

Makkunda Sharma

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🎓 Google Scholar

EDUCATION

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

2015 - 2020

Dual Degree (B.Tech + M.Tech) in Computer Science and Engineering

WORK EXPERIENCE

Wadhvani AI

August, 2020 - Present

Research Fellow / Associate ML Scientist

Advisors: Jigar Doshi & Jerome White

Big Data Experience Lab, Adobe Research

May - July, 2018

Research Intern

Advisor: Vishwa Vinay

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Publications

* - equal contribution

2. **Impact of Data-Splits on Generalization: Identifying COVID-19 from Cough and Context**

Makkunda Sharma*, Nikhil Shenoy*, Jigar Doshi*, Piyush Bagad, Aman Dalmia et al.

AI for Public Health Workshop @ *ICLR*, 2021

Workshop on Machine Learning for Preventing and Combating Pandemics @ *ICLR*, 2021

1. **Using Image Captions and Multitask Learning for Recommending Query Reformulations**

Gaurav Verma, Vishwa Vinay, Sahil Bansal*, Shashank Oberoi*, Makkunda Sharma* and Prakhar Gupta

European Conference on Information Retrieval (*ECIR*), 2020

Preprints

* - equal contribution

1. **On monitoring development using high resolution satellite images**

Potnuru Kishen Suraj, Ankesh Gupta*, Makkunda Sharma*, Sourabh Bikash Paul and Subhashis Banerjee

arXiv:1712.02282, 2018

RESEARCH PROJECTS

A Pest Management Solution using Object Detection and Image Classification

June 2021 - Present

Advisors: Jigar Doshi & Jerome White, Wadhvani AI

- Trained the deep learning model deployed on an app used by 10,000 cotton farmers for early pest detection
- The model has 2 components - a classification component which classifies if input image is of pest trap, and a counting component which detects and counts pests in the image
- Trained a joint classification and detection model with common backbone which improved absolute count error relative to two independent models

Cough Against Covid: Identifying Covid from Cough and Context

Aug 2020 - May 2021

Advisor: Jigar Doshi, Wadhvani AI

- We built a model to distinguish people with covid from non-covid using data available on a phone - recorded cough sounds and context (symptoms and meta-data such as age and gender)
- We used separate classifiers for the audio and the context and then ensembled their predictions for the final decision
- Our audio classifier was a CNN applied to the melspectrogram representation of the cough sound, and for the contextual data we used TabNet
- There were many works in covid classification from cough but we saw none of them reported performance across clinically relevant data splits
- To analyze expected deployment performance, we split the development and test sets across time and across sites, while the model generalized in both cases, performance significantly varied and both were worse than the random split seen in current literature

Temporal Census Prediction from Satellite Images

January 2020 - July 2020

Advisors: Prof. Subhashis Banerjee & Prof. SB Paul, IIT Delhi

- We extended our previous model to do census prediction across time

- Using a model trained on 2001 images and 2001 census , we predict the 2011 census on 2011 images
- To improve prediction accuracy, we learnt a transfer function from 2001 census to 2011 census and applied on top of previous predictions
- We also extend our transfer learning experiments over time, where the transfer learning model trained for NFHS-4 is applied on images from 2019 to predict NFHS-5

Household Economic Status From Photos

August 2019 - January 2020

Advisors: Prof. Chetan Arora & Prof. Nandana Sengupta, IIT Delhi

- We predicted the household income and assets present using 7 representative images per household
- We built a CNN based architecture that combined information from all images and did regression

Open IE-Based Science question answering

Aug 2018 - May 2019

Advisor: Prof. Mausam, IIT Delhi

- The task is to answer multiple choice science questions taking into account external knowledge.
- Built a memory network based architecture to answer multiple choice science questions using external knowledge
- The reasoning module first used LSTMs for sentence representation and in the memory network
- Later we used BERT for generating the representations which were used to score the choices

Query Reformulations for Image Search using Session Context

May 2018 - July 2018

Advisor: Vishwa Vinay, Big Data Experience Lab, Adobe Research

- We built a model to enhance the query recommendation experience for a commercial image search engine
- We used a sequence-to-sequence model that capture session context, and a multitask architecture that simultaneously optimizes the ranking of results
- The learning for reformulation was done using captions of clicked images as the target and a pairwise loss for the secondary ranking task

Monitoring development using high resolution satellite images

March 2017 - May 2018

Advisors: Prof. Subhashis Banerjee & Prof. SB Paul, IIT Delhi

- Developed a machine learning tool for prediction of development and socio economic indicators from high resolution day time satellite imagery using data from the 2011 census and NFHS-4
- We used a deep convolutional neural network to build a model for regression of asset indicators from satellite images
- We also used the asset prediction model for accurate transfer learning of other socio-economic and health indicators which are not intuitively related to observable features in satellite images

