

Research Interest For the past 9 years, I have been conducting *problem-driven* research, exploiting problem structure for a given domain, to develop novel solutions for real-world tasks, and been making significant contributions to the field of *artificial intelligence*, published for top-tier conferences in *computer science*.

MACHINE LEARNING (low resource, robustness, interpretative, explainable, nearly unsupervised, information theory, non-parametric, sparse modeling, feature selection, nonstationary kernels for explicit attention, convolution kernels, recurrent neural networks, randomized algorithms).

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING (dialogue modeling, biomedical relation extraction, text clustering/classification, document analysis, text search).

DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS (continual learning, optimization, representation learning).

COMPUTATIONAL PSYCHIATRY (early diagnosis, therapeutic dialogues, psychosis, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic pain, major depression, drug addiction, anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis).

NEUROSCIENCE (auto-encoding, neurogenesis, life-long continual learning).

ROBOTICS (planning for information gathering, spatio-temporal dynamics, reinforcement learning, non-stationary phenomena).

NETWORK SCIENCE (generative models, phase transition, link prediction).

Education **University of Southern California (USC)** Aug 2013 -Aug 2019
 PhD in Computer Science (Machine Learning) Advisor: Aram Galstyan
Title: “Hashcode Representations of Natural Language for Relation Extraction”
Committee: Aram Galstyan (chair), Kevin Knight, Irina Rish, Greg Ver Steeg, Roger Ghanem (external).

Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology July 2005 - July 2009
 Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) in Computer Science

Present Employment **Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai** Aug 2019 - till date
 Postdoctoral Fellow Advisor: Cheryl Corcoran
 As a short stint, I am building machine learning (NLP) models, which are interpretable, explainable, privacy-safe, data-efficient, for a real world impact in the field of computational psychiatry.

Employment History 05/13 - 08/19 Graduate Research Assistant, University of Southern California
 01/11 - 05/13 Research Assistant, IIIT Delhi
 06/10 - 11/11 Software Engineer & Co-founder, Snowpal Software Services

**Selected
Publications****Conference Proceedings**

Modeling Dialogues with Hashcode Representations. Sahil Garg*, Irina Rish, Guillermo Cecchi, Palash Goyal, Sarik Ghazarian, Shuyang Gao, Greg Ver Steeg, Aram Galstyan. AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI-20**).

Nearly-Unsupervised Hashcode Representations for Relation Extraction. Sahil Garg*, Aram Galstyan, Greg Ver Steeg, Guillermo Cecchi. Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP-19**).

Kernelized Hashcode Representations for Relation Extraction. Sahil Garg*, Aram Galstyan, Irina Rish, Guillermo Cecchi, Shuyang Gao. AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI-19**).

Neurogenesis-Inspired Dictionary Learning: Online Model Adaption in a Changing World. Sahil Garg*, Irina Rish, Guillermo Cecchi, Aurelie Lozano. International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**IJCAI-17**).

Extracting Biomolecular Interactions Using Semantic Parsing of Biomedical Text. Sahil Garg*, Aram Galstyan, Ulf Hermjakob, Daniel Marcu. AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI-16**).

Persistent Monitoring of Stochastic Spatio-temporal Phenomena with a Small Team of Robots. Sahil Garg*, Nora Ayanian. Robotics: Science and Systems (**RSS-14**).

Learning Nonstationary Space-Time Models for Environmental Monitoring. Sahil Garg*, Amarjeet Singh, Fabio Ramos. AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI-12**).

Workshop Proceedings

Therapeutic Dialogue Modeling via Locality Sensitive Hashing. Sahil Garg*, Guillermo Cecchi, Irina Rish, Shuyang Gao, Greg Ver Steeg, Palash Goyal, Aram Galstyan. Presented in *ICML 2018 Workshop, AI and Computational Psychology: Theories, Algorithms and Applications* (CompPsy 2018).

Dialogue Modeling via Hashing Functions. Sahil Garg*, Guillermo Cecchi, Irina Rish, Shuyang Gao, Greg Ver Steeg, Sarik Ghazarian, Palash Goyal, Aram Galstyan. Proceedings of *IJCAI 2018 Workshop, Linguistic and Cognitive Approaches to Dialog Agents* (LaCATODA 2018).

Neurogenesis-Inspired Dictionary Learning: Online Model Adaption in a Changing World. Sahil Garg*, Irina Rish, Guillermo Cecchi, Aurelie Lozano. *ICLR 2017 - Workshop Track*.

