

# Anna Fariha

Kahlert School of Computing  
University of Utah

📍 Warnock Engineering Building, #2851  
📖 72 Central Campus Drive, Salt Lake City, UT, 84112

afariha@cs.utah.edu  
afariha.github.io  
☎ +1 801-581-3037

## Research Interests

The aim of my research is to democratize data and data-driven systems towards boosting productivity and enhancing transparency. To this end, my research focuses on three key aspects of data system democratization: *enhancing usability* of data systems for both non-experts and experts, *providing explanation frameworks* to enable understanding of system behavior, and *achieving trust and fairness* in data-driven machine learning.

- *Data systems usability*: query by example, data summarization, data discovery, data-wrangling recommendation, data evolution.
- *Metadata management and its applications*: data constraints, data drift, data cleaning.
- *Systems for machine learning and AI*: trusted machine learning, fair machine learning, explainable AI, personalized text summarization, large language models for data wrangling.
- *Causal reasoning and explanation frameworks*: software debugging, automatic program repair, data debugging, explaining data non-conformance.

## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science** 2021

*Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences* *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA*

- Dissertation: Enhancing Usability and Explainability of Data Systems
- Advisor: Alexandra Meliou
- Committee members: Emery Berger, Peter Haas, Suman Nath
- CGPA: 4.00 out of 4.00

**Master of Science in Computer Science** 2020

*Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences* *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA*

- CGPA: 4.00 out of 4.00

**Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering** 2011

*Department of Computer Science and Engineering* *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

- Thesis: A New Approach for Frequent Human Interaction Pattern Mining in Meeting Databases
- Advisor: Suraiya Pervin
- CGPA: 4.00 out of 4.00

**Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering** 2010

*Department of Computer Science and Engineering* *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

- Thesis: An Algorithm for Graph Mining using Efficient Graph Indexing for Evolving Database
- Advisor: Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed
- CGPA: 3.83 out of 4.00

## Employment History

---

**University of Utah***Assistant Professor*

Kahlert School of Computing

7/2023 – present  
Salt Lake City, UT, USA**Microsoft***Researcher*PROSE research and engineering team for AI-assisted programming  
Managers: Gustavo Soares, Sumit Gulwani6/2021 – 5/2023  
Redmond, WA, USA**Microsoft***Research Intern*PROSE research and engineering team for AI-assisted programming  
Mentor: Ashish Tiwari  
Project: Conformance constraints and trusted machine learning5/2019 – 11/2019  
Bellevue, WA, USA**Microsoft Research***Research Intern*

Data Management, Exploration and Mining (DMX)

Mentor: Suman Nath

Project: Adaptive interventional debugging for finding root causes of nondeterministic software bugs

5/2018 – 8/2018  
Redmond, WA, USA**University of Massachusetts***Research Assistant*Data Systems Research for Exploration, Analytics, and Modeling (DREAM) Lab  
Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences  
Supervisor: Alexandra Meliou9/2016 – 5/2021  
Amherst, MA, USA**Lalmatia Women's College***Guest Lecturer*

Department of Business Administration

1/2015 – 4/2015  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**University of Dhaka***Lecturer*

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

5/2014 – 8/2016  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**United International University***Lecturer*

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

5/2012 – 4/2014  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**University of Liberal Arts***Competitive Programming Trainer*

Coach for competitive programming in preparation for ACM ICPC Programming Contests

10/2011 – 1/2012  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**Structured Data Systems Limited***Software Engineer*

Android and Blackberry mobile applications

9/2011 – 5/2012  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**University of Asia Pacific***Competitive Programming Trainer*

Coach for competitive programming in preparation for ACM ICPC Programming Contests

