

Ayush Bansal

FOUNDER, HACKER, MUSICIAN, GEEK

Wired in · Urbana, Illinois, United States

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Research Interests

Quantum Systems

Distributed Systems & Networking

Operating Systems

Cloud Computing

Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Urbana, Illinois

PH.D. (DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY) IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

2024 - Present

- Working in the area of **Systems and Networking**, advised by **Prof. Tianyin Xu**.
- Collaborated with **Prof. Brighten Godfrey** and **Prof. Matthew Caesar**.

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)

Kanpur, India

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY, MAJOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

2016 - 2020

- Cumulative Performance Index / CGPA: 9.0/10.0.
- Specialized in Systems (kernel systems, distributed systems and networking) and Programming Languages (verification and formal methods).

Work Experience

Siebel School of Computing and Data Science, UIUC

Urbana, Illinois

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Aug 2024 - Present

- My way or the PHY way:** Designed and implemented a novel application-aware rate control mechanism that optimizes per-packet Modulation and Coding Schemes (MCS) based on traffic intent (latency vs throughput). Reduced tail latency for real-time traffic by eliminating mandatory probing (10-15% overhead) and exposing application semantics to the PHY/MAC layers.
- Developed **Olympus**, a framework enabling real-time semantic search of satellite imagery via onboard-generated embeddings. By shifting from image-centric to representation-centric retrieval, the system reduces data downlink volume by 100x and supports direct, parallel semantic querying without processing raw image files.

Freelance: Venture Capital & Startups

Remote

ADVISOR & CONSULTANT

Jan 2023 - Aug 2024

- Work as a **deeptech expert** for **evaluating potential deals** for institutional and micro VC funds.
- Advise young startups and various portfolio companies on **technical architecture, product planning and hiring**.

NimbleEdge

Bangalore, India

CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Mar 2021 - Feb 2024

- NimbleEdge is revolutionising the way world computes**, migrating compute from the cloud to the edge (or user) devices, i.e. capturing free real estate. We take care of complex things like the diversity of computing power, OS or communication mediums.
- Raised a **pre-seed round of \$3.3 Million** from **Neotribe Ventures** (based out of Silicon Valley) & **Sistema Asia Capital** as institutional investors.
- Built the entire Technology** (Systems, Development and DevOps), **Content, Marketing** and **Human Resources team** from scratch.
- Brought in **OYO, Dream11 & Glance (Inmobi)** as clients for the company, each having **scale of more than 100 Million Monthly Active Users**.
- Built the **NimbleNet (Peer-to-Peer communication SDK)**, our main product to be completely agnostic of any operating system & architecture.
- Built the entire Infrastructure for our **Aggregating Service** (Cloud Service) to be able to handle **scale of 100s of Millions of devices**.
- Completed the Paid Pilot with OYO via A/B testing over 100 Thousand devices with incredible results in CTR improvement & cloud cost reduction.
- Technologies focussed: C/C++, Golang, Scala, Distributed Edge Computing, Homomorphic Encryption, Peer-to-Peer Communication Protocols.
- Our clients are able to unlock the power of **Hyper-personalization - Billion models for Billion users** and access to untapped data with unlimited revenue potential. All this while **saving enormous cloud costs, improving performance and enhancing end user privacy**.

Tower Research Capital

Gurgaon, India

LOW LATENCY SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

Aug 2020 - Mar 2021

- Write efficient and maintainable automated software in C++ allowing us to ensure our correct position in the market.
- Develop cutting-edge software in C++ and Python which allow trading teams to run strategies smoothly.
- Maintained the entire Trade Reconciliation System** along with a team of 2 people for all the markets that Tower Research Capital trades on.
- Expanded the Tower's Trading & Reconciliation System** to allow trading on **Taiwan Futures & Crypto Exchanges like FTX, Huobi**.
- Developed low latency Simulation Software** in C++ and Python running within containerized environment for **testing out trading strategies and platform**. Simulated the trading with custom exchanges developed in-house using historical market data.

InterviewVector

Gurgaon, India

CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

June 2020 - Aug 2020

- InterviewVector **created Interview as a Service (IaaS) category** helping companies in hiring for Technical roles across teams.
- We believe Engineers' precious time is better spent churning out the next big feature, not on taking interviews to weed out the unfit candidates.
- Signed **more than 10 clients** including emerging unicorns like **BharatPe & MindTickle in first 3 months**.
- Bootstrapped** the business to an **ARR of \$170,000 in just 4 months**.

Eightfold.ai

Noida, India

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER INTERN

Apr 2020 - June 2020

- Configured and deployed the **complete Alert Management System for the production & development environment**.
- Re-designed the complete product model** to facilitate and **setup Behavior Driven Development style of testing** using Selenium Framework.
- Reduced the **time taken to run the complete test suite from 62 minutes to less than 10 minutes (84%)**.