Efficient Space-Time Modeling for Informative Sensing. Sahil Garg*, Amarjeet Singh, Fabio Ramos. Proceedings of *KDD 2012 Workshop, Knowledge Discovery from Sensor Data* (SensorKDD 2012).

Engineering Skills Python, Matlab, Java, Dot Net, Ruby on Rail, Hibernate, Spring framework, JBoss, SQL Server, MySQL, Oracle, C++.

Professional Services **Program Committee Member for Conferences in CS**
The AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) 2017, 2018, 2020
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2018, 2019, 2020
International Conference on AI and Statistics (AISTATS) 2019, 2020
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2019, 2020

Reviewer for Journals

IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (2019)

Present Research Collaborations IBM Research, MIT, U. of Montreal, MILA, USC, Yale, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYU.

Research Experience **Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai** **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Sept 2019 - present Advisor: Cheryl Corcoran & Guillermo Cecchi
Exploring the beautiful field of computational psychiatry to understand the challenges clinical practitioners face, and how machine learning can contribute to the field. Developing machine learning models, interpretative and data-efficient, for research problems in computational psychiatry. Analyzing audio transcripts and videos of open-ended interviews with patients conducted by psychiatrists, for an early diagnosis of psychosis and therapeutic dialogue modeling.
Keywords: computational psychiatry, machine learning, text clustering, dialogue modeling, diagnosis, interpretative, information theory, sparse modeling.
Collaborators: Anusha Yeshokumar, Irina Rish, Yulia Landa, Adriana Feder, Marianne Goodman, Keren Bachi, Helen Mayberg, David Dorfman, Mary-Catherine George.

University of Southern California (USC) **Research Assistant**
Mar 2015 - Aug 2019 Advisor: Aram Galstyan
Developed machine learning models, which are computationally scalable, trainable in a robust manner on small sets of labeled examples, applicable to natural language processing for real world problems in healthcare. Managed pipeline of a software deliverable for a multi-million dollar project in relation to personalized cancer treatment, [Big Mechanism](#), sponsored by DARPA.
Keywords: bio-informatics, machine learning, relation extraction, abstract meaning representations (semantic parsing), recurrent neural networks, convolution kernels, robustness, scalability, information theoretic representation learning, nearly unsupervised.
Collaborators: Daniel Marcu, Kevin Knight, Ulf Hermjakob, Andrey Rzhetsky, Jose Luis Ambite, Hrant Khachatryan, Peter Sorger, Prem Natarajan, Gully Burns, Philip Cohen, Greg Ver Steeg, Shuyang Gao, David Kale.

May 2015 - Mar 2016 Advisor: Aram Galstyan
Information-theoretic modeling of brain fMRI dynamics using [CorEx](#).
Keywords: fMRI, machine learning, information theory, unsupervised representations, interpretive.
Collaborators: Greg Ver Steeg, Fabrizio Pizzagalli, Paul Thompson.

June 2014 - Oct 2015 Advisor: Aram Galstyan

Phase transitions in community detection using CorEx.

Keywords: information theory, unsupervised representations, statistical physics, network science, machine learning.

Collaborators: Greg Ver Steeg, Cristopher Moore.

April 2014 - Sept 2014

Advisor: Aram Galstyan

Generative modeling of a complex network and its structural properties like clustering, power law degree distribution, degree correlation, etc.

Keywords: network science, machine learning, generative models, hyperbolic spaces, stochastic variational Bayes, causal inference.

Collaborators: Greg Ver Steeg.

Oct 2013 - April 2014

Advisor: Nora Ayanian

Persistent sensing of environmental phenomena with a team of robotic sensors.

Keywords: spatio-temporal stochastic phenomena, machine learning, Bayesian modeling, nonstationarity, path planning, information theory, kernel functions, multi-robots coordination.

June 2013 - Sept 2013

Advisor: Milind Tambe

Developing computationally scalable game theoretic algorithms for safe-guarding natural resources such as fish in the gulf of Mexico.

Keywords: game theory, reinforcement learning, scalability, spatio-temporal stochastic phenomena.

Collaborators: Albert Jiang, William Haskell, Yundi Qian.

IIIT Delhi

Undergraduate Research Assistant

April 2011 - May 2013

Advisor: Amarjeet Singh

Learning non-stationary models efficiently for sensing environment dynamics.

Keywords: spatio-temporal stochastic phenomena, nonstationarity, machine learning, path planning, information theory, kernel functions, scalability.

Collaborators: Fabio Ramos.