10/2010 – 10/2010  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

## Honors, Awards, & Achievements

---

SIGMOD Distinguished PC member	2023
SIGMOD Distinguished PC member	2022
SIGMOD Comprehensive Reproducibility Award	2022
VLDB Best Demonstration Runner-up Award	2020
Jim Gray Scholarship, CICS, UMass Amherst	2016
Special Achievement Award: Bangladesh ICT Journalist Forum	2012
Special Achievement Award: Bangladesh Bangladesh Women in IT	2012
University Scholarship for result in Bachelors of Science, U of Dhaka	2012
Special Achievement Award for outstanding performances in programming contests, U of Dhaka	2011
Dean's Honor Award (top 1%), Faculty of Engineering, U of Dhaka	2011
Dean's Award, Faculty of Engineering, U of Dhaka	2010
Fatema-Iqbal Trust Scholarship, U of Dhaka	2008
National Education Board General Scholarship (12th grade)	2006
Special Achievement Award for Higher Secondary Result, Kushtia District Council	2006
National Education Board Talent Pool Scholarship (10th grade)	2004
Best Student of the School (Kushtia Govt. Girls' High School)	2003
National Education Board Talent Pool Scholarship (8th grade)	2001
National Education Board Talent Pool Scholarship (5th grade)	1998

### Travel and Accommodation Scholarships

---

Invited Participant with Accommodation Support, Logic and Algebra for Query Evaluation – Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, Berkeley, California	2023
Invited Participant with Travel & Accommodation Support, CRA-WP Career Mentoring Workshop – Chicago, Illinois	2023
CRA-W Grad Cohort Workshop Travel and Accommodation Award, Washington DC	2017

### Programming Contests

---

Rank 5, ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, Dhaka (Team: DU Resonance)	2011
Rank 1, Islamic University of Technology ICT Fest Programming Contest (Team: DU Resonance)	2011
Rank 1, Dhaka University National Collegiate Programming Contest (Team: DU Resonance)	2011
Rank 1, Dhaka University National Collegiate Programming Contest [Women] (Team: DU Felicity)	2011
Rank 2, SUST National Collegiate Programming Contest (Team: DU Resonance)	2010
Rank 6, ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, Amritapuri (Team: DU Resonance)	2010
Rank 4, ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, Dhaka (Team: DU Resonance)	2010
Rank 3, ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, Dhaka (Team: DU Ouranos)	2009
Rank 515, Google Code Jam, (Individual, id: chorui12)	2009
Rank 4, AUST National Collegiate Programming Contest (Team: DU Resonance)	2009

## Grants

---

<b>Enhancing Usability and Explainability of Data Systems</b> <i>Academic year 2020-2021</i>	Microsoft Research Dissertation Grant \$25,000 USD
<b>Training the Next Generation of Database Engineers: Responsible, User-Centric, and Efficient Data Management</b> <i>Academic year 2023-2024</i>	USHE: Computer Science Targeted Workforce Application Teaching grant for developing new course: Human-centered Data Management

