

Siba Smarak Panigrahi

✉ siba.panigrahi@epfl.ch • 🌐 sibasmarak.github.io

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland (MLBio lab)	2024–Ongoing
M.Sc. (Thesis) in Computer Science McGill University and Mila, Montréal, Canada (Supervisor: Siamak Ravanbakhsh) Thesis: Equivariance in the Era of Large Pretrained Models	2022–2024 GPA: 4.0/4.0
B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India Department Rank 2 in graduating batch of CSE students (Supervisor: Abir Das, Rameswar Panda).	2018–2022 GPA: 9.73/10
All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), India Secured AIR 3, Rank 1 in Bhubaneswar Region. Among the top 0.1% of the 1.16 million candidates.	2018 98.6%

Research Interests

Multimodal LLMs, AI for Materials and Single-cell biology

Research Experience

Document Understanding with LLMs Visiting Researcher Multimodal Foundation Models team Developed permissively-licensed open dataset and improved document understanding capabilities of pretrained LLMs [9].	ServiceNow Research Mar 2024 - Jul 2024
Diffusion Models for Materials Generation Supervisor(s): Prof. Siamak Ravanbakhsh, Santiago Miret (Intel Labs) Building conditional diffusion models for materials generation and crystal structure prediction task. Proposed meaningful representations for space groups and atom site symmetries for conditioning and interpretability [8].	Mila and McGill University Sep 2023 - Aug 2024
Equivariant Adaptation of Large Pretrained and Foundation Models Supervisor(s): Prof. Siamak Ravanbakhsh Designed equivariant canonicalization networks to orient inputs to a canonical form, with a regularization loss, before passing through large pretrained/foundation models, effectively eliminating the requirement for designing and training extensive equivariant architectures from scratch [5, 7]. The research paper [5] was accepted to NeurIPS 2023 .	Mila and McGill University Feb 2023 - Sep 2023
Contextual Bias in Visual Recognition Models Supervisor(s): Prof. Abir Das, Dr. Rameswar Panda (MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab) Evaluated mAP and used GradCAM with state-of-the-art computer vision models to quantitatively and qualitatively determine the contextual bias in images containing exclusive and co-occurring biased pairs. Proposed shallow models to capture contextual bias and knowledge distillation approaches for automated bias mitigation to improve.	IIT Kharagpur Apr 2021 - Dec 2021
Improving Digital Marketing with Topological Data Analysis Research Intern Supervisor(s): Iftikhar Ahamath Burhanuddin Implemented Topological Regularization in LSTM Encoder-Decoder architecture to leverage topological information from customer navigation patterns and provide insights on customer sessions. This research resulted in a US patent [4].	Adobe Research, India May 2021 - Jul 2021

Publications

- [9] **BigDocs: An Open and Permissively-Licensed Dataset for Training Multimodal Models on Document and Code Tasks** ([Website](#) | [Paper](#))
J. A. Rodriguez*, X. Jian*, **S. S. Panigrahi***, et al.
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2025; NeurIPS 2024 - RBFM workshop.
- [8] **SymmCD: Symmetry-Preserving Crystal Generation with Diffusion Models** ([Paper](#))
D. Levy*, **S. S. Panigrahi***, S-O. Kaba, Q. Zhu, K. Lee, M. Galkin, S. Miret, S. Ravanbakhsh
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2025; NeurIPS 2024 - AI4Mat (spotlight).
- [7] **Improved Canonicalization for Equivariant Adaptation of Large Pretrained Models** ([Paper](#) | [Code](#))
S. S. Panigrahi, A. K. Mondal
CVPR 2024 - Workshop on Equivariant Vision (EquiVision).

[6] **Efficient Dynamics Modeling in Interactive Environments with Koopman Theory** ([Paper](#))
A. K. Mondal, **S. S. Panigrahi**, S. Rajeswar, K. Siddiqi, S. Ravanbakhsh
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2024; EWRL 2023.

[5] **Equivariant Adaptation of Large Pretrained Models** ([Paper](#) | [Blogpost @ ICML'24](#) | [Code](#))
A. K. Mondal*, **S. S. Panigrahi***, S-O. Kaba, S. Rajeswar, S. Ravanbakhsh
Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2023, EquiVision (CVPR) 2024 (spotlight).

[4] **Identifying bot activity using topology-aware techniques** ([Patent](#))
G Choudhary, SI Rahaman, **S. S. Panigrahi**, P Bhutani, M Kilaru, K Singh, A Singhania
US Patent 2023.

[3] **[Re]: Value Alignment Verification** ([Paper](#) | [Code](#))
S. S. Panigrahi*, S. Patnaik*
ML Reproducibility Challenge (MLRC) 2021; NeurIPS 2022 Spotlight and Journal Showcase Track.

[2] **Leveraging Pre-trained Language Models for Key Point Matching** ([Paper](#) | [Code](#))
M. N. Kapadnis*, S. Patnaik*, **S. S. Panigrahi***, V. Madhavan*, A. Nandy
EMNLP Workshop - Workshop on Argument Mining, 2021.

[1] **Multi-class Emotion Classification Using EEG Signals** ([Paper](#) | [Code](#))
D. Acharya, R. Jain, **S. S. Panigrahi**, R. Sahni, S. Jain, S. P. Deshmukh, A. Bhardwaj
International Advance Computing Conference (IACC), 2020.

