

Achal Shah

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Education

University of Pennsylvania

Master of Science and Engineering, Computer and Information Science

Relevant Coursework: Internet and Web Systems, Database and Information Systems, Machine Learning, Computation Linguistics, Mathematical Statistics

Philadelphia

2011–2013

Institute of Technology, Nirma University

Bachelor of Technology, Computer Engineering

Ahmedabad

2007–2011

Experience

Amazon.com

Software Development Engineer

Seattle, WA

2013–Current

- Amazon Fulfillment Technologies - Outbound Flow: The team owned services to predict incoming work that warehouses would receive, and the throughput that warehouse associates would achieve, to help optimize planning and operational decisions. Some highlights of my contributions:
 - Implemented caching strategies to cut down forecast creation times by 70%.
 - Worked on features to bring the error of both services down under 15%.
 - Contributed to a community-owned monitoring service to automate alarm creation, and drove its adoption across the org.
- Amazon Fulfillment Technologies - Sortation Team: The team owned software to direct warehouse associates to sort items into individual shipments with minimal human effort. I helped scale the services to serve associates in new regions, and wrote new tools to interact with mechanical conveyance systems.

Raytheon BBN Technologies

Language Understanding Graduate Intern

Cambridge, MA

May 2012–August 2012

Worked on the FUSE project, which involved prediction scientific trends based on bibliometric data.

- Implemented feature extraction models for the task of citation prediction. Also implemented cluster quality metrics such as cosine similarity, coherence values, distribution of subjects.
- Prototyped modules to combine semantically related clusters across periods of time.

University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant for Computational Linguistics

Philadelphia

Sept 2012–Dec 2012

- TA for course conducted by Prof. Ani Nenkova. I conducted remedial sessions, designed and graded assignment projects.

Academic Papers and Projects

Personality, Gender, and Age in the Language of Social Media

PLOS ONE, September 2013

HA Schwartz et, al., DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0073791

Wrote the prototype to use LDA on a large collection of tweets to cluster words into topic-based word lists. The topics were then correlated with user personality traits.

Distributed Search Engine, CIS 555: Internet and Web Systems

April 2013

Built a scalable search engine from scratch. Individual components involved a Mercator-style crawler that started with a list of seed URLs, a component to create an inverted index from the crawled pages, a hadoop implementation to compute the page rank of pages and a servlet-based webserver to serve the results of web queries.

Predicting Amazon Ratings, CIS 520: Machine Learning

August 2011

Implemented and compared different machine learning algorithms along with some feature selection methods on a dataset of Amazon product reviews and their corresponding ratings to predict the ratings for unseen reviews.

Automatic Text Summarization, CIS 530: Computation Linguistics

November 2011

Built a system to use Named Entity Recognition, co-reference resolution and other lexical features to generate summaries from a collection of documents.

Dependency Eigenwords, Independent Study with Prof. Lyle Ungar

September 2012

Use dependency parse contexts to create eigenwords.

Servo, personal participation

December 2014

Contributed patches to the Servo browser engine to implement missing features in the DOM model.

Skills

Fluent in: Java, Python

Familiar with: C/C++, Rust, Haskell

Frameworks & Toolkits: Spring, Matlab, Mallet, Stanford NLP

Operating Systems: Linux/Unix, OS X, Windows

Version Control Systems: Git

Databases and Data stores: Oracle, MySQL, BDB