

# AYUSH KUMAR SHAH

Ph.D. student in Computer Science

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**Research Interests:** Pattern recognition, computer vision, detection and recognition of graphical structures, deep learning, natural language processing

## EDUCATION

### PhD in Computing and Information Sciences

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

CGPA: 3.92/4

**Advisor:** Dr. Richard Zanibbi

**Research Group:** Document and Pattern Recognition Lab (DPRL)

**Area of focus:** extraction and visual parsing of graphical structures and notations, focusing on mathematical formulas and chemical diagrams in documents.

**Relevant Courses:** Pattern Recognition, Computer Vision, Mathematics for Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Software Engineering

*Aug 2020 – Present*

*Rochester, NY, USA*

### Bachelors in Computer Engineering

Kathmandu University

CGPA: 3.96/4

**Relevant Courses:** Artificial Intelligence, Data Structures and Algorithms, Algorithm and Complexity, Software Engineering, Probability and Statistics, Machine Learning, Speech and Language Processing, C, C++

*Aug 2015 – Oct 2019*

*Kavre, Nepal*

## PUBLICATION

- **A. K. Shah**, A. Dey, and R. Zanibbi, “A Math Formula Extraction and Evaluation Framework for PDF Documents,” in Document Analysis and Recognition – ICDAR 2021, Cham, 2021, pp. 19–34. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-86331-9\_2

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Document and Pattern Recognition Lab (DPRL), RIT

*Graduate Research Assistant*

Rochester, New York

*Aug 2020 – Present*

- Worked on the MathSeer project, a system to make finding mathematical information easier by creating innovative search engines, interfaces, and algorithms for extracting and recognizing math
- Built a new open-source math formula extraction pipeline for PDF files
- Adopted distributed parallelization methods with multiple GPUs and implemented custom dataloader with dynamic batch size to fully utilize the GPU, which increased the speed of the math formula parser by 6 times
- Built new tools for visualization and evaluation of parsing results and errors
- Worked on a PDF symbol extractor that identifies precise bounding box locations in born-digital PDF documents
- Developed a simple and effective algorithm to perform detection of math expressions using visual features alone
- Wrote an API for recognizing handwritten and typeset formulas and output the corresponding  $\text{\LaTeX}$  and MathML
- Currently working on improving the accuracy of the math formula parser by experimenting better visual features and attention mechanisms
- Currently working on adopting the parser to work with more complex graphical structures like chemical diagrams

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

### Programming Languages

Python, R, Matlab, C, C++, JAVA

### Python Packages

Pytorch, Tensorflow, Scikit-Learn, OpenCV, Nltk, Pandas, Numpy, Matplotlib, Fastapi, BeautifulSoup, Regex, NetworkX, Jupyter

### Database

MySQL, MongoDB

### Miscellaneous

Git, Github, Bash,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Jira, Linux, Arduino, Raspberry-pi

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Fusemachines Nepal

Machine Learning Engineer

Kathmandu, Nepal

June 2019 – Aug 2020

- Worked on the ML pipeline: data cleaning and pre-processing, model building, tuning hyperparameters, model training, and model evaluation in NLP and Computer Vision domain.
- Developed a product classifier using chemical attributes to optimize business decisions for products that go unsold using boosting algorithms including Gradient Boosting, Random Forests, XGBoost, LightGBM.
- Built an intelligent character recognition system using CNN and RNN to predict handwritten texts (both English and Nepali) in manually-filled form fields with an accuracy of 95%.
- Analysed data provided by a subscription-based e-commerce client for building a recommendation system, which led to an increase in revenue through cross-selling by 6% (large as we were serving 600k users).
- Designed, reviewed, and refined reading materials, quizzes, assignments, and projects for Fusemachines AI Education Programs - “Foundations in AI: Mathematics for AI” (linear algebra, calculus, probability and statistics, etc.), “Micro Degree™ in Artificial Intelligence: Machine Learning, Computer Vision” (regression, image processing, feature detection, image classification, object recognition, etc.)

### Samriddhi College

Computer Science Instructor

Kathmandu, Nepal

Jan 2020 – June 2020

- Designed and implemented daily lesson plans and coding sessions for the course “Foundations in AI: Computer Science and Mathematics” to undergraduate BSc.CSIT students. The course topics include: Introduction to AI, Fundamentals of CS, Python Programming, Data Structure, Database Management System.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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**RIT Ph.D. Merit Scholarship/Assistantship.** Financial Support for Ph.D. at RIT. 2020 – Present

**Kathmandu University Merit-based scholarship (4x).** \$440 worth scholarship awarded for securing the highest GPA in the Computer Engineering cohort (4/7 semesters). 2015 – 2019

**Fusemachines Artificial Intelligence Scholarship Program.** Selected among thousands of candidates nationwide for fuse.ai Artificial Intelligence Scholarship Online Course. Nov 2018

**American Society of Nepalese Engineers Merit Award.** A merit worth \$200, rewarded to the entrance topper of each university in Nepal, seeking admission for undergraduate degrees. May 2016

**46<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) Contestant.** One of the largest olympiads for high school Physics enthusiasts with 5 contestants, each from 100 participating countries. June 2015

## PROJECTS

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**Nepali Plagiarism Detector** 2019  
An application that detects plagiarised Devanagari text files using a self-built rule-based stemming algorithm and Cosine similarity.

**Guitar chord recognizer** 2019  
An application that predicts the chords when the Mel spectrograms of guitar sound are fed into a CNN.

**AI Plays GTA 5: Simulating self-driving vehicles** 2019  
A bike-riding agent in a virtual environment (GTA5), built using CNN, used for simulating self-driving vehicles.

**Sarangi: Nepali lyrics emotions extraction** 2018  
A framework that categorizes songs written in the Devanagari script into four emotions using Naive Bayes.

**AutoCar** 2018  
A self-driving car that can detect lanes, stop sign, traffic light and avoid a collision, built using Canny edge detection, Hough transform, Haar cascade classifier, and Arduino programming.

**MathMate – advanced mathematical calculator** 2018  
An android app that solves different types of mathematical equations, numerical computations, and calculus problems showing involved steps.