## Publications

---

### Journal and Conference Publications

- [1] Anjali Singh, Anna Fariha, Christopher Brooks, Gustavo Soares, Austin Henley, Ashish Tiwari, Chethan M, Heeryung Choi, and Sumit Gulwani. Investigating student mistakes in introductory data science programming. In *SIGCSE 2024: The 55th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, Portland, OR, USA, March 20-23, 2024*. ACM, 2024
- [2] Rohan Bavishi, Harshit Joshi, José Cambronero, Anna Fariha, Sumit Gulwani, Vu Le, Ivan Radicek, and Ashish Tiwari. Neurosymbolic repair for low-code formula languages. *Proc. ACM Program. Lang.*, 6(OOPSLA2):1093–1122, 2022
- [3] Sainyam Galhotra, Anna Fariha, Raoni Lourenço, Juliana Freire, Alexandra Meliou, and Divesh Srivastava. Dataprism: Exposing disconnect between data and systems. In *SIGMOD '22: International Conference on Management of Data, Philadelphia, PA, USA, June 12 - 17, 2022*, pages 217–231. ACM, 2022
- [4] Maliha Tashfia Islam, Anna Fariha, Alexandra Meliou, and Babak Salimi. Through the data management lens: Experimental analysis and evaluation of fair classification. In *SIGMOD '22: International Conference on Management of Data, Philadelphia, PA, USA, June 12 - 17, 2022*, pages 232–246. ACM, 2022
- [5] Anna Fariha, Ashish Tiwari, Arjun Radhakrishna, Sumit Gulwani, and Alexandra Meliou. Conformance constraint discovery: Measuring trust in data-driven systems. In *SIGMOD '21: International Conference on Management of Data, Virtual Event, China, June 20-25, 2021*, pages 499–512. ACM, 2021
- [6] Anna Fariha, Suman Nath, and Alexandra Meliou. Causality-guided adaptive interventional debugging. In *Proceedings of the 2020 International Conference on Management of Data, SIGMOD Conference 2020, online conference, June 14-19, 2020*, pages 431–446. ACM, 2020 (**ACM SIGMOD Comprehensive Reproducibility Award**)
- [7] Anna Fariha and Alexandra Meliou. Example-driven query intent discovery: Abductive reasoning using semantic similarity. *Proc. VLDB Endow.*, 12(11):1262–1275, 2019
- [8] Anna Fariha, Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed, Carson K. Leung, Md. Samiullah, Suraiya Pervin, and Longbing Cao. A new framework for mining frequent interaction patterns from meeting databases. *Eng. Appl. Artif. Intell.*, 45:103–118, 2015
- [9] Amit Mandal, Mehedi Hasan, Anna Fariha, and Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed. GSCS - graph stream classification with side information. In *APWeb*, pages 389–400, 2015
- [10] Md. Samiullah, Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed, Anna Fariha, Md. Rafiqul Islam, and Nicolas Lachiche. Mining frequent correlated graphs with a new measure. *Expert Syst. Appl.*, 41(4):1847–1863, 2014
- [11] Shafaet Ashraf, Sheikh Muhammad Sarwar, Md. Abeed Hassan, Saifuddin Md. Tareeq, and Anna Fariha. An efficient method for extracting subtrees against forest query. In *Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Ubiquitous Information Management and Communication, IMCOM 2015, Bali, Indonesia, January 08 - 10, 2015*, pages 98:1–98:7. ACM, 2015
- [12] Anna Fariha, Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed, Carson Kai-Sang Leung, S. M. Abdullah, and Longbing Cao. Mining frequent patterns from human interactions in meetings using directed acyclic graphs. In *PAKDD*, pages 38–49, 2013

- [13] Md. Samiullah, Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed, Manziba Akanda Nishi, Anna Fariha, S. M. Abdullah, and Md. Rafiqul Islam. Correlation mining in graph databases with a new measure. In *APWeb*, pages 88–95, 2013
- [14] Shariful Islam, Anna Fariha, Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed, and Byeong-Soo Jeong. EGDIM: evolving graph database indexing method. In *ICUIMC*, pages 56:1–56:10, 2012

## Short, Demonstration, and Workshop Papers

- [15] Bhavya Chopra, Anna Fariha, Sumit Gulwani, Austin Z. Henley, Daniel Perelman, Mohammad Raza, Sherry Shi, Danny Simmons, and Ashish Tiwari. CoWrangler: Recommender System for Data-Wrangling Scripts. In *SIGMOD '23: International Conference on Management of Data, Seattle, USA, June 18-23, 2023*. ACM, 2023
- [16] El Kindi Rezig, Anshul Bhandari, Anna Fariha, Benjamin Price, Allan Vanterpool, Andrew Bowne, Lindsey McEvoy, and Vijay Gadepally. Examples are all you need: Iterative data discovery by example in data lakes. 2022
- [17] El Kindi Rezig, Anshul Bhandari, Anna Fariha, Benjamin Price, Allan Vanterpool, Vijay Gadepally, and Michael Stonebraker. DICE: data discovery by example. *PVLDB*, 14(12):2819–2822, 2021
- [18] Nishant Yadav, Matteo Brucato, Anna Fariha, Oscar Youngquist, Julian Killingback, Alexandra Meliou, and Peter Haas. SUBSUME: A dataset for subjective summary extraction from Wikipedia documents. pages 131–141, November 2021
- [19] Anna Fariha, Ashish Tiwari, Alexandra Meliou, Arjun Radhakrishna, and Sumit Gulwani. CoCo: Interactive Exploration of Conformance Constraints for Data Understanding and Data Cleaning. In *SIGMOD '21: International Conference on Management of Data, Virtual Event, China, June 20-25, 2021*, pages 2706–2710. ACM, 2021
- [20] Anna Fariha, Ashish Tiwari, Arjun Radhakrishna, and Sumit Gulwani. ExTuNe: Explaining Tuple Non-conformance. In *Proceedings of the 2020 International Conference on Management of Data, SIGMOD Conference 2020, online conference, June 14-19, 2020*, pages 2741–2744. ACM, 2020
- [21] Anna Fariha, Matteo Brucato, Peter J. Haas, and Alexandra Meliou. SuDocu: Summarizing Documents by Example. *Proc. VLDB Endow.*, 13(12):2861–2864, 2020 (**Best Demonstration Runner Up Award**)
- [22] Anna Fariha, Sheikh Muhammad Sarwar, and Alexandra Meliou. SQuID: Semantic Similarity-Aware Query Intent Discovery. In *Proceedings of the 2018 International Conference on Management of Data, SIGMOD Conference 2018, Houston, TX, USA, June 10-15, 2018*, pages 1745–1748. ACM, 2018
- [23] Quazi Marufur Rahman, Anna Fariha, Amit Mandal, Chowdhury Farhan Ahmed, and Carson K. Leung. A Sliding Window-Based Algorithm for Detecting Leaders from Social Network Action Streams. In *IEEE/WIC/ACM WI-IAT*, pages 133–136, 2015

