

Siba Smarak Panigrahi

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Education

M.Sc. (Thesis) in Computer Science McGill University and Mila, Montréal, Canada (Supervisor: Siamak Ravanbakhsh)	2022–Ongoing 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

Geometric Deep Learning, Generative Models, Reinforcement Learning

Research Experience

Diffusion Models in Offline Reinforcement Learning Supervisor(s): Prof. Stefan Bauer	Mila Aug 2023 - Ongoing
Training diffusion models to generate and augment novel trajectories for underexplored behaviours in offline RL datasets. The aim is to address the problem of distributional shift and learn better generalizing policies with a diverse dataset.	
Equivariant Adaptation of Large Pretrained Models Supervisor(s): Prof. Siamak Ravanbakhsh	Mila and McGill University Feb 2023 - Ongoing
Implemented equivariant canonicalization networks to orient inputs to a canonical form before passing through pretrained models, effectively eliminated the requirement for designing and training extensive equivariant architectures from scratch.	
Visual Grounding in Textual Entailment Bachelor's Dissertation Supervisor(s): Prof. Abir Das, Dr. Rameswar Panda	IIT Kharagpur Jan 2022 - May 2022
Investigated the effect of simultaneously and individually visual grounding the premise and hypothesis in NLI task. Trained various BERT configurations by leveraging high-level feature representations of image from ResNet-50 and CLIP.	
Contextual Bias in Visual Recognition Models Supervisor(s): Prof. Abir Das, Dr. Rameswar Panda (MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab)	IIT Kharagpur Apr 2021 - Dec 2021
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 different biased models to inherently capture contextual bias and knowledge distillation approaches for automated bias mitigation.	
Explanation Based Learning in Pretrained Language Models IUSSTF-Viterbi Intern Supervisor(s): Prof. Xiang Ren	INK-Lab, USC Jun 2021 - Sep 2021
Worked on different attention-based regularization and knowledge-distillation techniques to analyze the effect of explanations generated using gradient-based saliency methods in the performance of Pre-trained Language Models.	
Improving Digital Marketing with Topological Data Analysis Research Intern Supervisor(s): Iftikhar Ahamath Burhanuddin	Adobe Research, India May 2021 - Jul 2021
Implemented Topological Regularization in LSTM Encoder-Decoder architecture to leverage the topological information from customer navigation patterns and obtain sessions' better latent representation to provide insights on sessions.	
Emotion Recognition using EEG Signals Research Intern Supervisor(s): Prof. Arpit Bhardwaj, & Divya Acharya	Bennett University, India Jul 2020–Aug 2020
Carried literature reviews of recent papers to understand the basics of Genetic Programming and Multi-Task Cascaded Networks. Designed CNN-based and LSTM-based architectures to obtain 87.72% and 88.6% mean accuracy, respectively, for classification of EEG signals into valence, arousal, liking, and dominance.	

Publications

- [5] **Equivariant Adaptation of Large Pretrained Models** ([Paper](#) | [ServiceNow Blog](#))
A. K. Mondal*, **S. S. Panigrahi***, S-O. Kaba, S. Rajeswar, S. Ravanbakhsh
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2023.

[4] **Efficient Dynamics Modeling in Interactive Environments with Koopman Theory** ([Paper](#))
A. K. Mondal, **S. S. Panigrahi**, S. Rajeswar, K. Siddiqi, S. Ravanbakhsh
European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning (EWRL) 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 **McGill University and Mila**
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 along with key factors such as sparsity regularization and the number of factors.

Crystal Symmetry aware framework for Material Generation **McGill University and Mila**
GGM Course Project | Instructor: Joey Bose and Prof. Prakash Panangaden

Implemented equivariant message-passing and knowledge distillation in complex graph encoders (such as [DimeNet](#)) to incorporate crystal symmetry (Bravais lattice) information in [CDVAE](#) framework for material generation.

Study of Facebook posts during Elections **MIT, USA**
*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 for assigning the most influenced political party to a post. ([Code](#))

Academic Achievements & Honors

- Google's CS Research Mentorship Program (CSRMP) Class of 2023b (2023)
- CIFAR Deep Learning + Reinforcement Learning (DLRL) Summer School (2023)
- The Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral Research School (CMMRS) (2023)
- Oxford ML Summer School (OxML) (Healthcare track) (2023)
- Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (JN Tata) Scholar (endowment for higher studies) (2022)
- Eastern European Machine Learning (EEML) Summer School (selected for poster presentation) (2022)
- Research Week with Google (Computer Vision track) (1 of 150 selected students) (2022)
- Prof. J.C. Ghosh Memorial Endowment Prize (highest CGPA after semester VI) (2021)
- Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) - Viterbi Award (1 of 15 awardees) (2021)
- DAAD-WISE scholarship, University of Freiburg (declined) (2021)
- Inter IIT Tech Meet 9.0 (Bronze-winning contingent of IIT Kharagpur) (2021)
- Open IIT Maths Olympiad (Team event; 1st position, Gold Medal) (2019)
- Technology Alumni Association (Delhi Chapter) Award (highest CGPA after semester II) (2019)
- Jagadis Bose National Science Talent Search Examination (Rank 2 of 173 awardees) (2018)
- Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (All India Rank 828) (2017)
- 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)
- Regional Mathematical Olympiad (Rank 2 in state) (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 - Causal Inference and ML, Geometry and Generative Models (GGM), Probabilistic Graphical Models, Network Science, 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, Gym, Keras, Huggingface, Timm, 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 \(MoML\) 2023](#)
- **Posters/Talks:**
 - European Workshop on Reinforcement Learning (EWRL) 2023, VU Brussel (Poster, 2023)
 - NeurIPS 2022 Journal Showcase Track (and Spotlight lightning talks) (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:** [NeurReps 2023](#) (NeurIPS-Workshop), MoML 2023, MLRC 2022 ([Outstanding Reviewer](#)), DNetCV 2022 (CVPR-W)