

# RAMARAVIND KOMMIYA MOTHILAL

<https://github.com/raam93> | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ramaravindkm/>

[raam.arvind93@gmail.com](mailto:raam.arvind93@gmail.com) | +91 7598672260

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## EDUCATION

**Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium**

**Sep 2016 - Feb 2018**

***Master of Artificial Intelligence***

- **Percentage:** 76.81% (Magna Cum Laude)
- **Thesis:** Statistical Modeling of Students' Performance in an Open-Admission Bachelor Program in Flanders - The need to discriminate between explanatory and predictive modeling

**National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli, India**

**Jul 2011 - May 2015**

***Bachelor of Technology in Instrumentation and Control Engineering***

- **CGPA:** 8.1/10 (First Class)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Microsoft Research Lab, Bangalore, India**

**Jan 2019 - current**

***AI Centre Fellow (Mentor: Dr. Joyjeet Pal and Dr. Amit Sharma)***

- Working on a comprehensive report on the data-driven analysis of Indian politicians' engagement with the public, which can be used by journalists and political analysts to inform political conversations on social media
- Developing a framework to characterize and understand different patterns of language use in Indian political space and analyze why specific patterns are getting more attention over others.
- Project Learn2Earn: designed an optimal incentive structure for public awareness campaigns that are using peer-to-peer referral programs to reach maximum people at a reduced cost.

**Microsoft Research Lab, Bangalore, India**

**Jul 2018 - Dec 2018**

***Research Intern, Technology for Emerging Markets group (Mentor: Dr. Amit Sharma)***

- Developed a framework to explain individual predictions through a diverse set of counterfactual reasonings and analyzed their impact on different social datasets

**Professor Tinne De Laet, KU Leuven, Belgium**

**Jan 2017 - Jan 2018**

***Master Thesis Student***

- Worked at the intersection of Educational Psychology and Data Science to address the high student dropout rates in an open-admission bachelor program at KU Leuven
- Discussed how related works have succumbed to the practice of indiscriminate between two distinct statistical modeling techniques leading to incorrect practical conclusions and expounded how appreciating these differences can give rise to three different modeling approaches to solve the problem at hand
- Characterized the relationships between students' performance, prior academic knowledge, affective strategies, goal-related strategies, effort level, and preference for time pressure.

**Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India**

**May 2014 - Jul 2014**

***Undergraduate Research Intern, Computational Intelligence Lab (Mentor: Dr. S.N. Omkar)***

- Proposed a new tracking algorithm with CBWH mean-shift as the base, employing RBF neural network to handle occlusion and log-likelihood function to adapt scale changes of the object

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## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Chennai, India

Jul 2015 - Jul 2016

### Analyst

- Worked with the Data Archival Team which is responsible for storing, analyzing, and visualizing client's structured and unstructured data maintained by RBS

## PUBLICATIONS

- Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal, Amit Sharma, Chenhao Tan (2020), "**Explaining Machine Learning Classifiers through Diverse Counterfactual Explanations**", In Proceedings of the Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency - ACM FAT. **(Accepted)**
- Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal, Faisal Lalani & Joyojeet Pal. (2020), "**Voting with the stars: Twitter engagement of public figures in Indi's 2019 Elections**", In Conference Companion Publication of the 2020 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. ACM. **(In Review)**
- Anmol Panda, Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal, & Joyojeet Pal. (2020), "**Topical focus of political campaigns and its impact: Findings from politicians' hashtag usage during the 2019 Indian elections**", In Conference Companion Publication of the 2020 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. ACM. **(In Review)**
- Faisal Lalani, Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal, & Joyojeet Pal. (2019, November), "**The Appeal of Influencers to the Social Media Outreach of Indian Politicians**", In Conference Companion Publication of the 2019 on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (pp. 267-271). ACM.
- Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal, Devansh Mehta, Alok Sharma, William Thies, Amit Sharma "**Learnings from an ongoing deployment of an IVR-based platform for voter awareness**", In Proceedings of the Conference on Computing & Sustainable Societies (pp. 74-85). ACM.
- Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal, Amulya Yadav, Amit Sharma (2019, July), "**Optimizing peer referrals for public awareness using contextual bandits**", In Proceedings of the Conference on Computing & Sustainable Societies (pp. 74-85). ACM.
- Ramaravind Kommiya Mothilal, Tinne De Laet, Maarten Pinxten, Tom Broos, "**Predicting First-year Engineering Students Success: from Traditional Statistics to Machine learning**", Proceedings of the 46th SEFI conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, September 2018 (pp.1-8)
- Ramaravind K M, Shravan T R, Omkar S N, "**Scale Adaptive Object Tracker with Occlusion Handling**", International Journal of Image, Graphics and Signal Processing (IJIGSP), Vol.8, No.1, pp.27-35, 2016. DOI: 10.5815/ijigsp.2016.01.03

## VERIFIED CERTIFICATIONS

Data Analysis for Social Scientists - Grade: 91%

Feb 2018 - Jun 2018

Massachusetts Institute of Technology on edX, Inc. (MOOC platform)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** C/C++, Java, Python, R, MATLAB, Scala, Prolog
- **Big Data Tools:** Hadoop, Spark