

Harshita Chopra

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning (ML), AI-assisted Decision Making, Agents, Personalization, User Modeling, Recommender Systems

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Computer Science & Engineering** 2024 – present
University of Washington, Seattle, USA – Advisor: [Prof. Chirag Shah](#)
- B.Tech in Information Technology** 2018 – 2022
Indraprastha University, Delhi, India – GPA: 9.01/10.0

EXPERIENCE

- Research Scientist Intern** – Microsoft Research, Redmond Summer 2025
with [Dr. Suman Nath](#), [Dr. Krishna Chintalapudi](#), [Dr. Ryen White](#)
- Personalization in conversational AI with action agents.
- Graduate Research Assistant** – InfoSeeking Lab, UW Sep 2024 – present
- Interactive **decision making** under uncertainty; using **Large Language Models**, ML and **search** algorithms.
- Research Associate II** – Adobe Research, India Jul 2022 – Aug 2024
Data-driven Systems and Insights Group.
- Developed **ML and optimization** models for **predictive user segmentation**, reach maximization under budget constraint, and simulation of multi-touchpoint customer journeys. Trained **LLMs** for digital marketing tasks.
 - Transferred models to **Adobe products**, mentored 2 graduate and 9 UG interns; published 2 full **papers** and 7 **patents**.
- Research Intern** – Adobe Research, India Summer 2021
Mentor: [Dr. Atanu R Sinha](#)
- Devised an approach to account for **partially observed** user behavior on websites, using concepts from **RL** and **Boosting**.
 - Among the 8 out of 84 interns who were offered full-time position in the research team.
- Undergraduate Researcher** – University of California, Irvine Feb 2021–2022
Language and Learning Analytics Lab. Advisor: [Prof. Nia Dowell-Nixon](#)
- Introduced a framework to detect and track **contextually coherent topics** in student discourse in academic forums over time, and quantified the course-centricity of each topic. Published a full **paper** and **poster**.
- Undergraduate Researcher** – IIIT Delhi Oct 2020 – 2022
TavLab. Advisor: [Prof. Tavpritesh Sethi](#)
- Demonstrated that new knowledge can be captured by tracking the **temporal evolution** of association between **entities in scientific literature** using NLP and community detection on entity networks.
- Machine Learning Engineer** – Omdena Inc. Apr – Dec 2020
- Led ML tasks in impactful **AI4Good** projects with the United Nations Development Program (**UNDP**) and the World Resources Institute (**WRI**); developed predictive models of the Digital Divide and economic well-being using multi-modal data.

PUBLICATIONS

Working paper:

- [1] **H Chopra**, C Shah. “Feedback-Aware Monte Carlo Tree Search for Efficient Information Seeking in Goal-Oriented Conversations”. Reasoning and Planning for LLMs at [ICLR 2025](#) (Oral, top 6%)

Conference:

- [1] **H Chopra***, A R Sinha*, S Choudhary, R A Rossi, P Indela, V P Parwatala, S Paul, and A Maiti. “Delivery Optimized Discovery in Behavioral User Segmentation under Budget Constraint”. [CIKM 2023](#) (Oral). [acceptance rate 24%]
- [2] A R Sinha*, **H Chopra***, A Maiti, A Ganesh, S Kapoor, S Myana, and S Mahapatra. “The Role of Unattributed Behavior Logs in Predictive User Segmentation”. [CIKM 2023](#) (Oral). [acceptance rate 24%]
- [3] **H Chopra**, Y Lin, M A Samadi, J G Cavazos, R Yu, S Jaquay, and N Nixon. “Semantic Topic Chains for Modeling Temporality of Themes in Online Student Discussion Forums”. [EDM 2023](#) (Oral, Best paper award nominee)
- [4] **H Chopra**, Y Lin, M A Samadi, J G Cavazos, R Yu, S Jaquay, and N Nixon. “Modeling Student Discourse in Online Discussion Forums Using Semantic Similarity Based Topic Chains”. Extended Abstract. [AIED 2022](#) (Poster)

Journal:

- [1] R Pal, **H Chopra**, R Awasthi, H Bandhey, A Nagori, and T Sethi. "Predicting Emerging Themes in Rapidly Expanding COVID-19 Literature With Unsupervised Word Embeddings and Machine Learning: Evidence-Based Study". Journal of Medical Internet Research. [JMIR](#) 2022 (*impact factor 7.2, ranked Q1 in Medical Informatics*)
- [2] **H Chopra***, A Vashishtha*, R Pal, Ashima, A Tyagi, and T Sethi. "Mining Trends of COVID-19 Vaccine Beliefs on Twitter With Lexical Embeddings: Longitudinal Observational Study". [JMIR](#) Infodemiology 2023.