Research Internship Experience

IBM T. J. Watson Research Center

Computational Biology Center

Summers of 2016, 2017

Mentors: Irina Rish & Guillermo Cecchi

June 2016 - present

We investigated computational plausibility of *adult neurogenesis* phenomenon.

Keywords: machine learning, sparse modeling, neuroscience, continual online learning, context switching, unsupervised representations.

Collaborators: Aurelie Lozano, Amit Dhurandhar.

June 2017 - present

We developed an information-theoretic framework for modeling therapeutic dialogues via hash functions.

Keywords: dialog modeling, machine learning, scalable, data-efficient, interpretive, hashcode representations, non-parametric, neural networks, kernel functions.

Collaborators: Shuyang Gao, Palash Goyal, Sarik Ghazarian, Greg Ver Steeg, Aram Galstyan.

Teaching Experience	University of Southern California (USC) Coordinated Mobile Robotics, Spring 2014 Teaching Advisor: Nora Ayanian
Software Engineering Experience	<div> Snowpal Software Services Co-founder June 2010 - Dec 2011 Manager: Harman Singh & Krish Palaniappan Developed a server side application in education domain including database design and a RESTful API. <i>Contributions:</i> requirement analysis, database design, architecture design, product development, team recruitment & training. <i>Technology:</i> Ruby on Rails, MySQL, Hibernate, Java. </div> <div> Commidel, India Software Engineer, Founding Member Aug 2009 - June 2010 Manager: Srinivasareddy Chennareddy Developed core module for a software to parse data packets, as per configurable ISO8583 format, into business objects for financial transactions. The software was awarded as the best loyalty program in India, and processes transactions worth more than \$7 billion yearly. <i>Contributions:</i> database design, architecture, product development, client interaction for business understanding, managing production team. <i>Technology:</i> Java, Dot Net, SQL Server, JBoss. </div> <div> Global Logic, India Software Engineering Intern Feb 2009 - Aug 2009 Manager: Atul Srivastava Developed a software component for subscribing RSS feeds in a user friendly manner with an efficient search utility. <i>Contributions:</i> database design, architecture design. <i>Technology:</i> Dot Net, SQL Server. </div>
Graduate Coursework	Artificial Intelligence, Database Systems, Coordinated Mobile Robotics, Machine Learning, Applied Linear Algebra, Estimation Theory, Advanced Analysis of Algorithms, Randomized Algorithms (A), Digital Geometry Processing, Scientific Computing and Visualization.
Educational programs	2015 Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute.
Other Accomplishments	99% percentile secured in all India entrance exams IIT-JEE-05 (200k participants) and AIEEE-05 (600k participants). 1st rank secured in C++ skill exams (for online placements in undergrad school) conducted by companies Informatica Business Solutions (CS batch of 80 students), and Global Logic (220 students).
Presentations for Computational Psychiatry	Why & How? Artificial Intelligence for Psychotherapy. Department of Psychiatry, Yale University. Dec, 2019. Hashcode Representations for Psychiatry. Computational Biology Center, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, NY. Nov, 2019. Modeling Psychotherapy Dialogues with Hashcode Representations. New York

University. Nov, 2019.

Feeling the Heartbeat of a Psychotherapy Session: A Machine Learning Approach. Technology in Psychiatry Summit (TIPS). Oct, 2019.

Robust Machine Learning for an Early Diagnosis of Psychosis. Technology in Psychiatry Summit (TIPS). Oct, 2019.

Robust & Interpretable Modeling of Natural Language for Healthcare. Columbia University. Sept, 2019.

Feeling the Heartbeat of a Psychotherapy Session: A Machine Learning Approach. McGovern Institute for Brain Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Jan, 2020.

Planned

Robust Machine Learning for an Early Diagnosis of Psychosis. Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP). April, 2020.

Linguistic Markers of Psychological Resilience in World Trade Center First Responders: A Computer-Based Natural Language Processing Study. Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP). April, 2020.

Natural Language Processing Analyses of Written Text Across Stages of Anti-NMDA Receptor Encephalitis. Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP). April, 2020.

Big Data Analysis of Therapy Sessions. Symposium on The Talking Cure: Past, Present and Especially Future. April, 2020. (Invited Speaker)

Harmonization of Language Studies in Schizophrenia and Its Risk States to Early Identification. International Early Psychosis Association (IEPA) Symposium. Sept, 2020.

Research References

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Co-Founder (exited in 2015)	Agility MobileForce Solutions
Director of Engineering	Commdevel

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Senior Software Engineer Amazon
Co-Founder (exited in 2011) Snowpal Software Services