Kalani Hasanthika Pahalapathirage Dona

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Education:

PhD in Statistics - University of Nebraska-Lincoln – August 2025 (GPA: 3.62)

M. Sc. in Statistics - University of Nebraska-Lincoln - May 2018 (GPA: 3.64)

BSc. (Special) Statistics - University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka - July 2015 (GPA: 3.98)

Work Experience:

Graduate teaching assistant - Department of Statistics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
August 2016 – Present
- Instructing introductory statistics courses (STAT218, and STAT380) to a classroom of 30/45 students each semester for almost five years without direct faculty involvement and mentoring new coming teaching assistants.
- Instructing graduate level statics labs (STAT801, and STAT802) with class sizes of 70 and 45 students. Developed syllabi, prepared and delivered lab materials, and managed the preparation and grading of lab assignments.

Graduate research assistant - Department of Statistics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
August 2019 – August 2020
- Collaborated with two projects focusing on high dimensional data integration in genetics using generalized linear mixture models with different R packages like limma, edgeR and DESeq2.
- Dhatt BK, Abshire N, Paul P, et al. Metabolic Dynamics of Developing Rice Seeds Under High Night-Time Temperature Stress. *Front Plant Sci*. 2019; 10:1443. Published 2019 Nov 8. doi:10.3389/fpls.2019.01443

Associate tutor - Third Space Global (PVT) Ltd., Sri Lanka
August 2015 – July 2016
- Instructed mathematics to 20/30 elementary school students from grades 2 to 6 individually and mentored beginner level instructors.

Intern - Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka
January 2014 – April 2014
- Completed two projects using R to predict rainfall patterns in Sri Lanka and gave an oral presentation titled "Climate zonation of Sri Lanka using R" at the International Conference on Multidisciplinary Approaches (ICMA) in 2014.

Technical Skills:

Statistical skills: Questionnaire design, Statistical consultancy, Regression Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Multivariate Statistics, Operations Research, Design of Experiments, Stochastic Processes, Actuarial Statistics, Bayesian Inference, Spatial Statistics, High dimensional data integration and prediction

Programming skills: Latex and Lyx typing tools, R, SAS, Python, MINITAB, and MATLAB.