

Nickil Maveli

CONTACT INFORMATION

10 Crichton Street
Newington, Edinburgh EH8 9AB
United Kingdom

Email: n.maveli@sms.ed.ac.uk
Website: <https://nickil21.github.io>

RESEARCH INTERESTS I am broadly interested in Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, and Information Retrieval. My recent research has focused on multilingual unsupervised syntactic parsing, semi-supervised learning, interpretability and robustness of machine learning algorithms, and understanding social inequality and bias in language.

EDUCATION

The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
M.Sc. by Research, Informatics

2020 – 2021

Research Unit: Institute for Language, Cognition and Computation (ILCC)
Research Area: Unsupervised Parsing, Knowledge Graph Completion
Advisor: Prof. Shay Cohen

CMR Institute of Technology, Bangalore, India
Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communication

2011 – 2015

G.P.A.: 7.58/10

PUBLICATIONS

Authors who contributed equally are indicated using a superscript ‘dagger’ symbol, i.e. †, while joint (co-) supervision is denoted using a superscript ‘double dagger’, i.e. ‡. All publications, except ‘Preprints’, underwent the peer-review process.

Workshop Publications

- W1. EdinburghNLP at WNUT-2020 Task 2: Leveraging Transformers with Generalized Augmentation for Identifying Informativeness in COVID-19 Tweets [PDF]
Nickil Maveli
Proceedings of the 2020 EMNLP Workshop W-NUT

WORK EXPERIENCE

Niki.ai, Bangalore, India
Senior Software Developer - NLP

May 2018 – Sept. 2020

- Developed a real-time pause detection algorithm on speech signals to identify end-of-speech conditions, which was later integrated on-device. Up to an SNR of 8 dB, the algorithm was able to correctly segment with an accuracy of 91% on different lengths of speech.
- Designed a probabilistic model capable of generating a binary outcome and intends to classify if an utterance is valid parse or not at every stage in the conversation. Engineered 63 statistical features from parse tree capable of achieving an accuracy of 97% on the holdout test set.
- Developed a bot that could respond to about 75 FAQs in regional languages and English through a Pooled GRU in conjunction with the FastText model. Customer Satisfaction scores increased by 35%, leading to better assistance at every dialogue stage.
- Built a character-level RNN model to classify utterances as ‘Hinglish’ (blend of Hindi and English) words with minimum lexicon support in combination with a dictionary lookup.
- Implemented an algorithm formed on Likelihood and Reliability scores to automatically generate contextual synonyms at n-gram context and augment concept-grammar data to avoid manual intervention.

Sociograph Solutions, Bangalore, India
Data Scientist - Research and Development

Sept. 2016 – Feb. 2018

- Built a deep learning time series model capable of generating weekly/monthly sales forecasts of products at SKU level with only a few thousands of supervised training data.

- Devised a robust machine learning model to predict and optimize various e-commerce metrics like sales conversion rate, customer lifetime value, average order value, shopping cart abandonment rate for retailers that led to 30% decrease in the drop off rate.
- Created an image search engine capable of recommending similar images based on segmentation as a selective search to increase the MAP by 45% compared to the available benchmark.

Hotify.ai, Bangalore, India
Junior Data Scientist

Feb. 2016 – May 2016

- Aggregated tweets from pre-selected news sources to estimate trending hashtags.
- Created Actionable Insights by analyzing how select Twitter users through A/B testing react to real-time events by organizing frequencies into temporal buckets to observe the distribution of tweets over time.
- Prepared training data of close to 10K samples by carefully examining RSS feeds of news sources and rated each source using factors such as true reach, amplification, and network impact.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Specialties	Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Recommender Systems, Time-series Forecasting
Languages	Python, R, Matlab, Javascript, SQL, HTML/CSS, L ^A T _E X
Tools and Frameworks	Pandas, NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Scikit-Learn, NLTK, Keras, PyTorch, TensorFlow, PySpark, Flask, Django, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Jira, Git, Elastic Stack, MongoDB

ACHIEVEMENTS

Secured Top 2% in the Jigsaw Multilingual Toxic Comment Classification Challenge hosted on Kaggle; Won a silver medal. [Details]	2020
Finished 2 nd out of 479 competitors in the Quality Forecasting in Cement Manufacturing Challenge hosted on CrowdAnalytix; Won \$2,500 as prize money; Winner representing India. [Details]	2019
Secured Top 3% in the Quora Insincere Questions Classification Challenge hosted on Kaggle; Won a silver medal. [Details]	2019
Selected by niki.ai to volunteer at the NITI Aayog Indic NLP Workshop for tackling challenges in regional languages concerning NLP. [Details]	2018
Secured Top 0.85% in the Cold Start Energy Forecasting Challenge hosted on DrivenData. [Details]	2018
Placed 6 th out of 2310 competitors in the Predicting Poverty Challenge hosted on DrivenData. [Details]	2018
Finished 2 nd out of 750 competitors in the Predicting How Points End in Tennis Challenge hosted on CrowdAnalytix; Won \$2500 as prize money; Featured in Tennis Australia's official press release. [Details] [Media Coverage]	2018
Placed 3 rd out of 2975 competitors in the Click Prediction Challenge hosted on AnalyticsVidhya; Awarded a cash prize of ₹25000. [Details]	2017
Finished 4 th out of 404 competitors in the Funding Successful Projects Challenge organized by HackerEarth. [Details]	2017
Among Top Stack Overflow Users for tags – Python, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib with an overall 25000+ reputation score and more than 4 million post views worldwide. [Details]	2016–present
Ranked under 2000 worldwide out of ≈1 million users on Sphere Online Judge (SPOJ). [Details]	2015–present
My team was awarded 2 nd and 1 st place in the Niki Annual Hackathon for the years 2019 and 2020 respectively and won cash prizes.	2019/20

SERVICE

Reviewer:

AmericasNLP	2021
W-NUT@EMNLP (Shared Task 2), Scipy (Tutorials, Talk & Poster Presentations)	2020

Volunteer:

ICLR, EACL (Social events)	2021
EMNLP (Lead Zoom)	2020

Respondent:

Semantic Scholar Diary Study project conducted by the Allen Institute for AI	2020
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SPOKEN LANGUAGES	Hindi	Native
	Malayalam	Limited Working
	Kannada	Limited Working
	English	Full Professional

REFERENCES	Available upon request.
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