanbhag*, Avijit Ghosh*, and Josh Rubin*

Under Review

Miscellaneous

Connectedness of Markets with Heterogeneous Agents and the Information Cascades

Avijit Ghosh, Aditya Chourasiya, Lakshay Bansal, Abhijeet Chandra

App. Adv. Analytics'21

Journal

WebSelect: A Research Prototype for Optimizing Ad Exposures based on Network Structure

Avijit Ghosh, Agam Gupta, Divya Sharma, Uttam Sarkar

WITS'19

Dublin, Ireland

Molecule2Vec: Vector Space Representation of Organic Molecules for prediction of properties using Deep Neural networks

Avijit Ghosh, Debasis Sarkar

EUCHEMS'18

Liverpool, UK

Supervised extraction of catchphrases from legal documents

Avijit Ghosh*, Prerit Gupta*, Ritam Dutt, Kaustubh Hiware, Arpan Mandal, Kripabandhu Ghosh and Saptarshi Ghosh

Term paper

Using Global Vectors in Social Interaction Network for Song Recommendation

Avijit Ghosh*, Sayan Ghosh*

Term paper

* Equal contribution

Awards and Grants

2019 **Dean's Fellowship**, First Year PhD students

Northeastern University

2019 **Winner**, Best Poster Award

ECIR'19

2019 **Winner**, Institute Order of Merit - Technology

IIT Kharagpur

2018 **Winner**, SGSIS Institute Challenge Grant - Worth INR 1 Million

IIT Kharagpur

2017 **Silver Medal**, Stock Market Analysis

Inter IIT Tech Meet, Kanpur

2016 **Gold Medal**, Software Development

Inter IIT Tech Meet, Mandi

2010 **NTSE Scholar**, National Talent Search Examination

NCERT

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, Java, C, R, Bash, SQL, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Matlab

Tools & Frameworks: Git, TravisCI, Pytorch, Keras, TensorFlow, Docker, AWS, Sagemaker, Google Cloud ML, Android

Machine Learning: Transformers/BERT, ResNets, Adversarial examples, Fairness, Explainability