V Pramodh Gopalan

pramodh@iitk.ac.in | pramodh-g.github.io | github.com/pramodh-g | +91-7400047180

Academic Details

Examination	Institute	Year	CPI/%
Graduation	IIT Kanpur	2023	9.12/10.0
High School, CBSE	Ryan International School, Mumbai	2019	96.2
Secondary School, CBSE	Delhi Public School, Mumbai	2017	10/10

Research Interests: Statistics, Privacy and Security of Machine Learning, Stochastic Optimization, Computer Vision, Scientific Computing.

Scholastic Achievements

- **Academic Excellence Award** for exceptional performance in Academics at IIT Kanpur. *(2020)*
- Secured **All India Rank 217** in **JEE Advanced 2019** among 230K eligible aspirants. *(2019)*
- Secured **All India Rank 217** in **JEE Mains 2019** among 1.1 Million candidates. *(2019)*
- Awarded the prestigious **KVPY fellowship** by Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. *(2019)*
- Amongst the top students across the country to appear for the nation-level olympiads in Physics and Astronomy, **INPhO** and **INAO** respectively. *(2019)*
- Participated in a training camp for appearing in **INMO**(Indian National Math Olympiad). *(2018)*
- Recipient of the **National Talent Search (NTSE) scholarship** awarded by the NCERT. *(2017)*

Research Projects and Internships

Defending against Poisoning Attacks in Machine Learning *[May 2021-Present]*

Research Intern | Prof. Alina Oprea & Prof. Battista Biggio *NDS2 Lab, Northeastern University*

- Working on Creating **Defenses** against **Poisoning** Attacks in **ML**, using **Ensembles** of models.
- **Extended** existing **implementations** of attacks to accomodate **Drebin** and **MNIST** Datasets, and tested the attack efficacy on them.
- Formulated a **theoretical framework**, and derived a **lower bound** on the **effectiveness** of the defense.
- Carried out **experiments** to validate the **theoretical** claims, and **visualized** the results **interactively** using libraries like **Pluto.jl** and **Makie.jl**.
- A **report** can be found *here*.

Image Preprocessing as an Adversarial Defense *Code Here* *[Aug 2020- Jan 2021]*

Research Project | Prof. Vireshwar Kumar *IIT Delhi*

- Examined CV based navigation models for **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles** to determine **adversarial weaknesses**.
- Conducted a **literature review** on **Defenses** to Adversarial Examples from the **Reading List** of Nicholas Carlini.
- Implemented various **Adversarial Defenses** based on **Image Preprocessing**, such as **Blurring**, **Pixel Shuffling**, **Secret Key based Block Shuffling**.

Decentralised Mechanism Design using Blockchains *Code Here* *[Oct 2020 - Nov 2020]*

Course Project CS711 | Guide: Prof Swaprava Nath *IIT Kanpur*

- Implemented various **Sealed-Bid Auction Mechanisms** using Blockchains.
- Learned about various problems in Blockchains related to **privacy** and tackling them using modern Cryptographic Primitives like **Secure MPC**.
- Modelled a game theoretic version of privacy problem in Blockchain as **Normal Form Game** and inferred various **equilibriums** that may be present according to different applications.
- Presented an analysis of how effective the current Enigma Protocol is, and proposed an **alternative better approach** for a particular step by using **VCG Mechanisms.**

Key Projects

Model Zoo: A study in GANs *Code Here* *[Summer 2020]*

Summer Project | Programming Club *IIT Kanpur*

- Learned about Convolutional Neural Networks in depth and implemented architectures like **ResNET** and **VGG** using **Pytorch**.
- Carried out a literature review on GANs and implemented basic **GAN** and **DCGAN** on **MNIST** and **CIFAR-10** Datasets.
- Read papers on **Context Encoders** and implemented it using Pytorch.
- Studied **Audio Generation** using **WaveGAN**.
- Created **Blogs** mentioning related Literature, along with **Results** and **Architectures**.

Cross Validated
Summer Project | Stamatics Club — *[Summer 2021]* — *IIT Kanpur*

- Explored various sampling methods like **Inverse Transform**,**Accept-Reject**, **Bernoulli Factories**, **Importance Sampling**, **Box-Muller** and **Ratio of Uniforms** used in Monte Carlo Algorithms.
- Studied optimization methods like **SGD**, **Newton-Raphson**, **MM** and **EM** algorithms used in estimation of parameters.
- Implemented **Probit Regression** model in **Julia** on the titanic dataset to estimate chances of survival.
- Introduced to **MCMC** and **MH** algorithms and topics in Bayesian Modelling such as **Bayesian Linear and Logistic Regression**

InfoSec IITK
Semester Project | Association of Computing Activites — *[Feb'20 - Apr'20]* — *IIT Kanpur*

- Studied various exploits such as **Binary Exploitation**, **SQL injection**, **Steganography**, and tools to use them like **gdb**, **SQL map**, **Steghide**, and **StegSolve**.
- Participated in numerous **CTF**s as a part of the project evaluation.

Technical Skills

- **Programming & Scripting Languages:** C++, C, Python, Julia, Bash, R
- **Libraries and Frameworks:** Pandas, NumPy, seaborn, scikit-learn, PyTorch, PyTorch-Lightning, Flux.jl, Tensorflow/Keras(familiar).
- **Utilities:** Git, LaTeX gcov, gtest, Markdown, Docker

Relevant Coursework

- **Computer Science:** Fundamentals of Programming, Data Structures and Algorithms, Game Theory and Mechanism Design, Computer Organisation, Software Development, Operating Systems†, Theory of Computation†, Advanced Algorithms†, Introduction to Machine Learning†, Parallel Computing ‡, Compilers ‡
- **Mathematics:** Real Analysis, Linear Algebra, Probability Theory, Logic for CS, Bayesian Analysis, Statistical Simulation and Data Analysis in R †.
- **Online Courses:** Reliable and Interpretable AI (ETH Zürich), Introduction to Deep Learning using Tensorflow (Coursera)

‡ - *Upcoming Courses* † - *Ongoing Courses*

Positions

Secretary, Programming Club
Programming Club, IITK — *[May 2020 - Apr 2021]* — *IIT Kanpur*

- Part of a team of 20 students responsible for holding various events to the campus community of more than over 8000 students
- Responsible for managing a Competitive Programming Competition for students of the institute for a month.
- Hold

Mentor - Julia for Machine Learning
Association for Computing Activities, IITK — *[Apr 2021 - Jul 2021]* — *IIT Kanpur*

- Introduced Julia, A High Performance Language to about a group of 30 students.
- Delivered Lectures on various aspects of Julia, Such as Multiple Dispatch, Type Inference, Meta-programming and Loop Fusion.
- Introduced them to fundamental concepts in Machine Learning such as Probability and Statistics, Different modes in Automatic Differentiation, Gradient Descent.

Student Guide
Counseling Service — *[Nov 2021-May 2021]* — *IIT Kanpur*

- Mentored six freshmen throughout their first year and exposed them to academic and extracurricular opportunities available in the Institute.