Patents:

* equal contribution

- [1] **H Chopra**, A R Sinha, S Mahapatra. "Utilizing Digital Page Sequence Tokens With Large Language Models to Generate Digital Content Predictions". [Filed] US Patent Application No.: 18/829,774
- [2] **H Chopra**, S Choudhary, A R Sinha, S Surange-Dev, V Holtcamp, S Nair, Z Courtois, S Bhat. "Campaign Journey User Response Computer Simulation". [Filed] US Patent Application No.: 18/777,311
- [3] V Porwal, **H Chopra**, A R Sinha, S K Modanwal, C N Reddy, Z Niaz. "Clustering Users According to Causal Relationships Among User Data". [Filed] US Patent Application No.: 18/609,625
- [4] S Choudhary, A R Sinha, **H Chopra**, R A Rossi, V P Parwatala, P Indela, S Paul, S Guo. "Segment Discovery and Channel Delivery". [Filed] US Patent Application No.: 18/543,666
- [5] A R Sinha, R A Rossi, S Choudhary, **H Chopra**, P Indela, V P Parwatala, S Paul, S Mahapatra, A Maiti. "Delivery Aware Audience Segmentation". [Filed] US Patent Application No.: 18/451,590
- [6] A Maiti, A R Sinha, **H Chopra**, S Kapoor, A Ganesh, S Myana, S Mahapatra. "Generating Segments of Users Based on Unobserved Behaviors". [Filed] US Patent Application No.: 17/660,544
- [7] A R Sinha, A Maiti, A Ganesh, **H Chopra**, S Myana, S Kapoor, S Mahapatra. "Systems and Methods for Content Customization". [Filed] US Patent Application No.: 17/813,622

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Feedback-Aware Planning for Information-Seeking under Uncertainty** – UW, Seattle [ICLR '25 W]
- Developed a novel framework that uses **LLMs for seeking missing information** by applying **Monte Carlo Tree Search** to select questions that reduce uncertainty, as a part of inference-time planning.
 - Proposed a **hierarchical feedback** mechanism that enables the system to learn from past successful questioning trajectories.
- Delivery Aware Discovery of Behavior-based User Segments** – Adobe Research [CIKM '23]
- Developed a **joint stochastic optimization** model for effective discovery of user segments based on browsing behavior and matching them with marketing/media channels that maximize reach, under a given **budget constraint**.
- Modeling Student Discourse via Semantic Topic Chains** – UC Irvine [AIED '22, EDM '23]
- Created a framework to **detect** and **link** topics in student discourse over time using **word mover's distance**.
 - Modeled each topic's discourse as general or course-centric, and analyzed the evolving **course-centricity** of topic chains.
- Detection of Emerging Themes in Scientific Literature** – IIIT Delhi [JMIR '22]
- Detected and predicted disease-centric themes in COVID-19 literature using **temporal link prediction** and word embeddings to track the **evolving semantic similarity** among entities. Demo: [EvidenceFlow](#)

ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Department Rank 1 in the final semester of undergraduate degree – Scored GPA 10/10.
- GHC 2021 Scholar** – Won the student scholarship to attend the Grace Hopper Celebration.
- Vice Chairperson** – IEEE Women in Engineering (2020-21), Student Branch Executive Committee of MSIT.
- Invited Talk** at IE Business School, Madrid – case study on Collaborative AI projects and Ethics in the Information Age. 2020.
- Invited Speaker** on a Panel of Experts from NASA and Harvard University – "Building Artificial Intelligence through Collaborative Innovation", a virtual event hosted by Omdena with over 1000 registrations. 2020.
- Among **top 10 students** from the country selected for the **Digital India** Internship at NIC Headquarters, Winter 2019-20. My work on redesigning the interface of eTransport web portal 'Vahan Citizen Services' was **deployed nationwide** by Govt of India.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Programming languages: Python, SQL, C/C++, Bash, Vim
- Packages & Frameworks: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, scikit-learn, SciPy, Git, PySpark, \LaTeX

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Data Science Researcher** – PathCheck Foundation, MIT
Brainstormed effective and affordable COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Our submission "Privacy-preserving Crowdsourcing for Citizen Engagement in Pandemics" was awarded as one of the '*Highly Commended Solutions*' at The Trinity Challenge 2021
- Data Analyst** – Red Dot Foundation | Safecity
Developed dashboards based on inferential statistics on past 8 years of crowd-sourced harassment reports. 2020