Shardul Sapkota

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Education

Sep 2023–present **Stanford University**, USA
PhD in Computer Science
Rotation Advisor: Scott Delp (Fall 2023)

May 2020 **Yale-NUS College**, Singapore GPA: 4.81/5.00
B.S. (Hons.) in Mathematical, Computational and Statistical Sciences, *Magna Cum Laude*
Software Engineering Tutor (2019)
Summer Coursework in Engineering, **Yale University**, USA (2017)

Dec 2018 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, USA GPA: 5.00/5.00
Coursework in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and MIT Media Lab (Study Abroad Program)

Research Experience

Sep 2019–Aug 2020 **NUS-HCI Lab**, National University of Singapore, Singapore
PI: Shengdong Zhao

- Developed apps for smart glasses; wrote a paper as a co-first author on quantifying the intrusiveness of four wearable input techniques for smart glasses. *(Sapkota et al., 2021)*
- Designed experiments with a novel psychophysics attention task; applied signal processing (non-linear metrics and frequency analysis) on EEG, skin conductance, and heart rate data. *(Undergraduate thesis; Zhang et al., 2021)*
- Designed and implemented machine learning models to classify in real time whether or not people are "in the zone", with up to 81% accuracy using physiological data. *(Undergraduate thesis; Zhang et al., 2021)*

May–Aug 2019 **Augmented Human Lab,** University of Auckland, New Zealand
PI: Suranga Nanayakkara

- Developed a smartphone based conversational agent that provides context-aware memory training for prospective memory lapses using heart rate and skin conductance signals; wrote manuscript draft. *(Chan et al., 2020)*
- Built a cognitive load detection tool using an eye-tracker and CNN classifier; designed experiments; wrote manuscript draft. *(Kaluarachchi et al., 2021)*
- Programmed a display driver for an OLED display in a smart watch designed for those with hearing impairments.

Sep–Dec 2018 **Fluid Interfaces Group**, MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, USA
PI: Pattie Maes

- Conducted experiments on using jaw-teeth gestures for hands-free interactions with mobile systems; performed statistical analyses; wrote manuscript draft. *(Vega et al., 2019)*
- Built a mobile gesture recognition tool; developed machine learning models to classify jaw-teeth gestures with average accuracy rate of 96% using accelerometer and gyroscope data. *(Vega et al., 2019)*

Technical Skills

Proficient in **Python**, **Golang,** and **LaTeX**. Experience in **Java**, **Swift**, **JavaScript**, **C**, **HTML**, **CSS**, **MATLAB**, **R**, and **OCaml**.

Work Experience

Aug 2020–Aug 2023 **Shopee (SEA Group),** Singapore
Senior Machine Learning Engineer, *Recommendation and Ads* (Jan 2023-present)
Machine Learning Engineer, *Recommendation* (Aug 2020-Dec 2022)

- Implement deep sequential models and conduct feature engineering for e-commerce product ranking to provide personalized recommendations and improve user conversion rate.
- Develop data pipeline and implement collaborative filtering and item embedding-based models to improve real-time recommendation quality.

Publications

Janaka, N. N. P. K., Zhao, S., and **Sapkota, S**., 2023. Can Icons Outperform Text? Understanding the Role of Pictograms in OHMD Notifications. ***In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems,*** pp. 1-23.

Sapkota, S.*, Ram, A.* and Zhao, S., 2021. Ubiquitous Interactions for Heads-Up Computing: Understanding Users' Preferences for Subtle Interaction Techniques in Everyday Settings. ***23rd International Conference on Mobile Human-Computer Interaction (MobileHCI'21),*** pp.1-15.

Kaluarachchi, T.I., **Sapkota, S.**, Taradel, J., Thevenon, M.A., Matthies, D.J.C. and Nanayakkara, S., 2021. EyeKnowYou: Detecting Increased Cognitive Load and Actual Screen Time using a DIY Head-Mounted Webcam. ***Extended Abstracts of the 23rd International Conference on Mobile Human-Computer Interaction (MobileHCI'21),*** pp.1-8.

Zhang, S.*, Yan, Z.*, **Sapkota, S.**, Zhao, S. and Ooi, W.T., 2021. Moment-to-Moment Continuous Attention Fluctuation Monitoring through Consumer-Grade EEG Device. ***Sensors*****,** ***21***(10), pp.3419.

Chan, S.W., **Sapkota, S.**, Mathews, R., Zhang, H. and Nanayakkara, S., 2020. Prompto: Investigating Receptivity to Prompts Based on Cognitive Load from Memory Training Conversational Agent. ***Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies, 4***(4), pp.1-23.

Vega Gálvez, T., **Sapkota, S.**, Dancu, A. and Maes, P., 2019. Byte.it: discreet teeth gestures for mobile device interaction. ***Extended Abstracts of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems,*** pp. 1-6.

** Denotes equal contribution.*

Projects

2019 **DiaryRack:** Applied constrained optimization with integer programming to automate meeting scheduling in calendars as part of an independent research project.

2018 **Yale-NUS Laundry Viewer:** Led a team of 3 students to design, prototype, and develop a platform providing real-time monitoring of laundry machine status using LED sensors.

2018 **StandRight**: Programmed force sensitive resistors and a servo motor attached to a shoe to tighten shoelaces during unequal weight distribution for those who have leg injuries.

Honors and Awards

2020 Singapore-HCI Paperthon *Most Promising Paper* (for Sapkota et al.)
2019 Yale-NUS Student-Initiated Summer Research Fund (S$5750)
2018 JY Pillay Global-Asia Programme Summer Internship Award (S$1187)
2016 Outstanding Cambridge Learner: Top in the world in Mathematics, AS Level.