Core Engineering, Tower Research Capital

Gurgaon, India

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER INTERN

May 2019 - July 2019

- Containerized and automated Trade Reconciliation setup to run as microservices on bare metal Kubernetes.
- Developed low latency software in C++ to facilitate integration and regression testing of Trade Reconciliation setup by inducing "deterministic mutations" on the network stream to simulate diverse un-reconciliation or trading-platform failure scenarios.
- Received a Pre-Placement Offer even though there was no vacant position, out of ~35 interns.

Google Summer of Code

OPENPRINTING, THE LINUX FOUNDATION

May 2018 - August 2018

- Worked on the Common Print Dialog Project, developing backend connecting and serving all available printers to the Common backend.
- The Dialog allowed access to the available printing queues such as "CUPS", "Google Cloud Print" and more via "DBus" on the network/system.

New York Office, IIT Kanpur

Kanpur, India

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT & FULL STACK DEVELOPER, SUPERVISOR PROF. MANINDRA AGRAWAL

May 2017 - Mar 2020

- Worked on a scalable microservice based web application with an extensive technology stack.
- Developed and deployed the data sharing functionality (using Kafka, Redis, Scala and Go).
- Deployed microservices utilizing Docker, Coreos Container Linux, ConcourseCI, JenkinsCI, and have maintained the cluster on Kubernetes.
- Configured and deployed complete Persistent Volume Storage System, ConcourseCI and pipelines for diverse microservices.
- Developed and deployed LeaderBoard, an Automated Ranking and Scoring System using Ruby on Rails.
- Technologies used: Kubernetes, Docker, Kafka, JenkinsCI, Ruby on Rails, Nginx, Coreos Applications, Rook with Cephfs, Glusterfs.

Publications

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Rex: Closing the language-verifier gap with safe and usable kernel extensions

Jinghao Jia, Ruowen Qin, Milo Craun, Egor Lukiyanov, Ayush Bansal, Michael V. Le, Hubertus Franke, Hani Jamjoom, Tianyin Xu, Dan Williams

In Proceedings of 2025 USENIX Annual Technical Conference (USENIX ATC '25)

Academic Service

Artifact Evaluation Committee

August 2024 - Present

- 19th USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (**OSDI 25**).
- 2025 USENIX Annual Technical Conference (**ATC 25**).
- 31st USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (**SOSP 25**).
- 39th ACM Special Interest Group on Data Communication (**SIGCOMM 25**).
- 21st European Conference on Computer Systems (**EuroSys 26**).

Major Projects

My way or the PHY way: Every Packet deserves the right MCS

UIUC

UNDER PROF. BRIGHTEN GODFREY AND PROF. MATTHEW CAESAR

Jan 2025 - Present

- Vision: End-host devices can significantly improve the QoS of applications without any support from the core network.
- Designed and implemented an application-aware rate control mechanism that optimizes per-packet Modulation and Coding Schemes (MCS) based on traffic intent (latency vs throughput).
- Reduced tail latency for real-time traffic by eliminating mandatory probing (10-15% overhead) used in traditional algorithms like Linux Minstrel.
- Demonstrated significant performance gains in mixed-workload environments by exposing application semantics to the PHY/MAC layers.

Olympus: Semantic query framework for satellite imagery

UIUC

UNDER PROF. INDRANIL GUPTA

Jan 2025 - Present

- Problem: Lack of real-time and semantic querying capabilities for satellite imagery due to high data volume and downlink constraints.
- Engineered a real-time semantic query framework for satellite imagery by shifting from image-centric to representation-centric retrieval.
- Integrated geospatial foundation models (SatlasNet) to generate onboard embeddings, achieving a 100x reduction in downlink latency.
- Designed an efficient parallel search architecture for direct question answering without underlying image access, streamlining global geospatial insights.

Typed PRNGs: Random Numbers with custom randomness

IIT Kanpur

UNDER PROF. SATYADEV NANDAKUMAR AND PROF. PRAMOD SUBRAMANYAN

Jan 2020 - June 2020

- Random Data generation should consider that the user can request high-quality random data or a significant amount of pseudorandom data. In other words, a random number generator can produce data of varying levels of randomness according to the user's needs.
- Linux's `getrandom()` faces the problem of blocking when there isn't enough entropy available to produce high-quality random numbers.
- We tested the properties of injectivity over the mixing function (core of Linux PRNG) which takes entropy stores and bytes of data as input and mixes in output block/non-blocking pools, we got some interesting results in that.
- Paper on Arxiv - Analysis of Linux-PRNG (Pseudo Random Number Generator)

pROP: Programmable Return Oriented Programming

IIT Kanpur

UNDERGRADUATE PROJECT, PROF. DEBADATTA MISHRA

Jan 2019 - Apr 2019

- Worked with **x86_64 binaries to invoke any particular syscall** by performing static analysis & using concepts of Return Oriented Programming.
- Developed a **tool (pROP) for building a ROP chain from ROP gadgets** to exploit the 64-bit binaries by invoking a particular syscall.
- Focussed technologies and areas: C/C++, Python, Systems Security - Overflows & Exploits, Computer Architecture, Operating Systems.
- Paper on Arxiv - A practical analysis of ROP attacks

