# Akash Saravanan

https://akashsara.github.io/

### **EDUCATION**

University of Alberta

Master of Science (Thesis) in Computing Science

Edmonton, Canada

Jan. 2021 - Present

Anna University (Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering)

Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering; First Class.

Chennai, India

Jun. 2015 - Apr. 2019

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Research Assistantship Fellowship (GRAF)

Under the supervision of Dr. Matthew Guzdial.

Edmonton, Canada

May 2021 - Present

• Summary: Working on computational creativity using machine learning models in the video game domain.

Natural Language Generation using Generative Adversarial Networks

Chennai,

Chennai, India

 $Under graduate\ The sis$ 

Dec 2018 - Apr 2019

o Intra-Mural Funding: Only proposal granted intra-mural funding (Rs. 10,000) out of 90+ teams.

#### WORK EXPERIENCE

## Mad Street Den (Vue.ai)

Chennai, India

Aug 2019 - Nov 2020

Machine Learning Engineer

- o Tools & Technologies: Python, Javascript, AWS, GCP, PyTorch, Tensorflow
- MVP Team: Developed new products using natural language processing, traditional machine learning, and large-scale transformer-based models as part of a Minimum Viable Product team. Created an end-to-end proof-of-concept to demonstrate the company's tagging capabilities on any supported retail item.
- VueTag: Upgraded the existing rule-based product attribute classification engine with machine learning algorithms to boost all metrics by at least 15%. Optimized the codebase to reduce latency by 10%-60% across the board. Deployed models on AWS and GCP.
- Research & Development: Developed a Sequence-to-Sequence model for automated generation of product descriptions. Created a Named Entity Recognition system using pretrained transformer model to identify key tags in new client catalog data.

### Mad Street Den (Vue.ai)

Chennai, India

Engineering Intern

May 2019 - Aug 2019

• Research & Development: Implemented the Word2Vec algorithm on a catalog of 2 million fashion retail products. Analyzed 37 million fashion retail products across 15 clients to identify and extract important keywords across different categories. Implemented Pointwise Mutual Information (NPMI) to identify n-grams and designed a modified TF-IDF algorithm that accounted for the different product types in a catalog.

### Programming Skills

- $\bullet \ \ \textbf{Languages} \ \& \ \ \textbf{Databases} : \ \ \text{Python, Javascript, HTML, CSS, C, C++, Markdown, MySQL, SQLite, Redis, MongoDB.}$
- Frameworks & Libraries: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, NumPy, Pandas, scikit-learn, Flask, Django, Bootstrap.
- Tools & Technlogies: Git, LaTeX, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Adobe Photoshop.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

• Facial Emotion Recognition using Convolutional Neural Networks: 1st International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence & Computer Vision (AICV'18), September 2018.

### SELECTED PROJECTS

- pH7: Built a dynamic social platform that provided gamified & personalized healthcare for our Smart India Hackathon 2019 project. Created a custom food dataset and achieved 87% accuracy on a CNN classification model. Developed the back-end and setup database access via an internal API. (Keras, Flask, Scrapy)
- Whatsapp Message Analyzer: Analyzes WhatsApp group chats to generate statistics and graphs on user activity, frequent words etc. (Python, Seaborn)
- Reddit Comment Analysis Bot: Designed a bot to analyze a user's comment history and provide facts and graphs about their activity. (Python, PRAW, MatPlotLib)