FALAAH ARIF KHAN

https://falaaharifkhan.github.io/research/

CONTACT INFO

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An Engineer/Scientist by training and an Artist by nature, I conduct fundamental research on Robust and Ethical ML and create Scientific Comics and other forms of Art to present the nuances of this work in a way that is more accessible and democratic.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Technology, Electronics and Communication Engg (with Distinction)
Shiv Nadar University (2014-18)
GPA: 8.87/10
Thesis: Behavioral Biometrics and Machine Learning to secure Web Logins
Supervisors: Sajin Kunhambu(Dell), Madhur Deo Upadhayay(Shiv Nadar University)
Minor: Mathematics

PUBLICATIONS

Papers:

1. **Arif Khan F.**, Kunhambu S., G K. C. (2019) *Behavioral Biometrics and Machine Learning to Secure Website Logins*. In: Security in Computing and Communications. **SSCC 2018**. Communications in Computer and Information Science, vol 969.

Patents:

1. **Arif Khan, Falaah**, Kunhambu, Sajin and Chakravarthy G, K. *Behavioral Biometrics and Machine Learning to secure Website Logins.* **US Patent 16/257650, filed January 25, 2019**
2. **Arif Khan, Falaah**, Mohammed, Tousif, Gupta, Shubham, Dinh, Hung and Kannapan, Ramu. *Event-Based Search Engine*, **US Patent 16/752775, filed January 27, 2020**
3. **Arif Khan, Falaah** and Sharma, Hari Surender. *Framework to Design Completely Automated Reverse Turing Tests.* **US Patent 16/828520, filed March 24, 2020** and US Patent (Provisional) 62/979500, filed February 21, 2020

Creatives:

1. **Falaah Arif Khan** and Julia Stoyanovich. *"Mirror, Mirror". Data, Responsibly Comics, Volume 1 (2020)*, at **Resistance AI Workshop, NeurIPS 2020**
2. **Falaah Arif Khan** and Abhishek Gupta. *"Decoded Reality"*, at **Resistance AI Workshop, NeurIPS 2020**
3. **Falaah Arif Khan** and Zachary C Lipton. *"Superheroes of Deep Learning, Volume 1: Machine Learning Yearning" (2020)*
4. **Falaah Arif Khan**. "Meet AI" (2020), in **AAAI Interactive Magazine**

WORK EXPERIENCE

Center for Responsible AI @ New York University

Artist-in-Residence Oct 2020 - Current

I run the 'Data, Responsibly' Comic series, with Prof Julia Stoyanovich. The first volume, 'Mirror, Mirror', is a primer on AI Ethics and delves into Digital accessibility, the impact of poorly designed systems on marginalized demographics, problems with operationalizing fairness, exclusionary discourse and questions of culpability when things go wrong. Our upcoming second volume, 'Fairness and Friends' critically reviews scholarship in Fair Machine Learning and distills the connections between Algorithmic Fairness and theories of Justice from political philosophy.

Montreal AI Ethics Institute

Artist-in-Residence July 2020 - Feb 2021

I conducted creative explorations into the socio-political underpinnings of data-driven technology. I'm specially interested in the role of Power and how it influences the design of Ethical AI. My visual essay, *Decoded Reality*, is an artistic depiction of how algorithmic interventions manifest in society.

International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad

Research Fellow (Advisor: Prof C.V. Jawahar, Prof Vinay Namboodiri) Aug - Dec 2020

I worked on Neural Machine Translation of Indic Languages, specifically on the robustness of translations between different information domains and languages and in modelling the uncertainities in Machine Translation tasks.

Dell EMC, Bangalore

Research Software Engineer II Aug 2019 - May 2020

I led the design and development of Security features of Dell's Identity and Access Management product.

- Implemented a **bot detection filter** that uses a game-theoretic approach to identifying malicious attempts performed from headless devices (without browser activity). The model brought the average number of attempts needed to be manually evaluated down by 87.6%, the average number of accounts that need to be manually protected down by 95% and in a recent credential stuffing attack, the system was able to successfully thwart 99.71% of the malicious requests
- Formulated a novel framework to **design adaptively robust Completely Automated Reverse Turing Tests** that learn on the fly and do not require periodic manual design. The model uses Bayesian inference to learn the preferences of human users and custom deep adversaries and is used on Dell login pages, globally.

Research Software Engineer I July 2018 - Aug 2019

- Delivered a **behavioral-based authentication** system that classifies browser activity as being done by a human or by a bot. It is built using an auto-associative neural network, trained on client biometrics such as keystrokes, click patterns and mouse dynamics and is used on Dell login pages, globally.
- Created a **product traffic forecaster** using a Recurrent Neural Network trained on activity logs of the product, to automate the continuous evaluation of product traffic. Insights from the forecaster have been used to alert anomalous behavior. Instances where traffic has exceeded the baseline have helped identify adversarial action. Deteriorating product health has also been flagged using the baseline, when traffic has fallen below the baseline.
- Architected a graph signal processing approach to **dynamic threat modelling**. Application logs are used to model the product as a weighted directed graph and graph filters are used to identify sub-graphs that are vulnerable to different attacks.