## PhD Thesis

- [24] Anna Fariha. *Enhancing Usability and Explainability of Data Systems*. PhD thesis, University of Massachusetts Amherst. [https://scholarworks.umass.edu/dissertations\\_2/2311/](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/dissertations_2/2311/)

## Invited Talks and Panels

- *Recent Trends in Scalable and Human-centric Data Systems*
  - Research Challenges in Computing Seminar Series, University of Utah

October, 2023

- *Through the Data Management Lens: Experimental Analysis and Evaluation of Fair Classification*
  - Bias, Ethics and Trustworthiness in Data Science and AI event, University of Utah September, 2023
- *Blame the data, not the system: how data constraints can help in trustworthy machine learning and explain causes of data-system malfunction*
  - Data Science Lecture Series, University of Utah September, 2023
  - University of Washington, Northwest Database Society November, 2021
- *Blame the data, not the system: How data profiles can help explain causes of data-system malfunction*
  - Northwest Database Society (NWDS) Annual Meeting May, 2023
- *Enhancing usability and explainability of data systems*
  - Northwest Database Society (NWDS) Annual Meeting May, 2023
  - Database Seminar, University of California San Diego (virtual) April, 2023
  - Cornell University April, 2022
  - Georgia University of Technology April, 2022
  - University of California, Santa Barbara March, 2022
  - University of Minnesota (virtual) March, 2022
  - University of Waterloo (virtual) March, 2022
  - University of Utah February, 2022
  - University of Toronto (virtual) February, 2022
  - Pennsylvania State University (virtual) February, 2022
  - EPIC meeting, University of California, Berkeley (virtual) February, 2022
  - Ohio State University (virtual) January, 2022
  - CSAIL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (virtual) October, 2021
  - Microsoft (virtual) January, 2021
  - Megagon Labs (virtual) February, 2021
  - University of Pennsylvania (virtual) February, 2021
  - DATA Lab, Northeastern University (virtual) January, 2021

## Panelist

- NSF's CSGrad4US Panel: "What I wish I knew before I started graduate school", Virtual October, 2023
- SIGMOD New Researcher Symposium, Philadelphia, USA June, 2022
- VLDB Round Table Chair: Interactive Querying and Visualization for Large Data (virtual) August, 2021

## Teaching

- **University of Utah**
  - CS 5353/6353 - Deep Learning (undergraduate + graduate) Fall 2023
  - CS 3960/6959 - Human-Centered Data Management (undergraduate + graduate) Spring 2024
- **University of Dhaka, Bangladesh**
  - CSE 1201 - Fundamentals of Programming (undergraduate) Spring 2014
  - CSE 1211 - Fundamentals of Programming Lab (undergraduate) Spring 2014
  - CSE 1102 - Discrete Mathematics (undergraduate) Fall 2014

