

VIHANGA JAYAWICKRAMA

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EDUCATION

PhD in Computer Science

Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Started Fall 2024

Michigan State University

August 2024 - Present

B.Sc. Engineering (Hons) in Computer Science and Engineering

Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Obtained First Class Honours with a CGPA of 3.97 (out of 4.20)

Univeristy of Moratuwa

August 2017 - July 2022

G.C.E. Advanced Level Education

G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination 2016

All Distinction (A) passes for Combined Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and General English

Island Rank - 303 (out of 28764)

Z score - 2.1614

Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

January 2008 - August 2016

Diploma in CAD

Diploma Program in Computer-Aided Design

Three-month diploma program focused on the AutoCAD software

CADD Centre

January 2017 - April 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lecturer (on Contract)

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa

January 2023 - June 2024

- Conducted a series of lectures on Object Oriented Programming.
- Assisted a multitude of modules including Program Construction, Data Structures and Algorithms, Communication Skills, Theory of Computing, and Programming Fundamentals.
- Engaged in course content modification, Moodle page management, creation and grading of assignments, and student performance evaluations.
- Evaluated final year projects, semester projects, and industrial training programs.

Junior Researcher

LIRNEasia

May 2022 - December 2022

- Engaged in a job classification research project, working on data annotation, topic modeling, and cosine distance-based text classification.
- Initiated a geotagging project involving geotag generation and classification.
- Performed a series of data collection, cleaning, and analyzation tasks.

Teaching Assistant (Theory of Computing)

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa

August 2021 - December 2021

- Involved in the creation and grading of student assignments.
- Worked under Prof. Sanath Jayasena.

Teaching Assistant (Technical Writing)

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa

July 2021 - September 2021

- Involved in the creation and grading of student assignments.
- Worked under Ms. Waruni Karunarathne and Ms. Hiroshi De Silva.

- Engaged in a research project on ML-based misinformation classification in English, Sinhala, and Bengali languages.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Natural Language Processing
- Machine Learning and Deep Learning
- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Science
- Computer Vision

PUBLICATIONS

- V. Jayawickrama, G. Weeraprameshwara, N. de Silva, and Y. Wijeratne, “Facebook for sentiment analysis: Baseline models to predict facebook reactions of sinhala posts,” *The International Journal on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2022.
- G. Weeraprameshwara, V. Jayawickrama, N. de Silva, and Y. Wijeratne, “Sinhala sentence embedding: A two-tiered structure for low-resource languages,” in *Proceedings of the 36th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation*, (Manila, Philippines), pp. 325–336, De La Salle University, Oct. 2022.
- G. Weeraprameshwara, V. Jayawickrama, N. de Silva, and Y. Wijeratne, “Sentiment analysis with deep learning models: A comparative study on a decade of sinhala language facebook data,” in *2022 The 3rd International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Electronics Engineering*, AIEE 2022, (New York, NY, USA), p. 16–22, Association for Computing Machinery, 2022.
- V. Jayawickrama, G. Weeraprameshwara, N. de Silva, and Y. Wijeratne, “Seeking sinhala sentiment: Predicting facebook reactions of sinhala posts,” in *2021 21st International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICter)*, pp. 177–182, 2021.
- V. Jayawickrama, A. Ranasinghe, D. C. Attanayake, and Y. Wijeratne, “A corpus and machine learning models for fake news classification in sinhala,” 2021.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Dean’s List

2018 - 2022

Earned placement in the Dean’s List, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa in Semesters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

RealHack 2.0

2019

Finalist

Countrywide university-level Hackathon conducted by the University of Kelaniya

IQ Master

2018

Runner Up

Open competition conducted by the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa

Australian Chemistry Quiz

2015

High Distinction Pass

International competition conducted by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute

Australian Chemistry Quiz

2013

High Distinction Pass with 4th place in Sri Lanka

International competition conducted by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute

International Mathematics and Science Olympiad <i>Bronze Medal</i> International Competition conducted by Department of Education, Indonesia	2008
National Mathematics and Science Olympiad <i>Gold Medal</i> National Competition Organized by Department of Education, Sri Lanka	2008

PAPER REVIEWS FOR CONFERENCES

Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon) <i>International conference organized by the Engineering Research Unit, University of Moratuwa.</i>	2023, 2024
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LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

English	Excellent fluency
Sinhala	Excellent fluency

ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

MoraSpirit Initiative <i>Assistant Pillar Head, Editorial Pillar: March 2021 – April 2022</i> <i>Editor: February 2020 – March 2021</i> <i>Content Writer: March 2019 – February 2020</i>	2019 - 2022
ACM Student Chapter of University of Moratuwa <i>Marketing Lead: December 2019 – December 2020</i>	2019 - 2020
IEEE WIE Affinity Group of University of Moratuwa <i>Marketing Team Member: December 2019 – December 2020</i>	2019 - 2020
CSE Student Club <i>Vice Secretary: May 2019 – May 2020</i>	2019 - 2020
IEEE Student Branch of University of Moratuwa <i>Member: 2018 - 2022</i>	2018 - 2022
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa <i>Writer: 2017 – 2019</i>	2017 – 2019
Prefects Guild of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy <i>Senior Prefect: 2015 – 2016</i> <i>Junior Prefect: 2014 - 2015</i>	2014 - 2016
Interact Club of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy <i>President: 2014 – 2015</i>	2014 – 2015

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name	Meegaha Gedara Vihanga Dewmini Jayawickrama
Citizenship	Sri Lankan
Interests	Poetry, Literature, Photography, Arts and Crafts, Hiking