

Arun Ravishankar

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ABOUT ME

I'm a Theoretical physicist and a Pharmacist by training and I have experience in Mathematics & Data Science. I'm keen to leverage my diverse and strong mathematical background to tackle important, interesting and challenging problems in the medical field using computational methods and AI - Organ-on-chips, Genomics, Medical Imaging, Diagnosis, Drug discovery, Toxicology, Clinical Trials.

EDUCATION

PhD in Physics Expected Summer. 2020

MS. in Physics May 2019

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA

MSc (hons.) in Physics May 2014

B.Pharmacy (hons.)

Birla Institute of Technology & Science Pilani, India

SKILLS

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Python, Wolfram (Mathematica), R, LaTeX

PACKAGES AND PLATFORMS

NumPy, Matplotlib, Scikit-Learn, Pandas, Keras, Tensorflow, PyTorch*, Seaborn*

Github, Jupyter

DATA ANALYSIS

Machine Learning & Deep Learning,
High Performance Computing

*Tutorials/Workshop

WORK EXPERIENCE

PHYSICS

Univ. of Arizona, USA

Fall 15 - Current

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Discovered an instability of a maximally charged black hole (Gralla, S.E., Ravishankar, A. & Zimmerman, P. J. High Energ. Phys. (2018) 2018: 87)^.
- Identified the cause of the instability to be certain null geodesics (preprint: arXiv:1911.11164)
- Designed and ran simulations in Python on a supercomputer (El Gato) by parallel job scheduling with PBS scripts to investigate the instability.

^Authors in alphabetical order

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSOCIATE

- Conducted introductory physics lab sessions (~25 students per lab) for undergraduate students and received very good reviews from my students.
- Led discussion sessions (~100 students per section) where I guided groups of students (~4 students per group) to work together to solve problem sets.
- Conducted out-of-hours lectures and tutorials to help students that needed more time and help in understanding the subject.

INDEPENDENT WORK

(Details on my webpage - arunravishankar.github.io)

- Analyzed histology tiles of Colorectal cancer patients - used clustering algorithms to understand the data better and eventually built a Convolutional Neural Network model to predict the type of tissue of a given image.
- Built and compared classification models to predict a patient's risk to being diagnosed with Cervical Cancer.
- Wrote and implemented a Metropolis-Hastings sampler to infer the coordinates of a 3D-line from a set of 2D images of points on the line.
- Building regression models to predict drug response in cancerous tissues based on genomic data from the Genomic Data Commons Data Portal of the NIH.
- Comparing different methods of feature selection on a high dimensional feature space to balance interpretability and accuracy of the supervised learning model in order to identify the biological pathway causing the cancer.

STARTUP - FASCINATION BASED LEARNING

Munich, Germany

CONTENT PRODUCER

Fall 13 - Summer 14

- Worked on the incubation stages of a startup for online-based education with the founder of Ideas Roadshow and The Founding Executive Director of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, Canada, Dr. Howard Burton.
- Coordinated with an interdisciplinary team of entrepreneurs, educationalists, researchers and philosophers to come up with a working form of the online tool.
- Created appropriate content for the preliminary product based on lectures in cosmology by Prof. Roger Penrose which was then used to pitch the product to different universities including the National University of Singapore.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

ORGAN-ON-CHIP AND MACHINE LEARNING

- Attended the 2nd European Organ-on-chip Conference 2019, Graz, Austria
- Attended the 4th Barcelona Summer School 2019 organized by the Virtual Physiological Human Institute on Machine Learning and Mechanistic Modelling - with a workshop on Computational anatomy, Deep Learning and Convolutional Neural Networks to segment a time series of images with PyTorch

PHYSICS

- Will be presenting at the Pacific Coast Gravity Meet, March 2020 in UC Santa Barbara, CA
- Invited as a guest speaker at Chennai Mathematical Institute, India in July 2019
- Presented at the American Physical Society, April Meeting 2019 in Denver, CO
- Presented at the Pacific Coast Gravity Meet, March 2018 in CalTech, Pasadena, CA