Studying biological evolution using digital signal processing

April 2016 - December 2016

Advisor: Prof. Kushal Shah, IIT Delhi

- Studied & analyzed genomes based on 3 base periodicity in the fourier transform of the genome sequence.
- Studied various changes in the fourier transform after making perturbations to the genome
- Used Genetic Algorithms to generate sequences with similar properties as known genomes
- Major challenges included taking a fast fourier transform of a very large signal and controlling the probabilistic factors during the perturbations
- This project got the **Design & Innovation Summer Award** from IIT Delhi

SELECTED COURSE PROJECTS

Processor for deep learning

Aug 2019 - November 2019

Prof. SR Sarangi

COP 820 : Processor Design Lab - IIT Delhi

- Built a CNN processor in Verilog
- Used systolic arrays for convolution to speed up computation

Scene Understanding using natural language cues

Feb 2018 - April 2018

Prof. Mausam

COL 772 : Natural Language Processing - IIT Delhi

- Built a system for generating a paragraph description of a given image using a sequence to sequence model
- Encoder built a scene graph of the input image and the decoder generated the paragraph using a Hierarchical LSTM network taking the scene graph as the input

3D Human Pose Estimation with a Single RGB Camera

Sep 2017 - Nov 2017

Prof. S Banerjee

COL 780 : Computer Vision - IIT Delhi

- Implemented the paper "VNect: Real-time 3D Human Pose Estimation with a Single RGB Camera" by Mehta et al., SIGGRAPH 2017
- The implementation included CNN pose regression followed by temporal filtering and kinematic skeleton fitting

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

- Secured **21st position** at **ACM-ICPC Asia Regional** at IIT Kharagpur 2020
- Secured **20th position** at **ACM-ICPC Asia Regional** at IIT Kharagpur 2018
- Won **IITD Semester Merit Award** in **5 semesters** given to **top 7%** of all the students 2015,2016,2017
- Awarded the **Design & Innovation Summer Award(DISA)** by IIT Delhi 2016
- Got a **department change** to computer science after end of first year, given to **8 in batch of 800** 2016
- **All India Rank 309** in JEE Advanced (IIT-JEE) 2015 among 150,000 candidates 2015
- **All India Rank 260** in JEE Mains (IIT-JEE) 2015 among 1.4 million candidates 2015
- **National Top 300** in Indian National Physics Olympiad(**InPhO**) 2015
- **National Top 200** in Indian National Olympiad in Informatics(**INOI**) 2014
- Awarded **KVPY Fellowship** from Government of India 2014
- **Rank 8** in Regional mathematics olympiad (**RMO**) in Delhi 2013
- Awarded **NTSE Scholarship** from Government of India. **Rank 1** in Delhi 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant at IIT Delhi in the following courses :

- **MTL 100 : Multivariable Calculus** - Prof. K. Sreenadh Semester II 2017-18
 - Took a weekly tutorial/recitation class for problem solving for 40 students
 - Graded quizzes and exams
- **COL 202 : Discrete Mathematics** - Prof. Ragesh Jaiswal Semester I 2018-19
 - Took a weekly tutorial/recitation class for problem solving for 30 students
 - Graded quizzes and exams - wrote model solutions for the assigned questions
- **COL 772 : Natural Language Processing** - Prof. Mausam Semester II 2018-19
 - Helped design an assignment, built evaluation mechanism, and evaluated the assignment
 - Was a deep learning assignment so wrote scripts for student assignments to be trained and evaluated under pre-defined constraints on university cluster with correct permissions
 - Graded exams - wrote model solutions for the assigned questions
- **COL 215 : Digital Hardware Design** - Prof. Anshul Kumar Semester I 2019-20
 - Took a weekly lab session for 30 students, graded them on the labs and took student vivas
 - Graded quizzes and exams
- **COL 331 : Operating Systems** - Prof. Sorav Bansal Semester II 2019-20
 - Evaluated and graded student assignments
 - Graded homeworks and exams - set up gradescope for one of the homeworks

MENTORSHIP

- **Research, Wadhwani AI**
 - Sachin Denisetty(IIT Hyderabad) - Summer Research Intern (w\ Jigar Doshi & Jerome White) 2021
 - Chirag Mohapatra(IIT Delhi) - Summer Research Intern (w\ Jigar Doshi & Jerome White) 2021
- **Student Mentorship Program, IIT Delhi** : Guided 6 freshmen to ensure smooth transition into college life and was the first point of contact for any of their academic or social issues 2017-19