Haque Ishfaq

Contact Information

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Research Interests

Reinforcement learning theory and bandits, optimizations.

Education

Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms (MILA) & McGill University

Ph.D. Student, Computer Science (September 2018 - Present)

- Research Topic: Exploration-exploitation trade-offs with provable guarantees in bandits and reinforcement learning.
- Advisor: Prof. Doina Precup

Stanford University

M.S. Statistics, June 2018
B.S. in Mathematical and Computational Science, June 2015

- McCaw Scholar (2011–2015), four-year academic scholarship for international students.

Honors and Awards

2018	Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University
2014	Undergraduate Research and Advising Grant, Stanford University
2014	Social Impact Grant, Stanford Haas Center for Public Service - 1 of 2 recipients of the grant in the entire university.
2013	CS Undergraduate Research Experience (CURIS) Grant, Stanford University
2012	EE Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Grant, Stanford University
2011–2015	Craig and Susan McCaw Scholarship for International Students, Stanford University - Full funding for 4 years at Stanford
2010	Honorable Mention, International Mathematical Olympiad, Kazakhstan
2009	Honorable Mention, International Mathematical Olympiad, Germany
2008	Participant, International Mathematical Olympiad, Spain
2009, 2010	1st Runner-up, Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad
2006–2008	Champion, Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad
2008	10^{th} in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination among $\sim$300,000 students, Dhaka Education Board, Bangladesh

Programming

Python, R, Julia, Matlab, C/C++.

Frameworks

PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, Scikit-learn.

Work Experience

IBM Research, Research Intern, Yorktown Heights, NY (Jul.–Oct. 2019)

- Worked on reinforcement learning algorithms applied to knowledge graph embedding and query answering problem.

NVIDIA, Applied Deep Learning Research Intern, Santa Clara (June–Sept. 2017)
- Worked on optical flow and video frame prediction problem under Bryan Catanzaro.
- Designed and implemented recurrent autoencoder with temporal skip connections consisting of Convolutional LSTM module within it.

Quantitative Imaging Lab, Research Assistant, Stanford, California (April–Dec. 2017)
- Worked on deep learning methods for biomedical image analysis under Prof. Daniel Rubin.
- Designed and implemented deep network incorporating Variational Autoencoder and Triplet Network to learn semantic visual representation of medical image data.

Mobilize Center, Research Assistant, Stanford, California (Sept.–Dec. 2016)
- Worked on accelerometer generated temporal data classification for activity recognition using data programming and weak supervision based approaches.
- Designed heuristic labeling functions to label unlabeled data in a weakly supervised manner using data programming (Snorkel) paradigm developed by Chris Re group at Stanford CS department.

Silicon Studio, Data Science Intern, Tokyo, Japan (July–Sept. 2016)
- Designed and implemented machine learning algorithm to forecast and simulate individual player behavior in mobile games.
- Used LSTM Recurrent Neural Network and ARIMA based models for player behavior forecasting.

Verizon Labs, Data Science Intern, Palo Alto, California (June–Sept. 2015)
- Worked on Ad targeting using clickstream data.
- Designed and implemented machine learning and statistical model that would allow Verizon to grow their Ad targeting to non-opt-out customers by 7.4X.

Salzman Lab, Research Assistant, Stanford School of Medicine (June–Aug. 2014)
- Using R, performed correlation analysis of expression level of different circular RNAs between human and mouse samples.
- Used molecular biology technology (qPCR, RNA extraction) to study circular RNA.

Guibas Lab, Summer Research Program, Stanford School of Medicine (June–Aug. 2013)
- Studied mathematical theory behind 3D Kinetic Alpha Complex and its application in design of algorithm for constructing cell complex in space-time.
- Studied computational geometry and topology as part of the project.

Teaching Experience

Fall	2015	Teaching Assistant, Machine Learning (Andrew Ng)
Winter	2016	Teaching Assistant, Cryptography (Dan Boneh)
Winter	2017	Teaching Assistant, Probabilistic Graphical Model (Stefano Ermon)
Summer	2011	Academic Mentor, Bangladesh National Mathematics Camp

Graduate Coursework

- ❑ Machine Learning
- ❑ Statistical Inference
- ❑ Stochastic Processes
- ❑ Regression Analysis
- ❑ Convex Optimization
- ❑ Linear Dynamical Systems
- ❑ Statistical Learning Theory
- ❑ Linear and Nonlinear Optimization
- ❑ CNN for Visual Recognition
- ❑ NLP with Deep Learning
- ❑ Reinforcement Learning
- ❑ Social Network Analysis

Mathematics Coursework	❑ Real Analysis	❑ Matrix Algebra
	❑ Partial Differential Equations	❑ Combinatorics and Graph Theory
	❑ Linear Algebra Theory	❑ Algebra I (Group Theory)
	❑ Number Theory	❑ Functional Analysis (Audited)

Languages English (Fluent), Bengali (Native), Japanese (Conversational Level).