Key Projects

CausalBench: Inferring gene regulatory network with factor graphs

Causal Inference and ML Course Project | Instructor: Prof. Dhanya Sridhar

Studied the computational advantages and scalability potential of **factor graphs** in **causal discovery** ([DCD-FG](#)) for inferring **Gene Regulatory Networks** (GRNs). As per the [CausalBench Challenge](#) metrics, observed **~2x increase** with factor-graphs and further improvements with higher number of factors and matrix threshold values. ([Code](#))

Crystal Symmetry aware framework for material generation

GGM Course Project | Instructor: Joey Bose and Prof. Prakash Panangaden

Incorporated Bravais lattice information and implemented **equivariant message-passing** in [DimeNet](#) graph encoder to integrate crystal symmetry information for **material generation**. **Reduced** the Wasserstein distance between generated and ground truth distribution for property and density by **more than 10%** from [CDVAE](#) in the MP-20 dataset. ([Code](#))

Study of Facebook posts during elections

Data Analytics Intern | Supervisor(s): Dr. Kiran Garimella (IDSS, MIT)
Prof. Aaditya Dar (ISB), & Vasundhara Sirnate (The Polis Project)

Designed a complete framework to simplify the study of Facebook posts during elections. Analyzed page characteristics and post reactions from various politics-related Facebook pages and their correlation with election results. Trained simple classification pipelines with features from **TF-IDF** to predict the political party associated with a post. ([Code](#))

Academic Achievements & Honors

- o **EDIC Fellowship** for starting Ph.D. at EPFL (2024)
- o **Mitacs Accelerate Fellowship** at ServiceNow Research (2024)
- o **Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel (GREAT) Award**, McGill University (2024)
- o **Oxford ML Summer School (OxML)** (Representation Learning & Generative AI track) (2024)
- o **Google's CS Research Mentorship Program (CSRMP)** Class of 2023b (2023)
- o **CIFAR Deep Learning + Reinforcement Learning (DLRL) Summer School** (2023)
- o **The Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral Research School (CMMRS)** (2023)
- o **Oxford ML Summer School (OxML)** (Healthcare track) (2023)
- o **Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (JN Tata) Scholar** (endowment for higher studies) (2022)
- o **Eastern European Machine Learning (EEML) Summer School** (selected for poster presentation) (2022)
- o **Research Week with Google (Computer Vision track)** (1 of 150 selected students) (2022)
- o **Prof. J.C. Ghosh Memorial Endowment Prize** (highest CGPA after semester VI) (2021)
- o **Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) - Viterbi Award** (1 of 15 awardees) (2021)
- o **DAAD-WISE scholarship, University of Freiburg** (declined) (2021)
- o **Open IIT Maths Olympiad** (Team event; 1st position, Gold Medal) (2019)
- o **Technology Alumni Association (Delhi Chapter) Award** (highest CGPA after semester II) (2019)
- o **Jagadis Bose National Science Talent Search Examination** (Rank 2 of 173 awardees) (2018)
- o **Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana** (All India Rank 828) (2017)
- o **Guest of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India** to witness Republic Day Parade (2017)

- **KVS Junior Mathematical Olympiad** (Rank 6 in India; Rank 1 in Bhubaneswar region) (2016)
- **Exchange Student, Sakura Exchange Program in Science** (1 of 90 selected students) (2016)

Relevant Coursework

Mathematics - Linear Algebra, Calculus, Probability, and Statistics

Computer Science - Geometry and Generative Models (GGM), Probabilistic Graphical Models, Network Science, Causal Inference and ML, Deep Learning, Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Information Retrieval, Principles of Programming Languages, Computer Networks*, Operating Systems*, Algorithms - I* & II, Cryptography & Network Security, Theory of Computation, Compilers*, Software Engineering* (* includes lab component)

Skills

- **Programming Languages** - Python, C, Java, \LaTeX , Verilog, MIPS
- **Libraries** - PyTorch, PyTorch Lightning, PyTorch Geometric, Jax, NumPy, Pandas, Huggingface, Hydra
- **Web Development** - Django, HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, PostgreSQL

Activities and Leadership

Member, Mental Health Committee, Mila

Head, Kharagpur Data Analytics Group (**KDAG**), IIT Kharagpur ([Reading-sessions](#))

Head, Institute Wellness Group, IIT Kharagpur ([Facebook](#))

Head Boy, Student Council, KV No.2 CRPF Campus, Bhubaneswar

Professional Services

- **Organizing:**
 - [ML Reproducibility Challenge \(MLRC\) 2023](#)
 - [CampusPulse](#) (sponsored **CA\$ 6000** GCP credits)
 - [Molecular ML Conference \(MoML\) 2024](#), [MoML 2023](#)
- **Posters/Talks:**
 - EquiVision workshop, Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2024, Seattle ([Talk](#), 2024)
 - Google Research, Bengaluru ([Talk](#), 2024)
 - International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2024, Vienna (Poster, 2024)
 - European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning (EWRL) 2023, VU Brussel (Poster, 2023)
 - NeurIPS 2022 Journal Showcase Track (and Spotlight lightning talk) (Poster & [Talk](#), 2022)
 - 50th Anniversary of School of Computer Science, McGill University (Poster, 2022)
 - KDAG Winter Workshop, lecture on Support Vector Machines ([Talk](#), 2020)
- **Volunteering:** [DNetCV 2022](#) (CVPR-Workshop), EMNLP 2021
- **Reviewer:** [ICLR 2025](#), [NeurIPS 2024](#), [AI4Mat 2024](#) (NeurIPS-Workshop), [GRaM 2024](#) (ICML-Workshop), [NeurReps \(2023, 2024\)](#) (NeurIPS-Workshop), MoML (2023, 2024), MLRC 2022 ([Outstanding Reviewer](#)), DNetCV 2022 (CVPR-W)