Sabbir Ahmed

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LinkedIn | GitHub | Google Scholar

Research Interests

Machine Learning | Deep Learning | Computer Vision | AI Security | Natural Language Processing

Education

State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton — Binghamton, New york
PhD in Computer Science — Jan 2023–Present
CGPA: 4.0/4.0

University of California Riverside (UCR) — Riverside, California
MS in Electrical Engineering — Sep 2021–Dec 2022
CGPA: 3.96/4.0

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) — Dhaka, Bangladesh
B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering — Feb 2015–Apr 2019
Major: Communication and Signal Processing

Work Experience

SUNY Binghamton — Binghamton, New York
Graduate Research Assistant, ML Security Lab — Jan 2023–Current

- Investigated the vulnerability of Source-Free Domain Adaptation against backdoor attacks and proposed a robust framework that effectively minimizes security threats while ensuring successful domain adaptation.
- Developed Deep-WRA (new attack algorithm) to exploit DNN vulnerabilities, validated its effectiveness, and assessed countermeasures and implications, offering insights into how to better secure DNNs against such vulnerabilities.

University of California Riverside — Riverside, California
Graduate Research Assistant, Nozari Lab — Sep 2021–Dec 2022

- Investigated and proved the linearity of aggregate dynamics in both Biological and Artificial Neural Networks.

REVE Systems — Dhaka, Bangladesh
Machine Learning Engineer — Feb 2020–Aug 2021

- Worked in the AI team to develop the intelligence behind Bengali Spell and Grammar Checker software, "Shothik" (link).
- Developed algorithms for accurate detection and correction of grammatical and spelling errors.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology — Dhaka, Bangladesh
Research Assistant, DSP Research Lab — May 2019 –Jan 2020

- Built a framework for enhancing Traffic Sign Detection in adverse weather conditions.
- Explored rapid and accurate COVID-19 detection techniques from Chest Radiography using Deep Learning.

Research Experience

Improving Security of Source-Free Domain Adaptation (SFDA) — Jan 2023–Current
Supervisor: Dr. Adnan Siraj Rakin

- Addressed security issues in SFDA against malicious source domain owners injecting backdoor in source model.
- Developed a secure SFDA scheme employing model compression, knowledge transfer, and a spectral-norm-based loss penalty to counteract backdoor attacks.

New Algorithm for Attacking DNNs Jan 2023–Current

Supervisor: Dr. Adnan Siraj Rakin

- Proposed Deep-WRA, a novel weight replacement attack exploiting vulnerabilities in deep neural networks through bit-flip manipulation in memory addresses.
- Demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of the attack against various DNN architectures, highlighting potential security concerns.
- Evaluated countermeasures and implications, offering insights into how to better secure DNNs against such vulnerabilities.

Linearizing Effect of Spatio-Temporal Averaging in Neural Networks Sep 2021–Dec 2022

Supervisor: Dr. Erfan Nozari

- Validated the linearity of gradient descent dynamics in ANNs with nonlinear activations.
- Proved the linearity of aggregate activity in both static and dynamic (recurrent) neural networks.

Traffic Sign Detection & Recognition in Adverse Weather Conditions May 2019–Jan 2020

Supervisor: Dr. Md. Kamrul Hasan

- Tackled performance decline of TSDR under real-world challenging weather conditions (CCs).
- Designed a modular framework achieving improved precision and recall for TSDR in CCs.

Non-invasive Blood Glucose Monitoring System Nov 2018–Apr 2019

Supervisor: Dr. Celia Shahnaz

- Proposed a wearable system using sensors like PPG, GSR, and a temperature sensor for non-invasive blood glucose estimation.
- Achieved comparable results to traditional glucometers, offering a more convenient monitoring alternative.

Publications

1. **Sabbir Ahmed**, Abdullah Al Arafat, Mamshad Nayeem Rizvee, Rahim Hossain, Zishan Guo, Adnan Siraj Rakin, "SSDA: Secure Source-Free Domain Adaptation", 2023 International Conference of Computer Vision (ICCV). (accepted, yet to appear)

2. **Sabbir Ahmed**, Ranyang Zhou, Shaahin Angizi, Adnan Siraj Rakin,"Deep-WRA: Exploiting the Security of Deep Neural Networks using Novel Weight Replacement Attack via Bit-Flip in Memory Address", 45th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP). (submitted)