- CSE 2101 - Data Structures and Algorithms (undergraduate) Spring 2015
- CSE 2111 - Data Structures and Algorithms Lab (undergraduate) Spring 2015
- CSE 3113 - Microprocessor and Assembly Language Lab (undergraduate) Fall 2015
- CSE 1111 - Fundamentals of Computer and Computing Lab (undergraduate) Fall 2015
- CSE 2112 - Object Oriented Programming Lab (undergraduate) Spring 2016
- CSE 2212 - Design and Analysis of Algorithms Lab (undergraduate) Spring 2016
- CSE 4111 - Artificial Intelligence Lab (undergraduate) Spring 2016
- **United International University, Bangladesh**
  - CSI 219 - Discrete Mathematics (undergraduate)
  - CSI 121 - Structured Programming Language (undergraduate)
  - CSI 122 - Structured Programming Language Laboratory (undergraduate)
  - CSI 228 - Algorithms Laboratory (undergraduate)
  - CSI 233 - Theory of Computing (undergraduate)
  - CSI 341 - Artificial Intelligence (undergraduate)
  - CSI 342 - Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (undergraduate)

## Student Supervision

---

### PhD Advisor

- Shiyi He
- Whanhee Cho

### Masters

- University of Dhaka
  - Quazi Marufur Rahman 2015

### Undergraduate

- University of Utah
  - Qiaoyi Cai
- University of Dhaka
  - Amit Mandal 2015
  - Mehedi Hasan 2015
  - Nitish Ranjan Bhowmik 2015
  - Kazi Mazbah Uddin 2015

### Mentorship

- University of Massachusetts Amherst
  - Maliha Islam (PhD) [Now at Microsoft] 2020–2021
  - Hasnain Heickal (PhD) 2021–2022
  - Oscar Youngquist (MS) 2021–2022
  - Julian Killingback (MS) 2021
  - Kanchi Masalia (MS) 2020
  - Genglin Liu (Undergrad) 2020

- Lucy Cousins (Undergrad) 2019–2021
- Armand Asnani (Undergrad) 2019–2020
- Nischal Dave (Undergrad) 2019
- Zoey (Jingyi) Sun (Undergrad from Smith College) 2018
- Lauren Beryl Larson (REU) (Undergrad from Wellesley College) 2017
- Michael Satanovsky (High-school Intern from Hopkins School) 2017
- Microsoft
  - Chethan Mahadevaswamy (Predoctoral Research Fellow) 2021–2022
  - Bhavya Chopra (Predoctoral Research Fellow) 2022–2023
  - Yang Shi (PhD student at North Carolina State University) 2022

## Professional Services

---

### Program Committee

- IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE) (demo track) 2024
- ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (demo track) 2024
- ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (research track) 2024
- IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE) (Ph.D. Symposium) 2023
- ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (research track) 2023
- International Conference on Very Large Databases (VLDB) (research track) 2023
- ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (research track) 2022
- International Conference on Very Large Databases (VLDB) (research track) 2022
- International Conference on Extending Database Technology (EDBT) (demonstration track) 2022
- ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data (research track) 2021
- International Conference on Extending Database Technology (EDBT) (demonstration track) 2021
- International Conference on Very Large Databases (VLDB) (demonstration track) 2021

### Other Reviewing Service

- Reviewer of the VLDB Journal 2023
- Reviewer of User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) 2021
- Session chair at International Conference on Extending Database Technology (EDBT) 2021
- Reviewer of the VLDB Journal 2021
- External reviewer of ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2021
- External reviewer of ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data 2020
- External reviewer of ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data 2019
- External reviewer of ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data 2018

### Problem Setter & Judge of Competitive Programming Contests

- State University Bangladesh Inter-University Programming Contest, Bangladesh 2015
- SAARC Programming Contest, Bangladesh University, Bangladesh 2014
- Islamic University of Technology ICT Fest, Bangladesh 2014
- SAARC Programming Contest, Bangladesh University, Bangladesh 2013
- Bangladesh Informatics Olympiad, National Round, Bangladesh 2013
- North South University Inter-University Programming Contest, Bangladesh 2013
- ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, Dhaka, Bangladesh 2012



## Internal Service

- Faculty Advisor, Women in Computing at the University of Utah 2023–present
- Mentor of 1st Year PhD Student (Ishrat Jahan Eliza) 2023–present
- Co-founder of UtahDB Research Center (URL: <https://mod.cs.utah.edu>) 2022–present