

Karan Vombatkere

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EDUCATION

Boston University

Ph.D. Computer Science

- *Research Interests: Data Mining, Computational Social Science, (GPA: 3.82)*

Boston, MA

Aug 2021 - present

University of Rochester

M.S. Data Science

- *Computational & Statistical Methods, (GPA: 3.83)*

Rochester, NY

May 2018

B.S. Electrical & Computer Engineering

May 2017

B.A. Physics

- *Highest Distinction, Magna Cum Laude, (GPA: 3.92)*

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Boston University, Boston, MA

PhD Researcher

Aug 2021 - present

Advisor: Dr. Evimaria Terzi

Approximation algorithms for team formation

- Design efficient approximation methods for the team formation problem, with provable guarantees.

Max Planck Institute-SWS, Saarbrücken, Germany

Research Intern

May 2022 - Aug 2022

Advisor: Dr. Krishna Gummadi

Auditing zero-query recommender systems

- Investigate the effectiveness of zero-query content recommendations by analyzing TikTok user timelines.

IBM, Cambridge, MA

Data Scientist

Sep 2018 - Jun 2021

Supervisor: Dr. Mark Freeman

Optimizing bid pricing using ML

- Developed a novel method for bid price optimization in Python for a B2B competitive pricing setting. Implemented a custom gradient ascent algorithm to solve the constrained revenue maximization, and integrated SQL functionality into the train-test pipeline to improve run time by over 100%.
- Built a REST API framework to handle real-time pricing requests in under 2 seconds. Successfully released pricing engine as a microservice for *Verizon Communications*.

Pre-authorization for surgical procedures

- Developed a rules engine in Python and extracted contextual language features from patient clinical data. Deployed natural language model framework on AWS for *CVS Health*.

Data engineering for dashboards

- Wrote SparkSQL code for large datasets, to enhance dashboard capabilities for *Apple Media Products*.

Brand Networks, Rochester, NY

Master's Capstone Practicum

Jan 2018 - May 2018

Mentor: Dr. Ajay Anand

- Researched Facebook ad-campaign success drivers and identified optimal campaign configurations using SQL scripts. Developed classification models in Python to predict campaign-optimizing key performance indicators and presented a metric-driven, ad-campaign configuration process to the company.

Audio Information Research Lab, University of Rochester

Research Fellow (Sponsored by Xerox)

May 2016 - Aug 2016

Mentor: Prof. Zhiyao Duan

- Developed an automatic lyric display system and GUI for live music performances in Java. Used a real-time implementation of the dynamic time warping algorithm to align annotated and live temporal sequences, based on their harmonic similarity.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Rochester Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

- ECE 231: Applied Electromagnetism, *Head Teaching Assistant*
- ECE 111: Analysis & Design of Electrical Circuits, *Teaching Assistant*
- ECE 112: Logic Circuit Design, *Teaching Assistant*

Fall 2016, Fall 2017

Fall 2015

Spring 2018

University of Rochester Department of Mathematics

- MTH 161: Differential Calculus, *Teaching Assistant*
- MTH 162: Integral Calculus, Series & Sequences, *Teaching Assistant*

Fall 2014 - Fall 2015

Spring 2016 - Spring 2017

University of Rochester Department of Physics & Astronomy

- PHY 113: Mechanics, *Teaching Assistant*
- PHY 122: Electricity & Magnetism, *Lab Teaching Assistant*
- AST 105, AST 106: Introductory Astronomy, *Teaching Assistant*


Fall 2017, Spring 2018


Fall 2016, Spring 2017


Fall 2014, Spring 2015

PAPERS

Vombatkere, Terzi. (2022, October). **Balancing task coverage and expert workload in team formation.** In Proceedings of the 2023 SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM). 

Kritharakis, Luo, Unnikrishnan & Vombatkere. (2022, June). **Detecting trading trends in streaming financial data using Apache Flink.** In Proceedings of the 16th ACM International Conference on Distributed and Event-Based Systems (pp. 145-150). 

Vombatkere, Lyu, & Luo. (2021, July). **How political is the spread of COVID-19 in the United States?.** In International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral-Cultural Modeling and Prediction and Behavior Representation in Modeling and Simulation (pp. 13-22). Springer, Cham. 

Vombatkere, Li, & Duan. (2017, January) **Automatic Lyrics Display System for Live Music Performances.** In IEEE Signal Processing Magazine. 

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Coresets for Clustering & Streaming  2021

Python implementation of Coreset algorithms for clustering and streaming.

Settlers of Catan AI Framework  2020

Catan boardgame built in Python with AI framework.

Ultimate TicTacToe AI  2018

Ultimate Tic Tac Toe framework (9 3x3 boards) built in Java implementing adversarial search using MiniMax with Alpha-Beta pruning. Developed a heuristic AI, which beat a control player in 99/100 games.

WWII Enigma Simulator  2017


A complete implementation of the Enigma machine in Python. Object-oriented framework with full encryption and decryption functionality. Implemented known-plaintext attack methodology to crack the Enigma cipher.

Tennis Player Performance Prediction  2017

Predicted professional tennis player performance with 80% accuracy using aggregated statistical features from historical match data, and classification models in Python.

Augmented Audio Reality Binaural Headphones  2017

Designed and built binaural headphones with real-time recording and filtering capability and < 12 ms latency.

Non-linear Dynamics of Damped & Driven Pendulum  2016

Researched the non-linear dynamics of the damped and driven pendulum. Developed a theoretical framework and computationally solved the problem using Mathematica to find regions of chaotic and non-chaotic motion.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Rochester Merit Scholarships [*Genesee Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship*]

Awarded 100% scholarship for undergraduate tenure, and 75% scholarship for MS degree.

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society [*National Tau Beta Pi Scholarship*]

Awarded National Tau Beta Pi Scholarship for 2016-17 academic year.

Citation for Achievement in College Leadership

Awarded for demonstrating outstanding undergraduate teaching and research commitment.

Donald M. Barnard Engineering Prize

Awarded annually to one senior for high personal achievement in Electrical & Computer Engineering.

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Proficient: Python, SQL, Java, L^AT_EX, git

Familiar: Linux, MATLAB, C, TensorFlow

EXTRACURRICULARS [UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER]

Club Tennis Team, Competed at USTA TOC National Championships, Florida, 2018 2013 - 2018

Men's Rowing Team, Competed as a rower in coxed fours and eights 2014 - 2015

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Housing Manager, 2016 2015 - 2017