

Shaan Pakala

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[Google Scholar](#), [LinkedIn](#) & [GitHub](#)

About

I am an incoming Computer Science Ph.D. student at the University of California, Riverside. I will be continuing my work on machine learning research problems with Professor [Vagelis Papalexakis](#). Currently, we explore interdisciplinary research applications of tensor decomposition, mainly for the surrogate modeling of combinatorial problems. I am also a summer intern at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) [Data Science Institute](#).

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Starting Sept. 2025

University of California, Riverside

- Advisor: Prof. Vagelis Papalexakis

B.S. in Data Science & Engineering

Sept. 2021 – June 2025

University of California, Riverside

- Upper Division GPA: 3.9

Research Experience

Data Science Research Intern

June 2025 – Sept. 2025

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

- Selected to be a LLNL 2025 [DSSI](#) graduate intern in the predictive biology group
- Advisors: Drs Braden Soper & Priyadip Ray

Undergrad Data Science Research

Sept. 2024 – June 2025

University of California, Riverside

- Led research work on using tensor completion to predict material properties (e.g. energy, band gap)
- Presented preliminary work [2] at AAAI 2025 Bridge on Knowledge-Guided Machine Learning
- Extending work into full paper

NSF REU Research Intern

June 2024 – Sept. 2024

University of California, Riverside

- Led team of 3 undergraduates in research project, in collaboration with UCR Ph.D. students
- Presented full conference paper [1] at IEEE International Conference on Big Data 2024
- Modeled hyperparameter tuning, neural network architecture search, and SQL query cardinality estimation as tensor completion problems to predict their optimal configurations
- Developed task-specific tensor completion algorithm to cut parameters without losing performance

Undergrad Bioinformatics Reserach

March 2024 – Dec. 2024

University of California, Riverside

- Worked on bioinformatics research problems using machine learning, for protein sequence analysis
- Conducted literature reviews, and experimented with data processing techniques and [ESM](#) (LLM)

Papers

Conference

- [1] [Shaan Pakala](#), B. Graw, D. Ahn, T. Dinh, M. T. Mahin, V. Tsotras, J. Chen, E. Papalexakis, “Automating Data Science Pipelines with Tensor Completion,” *IEEE International Conference on Big Data 2024*. **Received Student Travel Award**. [\[Link\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)

Poster

- [2] [Shaan Pakala](#), D. Ahn, E. Papalexakis, “Tensor Completion for Surrogate Modeling of Material Property Prediction,” *AAAI 2025 Bridge on Knowledge-Guided Machine Learning*. [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Venue\]](#)

Awards

Undergraduate Research Spotlight 2025

Bourns College of Engineering (University of California, Riverside)

Student Travel Award 2024

IEEE International Conference on Big Data

Chancellor’s Honor List 2023 – 2024

University of California, Riverside

Other Experience

Computer Science Grader Spring 2024

University of California, Riverside

- Grader for upper division Data Analysis Methods (CS 105 at UCR)
- Facilitated lab and project demos, as well as graded quizzes and reports

Data Science Challenge July 2023

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

- Participated in the [Data Science Challenge](#), to develop data-driven approaches to cardiology problems
- Used electrocardiogram time-series data to create machine learning disease classification tool, as well as displaying 3D activity map of heart (electrical activity of 75 locations in the heart over 500ms)