Software Engineering Intern Jan 2018 - April 2018

Prototyped a human vs human, genuine/imposter classification model, to identify account match attacks on web logins and evaluated the efficacy of this model for a **password-less authentication system**. The model used Supervised Machine Learning and could differentiate two human subjects that are using the same credentials to log in, on the basis of their login behavior

AWARDS/HONORS

- **Metrolab+Govtech Innovation of the Month** to 'Mirror, Mirror' for Civic Innovation
- **Game Changer Award** from Hemal Shah, Senior VP and Regional CIO, Dell EMC for outstanding innovation in the security features of the Dell Access and Identity Management (DAIS) Product (August'19)
- **Winner, AI Center of Excellence Hackathon**, Dell EMC (July '19)
- **Winner, Shark Tank**, Dell EMC (June '19)
- **Winner, SafeHack (Security Hackathon)**, Dell EMC (April'19)
- **Long Term Investment Award** from Dell EMC (March'19)
- **Dell Champion Award** from Dell EMC (March'19)
- **Winner, Hack.Fin (FinTech Hackathon)**, Dell EMC (Dec'18)
- **Winner, HackLabs Innovation Rally '18 Hackathon**, Dell EMC (Sept'18)
- **Recipient of Category 'A' Scholarship** (Complete Waiver of Tuition Fees) at Shiv Nadar University (Aug'14)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Tools and Languages
Python, C#, dotnet, Java, JavaScript, Verilog, MATLAB, LT Spice.
Databases: Mongo, SQL, Redis

Certifications
'Foundations of AI/ML', International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (May '18)

Analytical Skills
Classification, Regression, Time Series Analysis, Word Embeddings, Clustering, Neural Networks, Tree Based Models, Support Vector Machines, Bayesian Models, Ensembles, Auto-Encoders, Convolutional Neural Networks, Deep Learning Models, Generative Adversarial Networks, Mathematical Modelling, Graph Theory, Signal Processing on Graphs, Algorithmic Game Theory

Project Skills
Pivotal (Extreme Programming), Agile

BLOG

https://thefaladox.wordpress.com/

Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida

Research-cum-Teaching Assistant, Basics of Electrical and Electronic Circuits Aug 2017 - Dec 2017
Instructor: Prof R. N. Biswas (IIT Kanpur)
Designed, conducted and graded weekly lab experiments and tutorials for a class of 30-40 students. Also assisted in conducting and grading the final lab examination.

Research-cum-Teaching Assistant, Digital Electronics
Aug 2017 - Dec 2017
Instructor: Prof Sonal Singhal (Shiv Nadar University)
Designed, conducted and graded weekly lab experiments and the final lab examination for a class of 30-40 students.

Student Tutor, Mathematical Methods Jan 2017 - May 2017
Instructor: Prof Ajit Kumar (PhD, University of Houston)
Curated supplementary course content, delivered lectures and conducted tutorials and practice tests for class of 20-30 students

Defence Research and Development Organization, Hyderabad

Intern July 2017 - Aug 2017
Supervisor: Dr Laxman Prasad (Programme Air Defence, DRDO)
Studied and simulated security protocols in communication networks.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Automated Driver, As part of 'Foundations of AI/ML' Certification @IIIT-H
Jan 2018 - May 2018
Implemented basic operations of automated driving, including detecting traffic signs and traffic signal states, identifying obstacles and the subsequent suitable navigation. The automated driver is created by training a convolutional neural network with navigational images and a clustering algorithm using LIDAR data of a bot moving in a simulated environment using Gazebo simulator and ROS.

Booking Assistant, As part of 'Foundations of AI/ML' Certification @IIIT-H
Jan 2018 - May 2018
Created a chatbot that serves as a booking assistant, implementing two skills of making restaurant reservations and movie bookings. Implemented in Python, the bot distinguishes between intents, extracts required attributes and makes suitable recommendations

Fingerprint Classification, Supervised by Prof Madan Gopal (IIT Delhi)
Aug 2017 - Dec 2017
Performed fingerprint classification on the NIST fingerprint dataset, by using Convolution Neural Networks (CNN), as both a feature extractor and a classifier. The features extracted by the CNN were also used to train a Support Vector Machine and their classification accuracies were compared.

Tornado Prediction, Supervised by Prof Madan Gopal (IIT Delhi)
Jan 2017 - May 2017
Forecasted tornado occurrences in the United States, including their magnitude and source (state), using a Recurrent Neural Network trained on data of tornado occurrences between 1950 to 2009 across the United States published by the Storm Prediction Center.

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, TALKS

Facilitator, Perspectives on the Future of Responsible AI Workshop, by Montreal AI Ethics Institute and RAIN-Africa, Dec 2020
Facilitator, Privacy in AI Workshop, by AI4Good x Montreal AI Ethics Institute, Nov 2020
Panelist, Ethics in AI Panel, by McGill AI Society, Nov 2020
Guest Speaker, 'Decoded Reality - Ethics in AI', at AI4Good Conference+Hackathon by TechAide Montreal, Nov 2020
Facilitator, Future of Work and Disability Study group, by Inclusive Design Research Center @ OCAD University, Nov 2020
Speaker, RIIPL Algorithmic Justice Webinar Series, by Rutgers Law School, Nov 2020