3. Ranyang Zhou, **Sabbir Ahmed**, Adnan Siraj Rakin, Shaahin Angizi, "DNN-Defender: An in-DRAM Deep Neural Network Defense Mechanism for Adversarial Weight Attack", Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASP-DAC). (submitted)

4. **Sabbir Ahmed**, Erfan Nozari, "On the Linearizing Effect of Spatial Averaging in Large-Scale Populations of Homogeneous Nonlinear Systems", Published in: 2022 IEEE 61st Conference on Decision and Control (CDC). (Nominated for best paper award) (Paper)

5. **Sabbir Ahmed**, Erfan Nozari, "On the Linearizing Effect of Temporal Averaging in Nonlinear Dynamical Systems", Published in: 2023 American Control Conference (ACC). (Recommended for best paper award by reviewer) (Paper)

6. **Sabbir Ahmed**, Uday Kamal, Md. Kamrul Hasan, "DFR-TSD: A Deep Learning Based Framework for Robust Traffic Sign Detection Under Challenging Weather Conditions", IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems. (Paper)

7. Tasfin Mahmud, Mehedi Hossen Limon, **Sabbir Ahmed**, Mohammad Zunaed Rafi, Borhan Ahamed, Shadman Shahriar Nitol, Md. Yeasin Mia, Rafat Emtiaz Choudhury, Adnan Sakib, Arik Subhana, Celia Shahnaz, "Non-invasive Blood Glucose Estimation Using Multi-sensor Based Portable and Wearable System", Published in: 2019 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC). (Paper)

8. **Sabbir Ahmed**, Moi Hoon Yap, Maxine Tan, and Md. Kamrul Hasan, "Reconet: Multi-level preprocessing of chest x-rays for covid-19 detection using convolutional neural networks", medRxiv. (Paper)

Significant Projects

- **Signed Adversarial Attacks on Deep Networks**:
  - Conducted a comprehensive study on sign-based adversarial attacks.
  - Evaluated the impact and robustness of deep networks against FGSM, I-FGSM, and MI-FGSM attacks. (details)
- **Atari Game (Ms. Pac-Man) Enhancement**:
  - Focused on enhancing the performance of Reinforcement Learning (RL) agents in Ms. Pac-Man gameplay.
  - Incorporated advanced modifications over baseline DDQN and Dueling DDQN algorithms. (details)
- **Camera Model Identification**:
  - Integrated Signal Processing techniques with Deep Learning models.
  - Designed an effective solution for detecting and identifying source camera models from images, achieving high accuracy rates. (details)
- **Image Captioning**:
  - Constructed an end-to-end system using a cascading architecture of CNNs and LSTMs.
  - Aimed to generate relevant and high-quality English captions for given images. (details)
- **CNC Plotter with GAN**:
  - Employed Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN) to produce facial attribute-based sketches.
  - Resulting sketches were used as inputs for the CNC plotter, showcasing GAN's potential in creative applications. (details) [poster]
- **Voice-Controlled Robot**:
  - Designed a robot capable of understanding and executing voice commands.
  - Employed advanced speech recognition algorithms to process and interpret commands. (details)
- **Line Following Bot**:
  - Conceptualized and developed a robot with line-following capabilities.
  - Utilized Digital Logic Design principles to ensure precise tracking and navigation along lines. (details)

Skills

- **Programming Languages:** Python, MATLAB, C, C++, Intel-8086 Assembly
- **Simulation & Design Tools:** PSpice, Simulink, AutoCAD, Verilog
- **Machine Learning Libraries:** PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Scikit-Learn

Relevant Graduate Course-works

Machine Learning | Deep Learning | Reinforcement Learning | Design and Analysis of Algorithm

Awards and Honors

- **Clog Loss: Advance Alzheimer's Research with Stall Catchers**, Team leader of team *"acoustic_user"* that won 6th place among 922 teams from the whole world. (link)
- **Bengali Handwritten Digit Recognition Competition**, Won $5th$ position among 57 teams from the whole country. (link)
- **Kaggle APTOS 2019 Blindness Detection**, Team leader of team *"cholo model re shikhai"* that won 38th place among $2,943$ teams from the whole world. (link)
- **Kaggle Human Protein Atlas Image Classification**, Member of team *"The Unseens"* that won $98th$ place among $2,169$ teams from the whole world. (link)
- **IEEE Signal Processing Cup 2019**, Member of team *"Maverick"* that won $6th$ place among 24 teams from the whole world. (certificate)
- **Received travel grant award** for attending the *ICCV 2023* conference to be held in Paris.