InVaSion: Input Validation with Symbolic Execution

IIT Kanpur

RESEARCH PROJECT, PROF. SUBHAJIT ROY

May 2018 - Nov 2018

- Worked on **forking-based symbolic execution engines to tackle the problem of Path Explosion** with goal of increasing code and branch coverage for programs requiring formatted inputs such as image readers or video players.
- Formulated a framework to represent the formatted input as a FSA, an input specification language (ISL) to be used by a software.
- Developed a **tool in Ruby to parse and compile the ISL, and appending this ISL to the input program**, generating a set of logical constraints on execution by symbolic execution engine, with the goal of guiding symbolic execution tool to produce better inputs.
- **Improved branch coverage by greater than 150%** on programs in Siemens Test Suite, MiBench and Tiff library which require formatted input.
- Focussed technologies and areas: C/C++, Ruby, Compilers, Formal Methods - Software Verification, Symbolic Execution and Fuzzing.
- Paper on Arxiv - Input Validation with Symbolic Execution

Linux From Scratch: Compiled Linux System from Source and Built a Package Manager

IIT Kanpur

ASSOCIATION OF COMPUTING ACTIVITIES

Feb 2017 - Apr 2017

- Created a **Customized Linux based operating system** by compiling all packages from scratch using the host machine's kernel.
- Built a **Package Manager in python** which fetched the dependencies of packages and created a dependency list based on packages installed.
- Blog post with details - ayushb.org/posts/linux-from-scratch/

Positions of Responsibility

Teaching Assistant DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, IIT KANPUR

July 2019 - July 2020

- **Tutored multiple groups of 40 students** in basics of C programming, for the course "Introduction to Programming".
- **Designed and graded assignments, quizzes and exams** for the course of **~1000 students**.

System Administrator IIT KANPUR

Mar 2018 - July 2020

- **Administered a cloud in IIT Kanpur**, deploying and managing services **for the campus community**.
- Maintained the **Arch Linux, Gentoo and other mirrors** hosted by IIT Kanpur for the rest of the world.

Coordinator PROGRAMMING CLUB, IIT KANPUR

Mar 2018 - Feb 2019

- **Organized, and set problems** for various **capture the flag** and **programming contests** on campus.
- Conducted lecture series and workshops on programming topics.
- **Organized the Summer Camp & the Winter Camp, & mentored over 50 students** in various topics who completed projects in distinct fields.
- **Mentored 12 students in building IoT applications** using Amazon Echo/Alexa and Google Home as a Semester Project.

Honors & Awards

2025	NSDI Student Grant Award , Grant awarded for travel and attending the conference.	Philadelphia, USA
2020	Academic Excellence Award , Exceptional Academic Performance, for 3 consecutive years.	CSE, IITK
2019	Exceptional Course Tutor , Academic Year 2019-2020, rated exceptionally good by the students.	IITK
2016	All India Rank 187 , Joint Entrance Exam Advanced, 200,000 candidates	India
2016	All India Rank 571 , Joint Entrance Exam Mains, 1.5 million candidates	India
2016	All India Rank 52 , KVPY Scholarship, Indian Institute of Science and Government of India	Bangalore, India
2015	Merit Certificate, National Top 1% , Indian National Chemistry Olympiad	India
2015	Merit Certificate, National Top 1% , Indian National Astronomy Olympiad	India

Relevant Coursework

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Aug 2024 - Present

Advanced Computer Networks	Advanced Distributed Systems	Advanced Topics in Internet of Things
Distributed Algorithms	(i) Quantum Information & Computing	

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

July 2016 - July 2020

(A*) Abstract Algebra	Discrete Mathematics	Theory of Computation
(A*) Programming Tools and Techniques	Data Structures and Algorithms	Computer Organization
(A*) Principles of Programming Languages	Algorithms II	Operating Systems
Computer Networks	Systems Security	Compiler Design
Probability and Statistics	Advanced Statistical Methods	Introduction to Machine Learning
Blockchain Technology & Application	Modern Cryptology	Designing Verifiably Secure Systems

A*: Grade for Exceptional Performance

i: In progress

Skills

Languages	C/C++, Python, Golang, Scala, Rust, Javascript/TypeScript, Haskell, Ruby, Java, Oz, Perl
Web	Akka with Scala, Gin with Golang, Node.js, React, Flask, Ruby on Rails, Django
Utilities	Linux shell utilities, Git, Docker, Kubernetes, eBPF, Ansible, AWS, Azure, Kafka, GDB, Postgres, MySQL, MongoDB, \LaTeX , Jenkins, Vim
Quantum	Qiskit (IBM Quantum), Munich Quantum Toolkit (MQT), Cirq (Google Quantum AI)