

KANAV MEHRA

kanav.mehra@uwaterloo.ca | Homepage: kanav-mehra.github.io | LinkedIn: kanav-mehra | Github: kanav-mehra

Summary: Graduate researcher with a strong background in predictive modeling, machine learning, and natural language processing (NLP). Expertise in building fair and transparent AI/ML solutions.

EXPERIENCE

University of Waterloo | *Graduate AI Researcher*

August 2021 - Present

- Developed a fair-ranking algorithm for search engine and recommendation systems that guarantees fairness across multiple protected attributes and beats state-of-the-art on aggregate fairness and relevance benchmarks by 21%.
- Designed fair deliberation and voting methods using synthetically generated election data to enhance user welfare and representation outcomes by 18%, improving minority user inclusion by 65% in collective decision-making.

PwC | *Technology Consultant*

Jul 2019 - Sep 2021

- Led a 3-member global team to implement an application monitoring system with real-time anomaly detection, customized alerting profiles, and automated incident generation. Reduced incident detection time by 50%.
- Managed the development of a threat response system involving two global teams. Investigated log data and implemented a spam prediction model using Splunk Machine Learning Toolkit, reducing threats to users by 73%.
- Spearheaded the process improvement initiative by replacing manual troubleshooting with intelligent root-cause analysis, leading to a 30% improvement in overall process efficiency and a smoother client on-boarding process.

Data Science for Social Good Foundation | *Data Scientist*

Jul 2020 - Nov 2020

- Leveraged large-scale Twitter discourse (500k tweets in 3 languages) to extract narratives and identify unmet needs during natural disasters, aiding relief efforts with actionable insights.
- Designed a pipeline utilizing zero-shot text classification with a large BART model for topic analysis, followed by sentiment analysis, point-of-view extraction, and extractive summarization to flag tweets indicating unmet needs.
- Utilized document embedding model to generate tweet and user embeddings to construct a network followed by community detection and network clustering methods to extract popular users and narratives.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur | *Research Intern*

May 2017 - Jul 2017

- Developed novel unsupervised and supervised ensemble text summarization algorithms using graph processing, community detection, and learning-to-rank methods, beating base methods by 9%.

EDUCATION

University of Waterloo

Master of Mathematics, Computer Science (Thesis)

Advisor: Prof. Kate Larson | Cumulative GPA: 96.33%

Thesis: Fairness and Diversity in Ranking and Voting Systems

Waterloo, Canada

2021 - Present

Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur

Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology

Distinction: First Class Honours

West Bengal, India

2015 - 2019

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, C, SQL, Splunk SPL, PromQL

Technologies: PyTorch, NumPy, Sklearn, Pandas, Git, NetworkX, Elasticsearch, Splunk, Prometheus, Grafana

Key Skills: Machine Learning, Data Analysis, Predictive Modelling, NLP, Model Development and Validation

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Mehra, K., Sreenivas, N., Larson, K. (2023). *Deliberation and Voting in Approval-Based Multi-Winner Elections*. International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) 2023 Main Track [to appear].

Crayton, A., Fonseca, J., **Mehra, K.**, Ng, M., Ross, J., Sandoval-Castañeda, M. & von Gnechten, R. (2020). *Narratives and Needs: Analyzing Experiences of Cyclone Amphan Using Twitter Discourse*. Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning Workshop at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2020.

Dutta, S., Chandra, V., **Mehra, K.**, Das, A., Chakraborty, T. & Ghosh, S. (2018). *Ensemble Algorithms for Microblog Summarization*. IEEE Intelligent Systems, Issue on "Summarization of Things", vol. 33, no. 3, pp. 4-14.

HONORS & AWARDS

Best Paper Award at Citizen-Centric Multiagent Systems Workshop, AAMAS

2023

Pradeep Khare Memorial Scholarship

2023

University of Waterloo Entrance Scholarship

2021

International Master's Award of Excellence

2021

PwC STAR&R Client Appreciation Award

2020

GAABESU Undergraduate Research Award for excellence in research

2019

SMERP Data Challenge - Summarization Track, SMERP Workshop, ECIR 2017 : 1st Position

2017