SKANDA VAIDYANATH

Staff Research Scientist, Riot Games AI Accelerator

@ svaidyan@stanford.edu skandavaidyanath.github.io in skanda-vaidyanath skandavaidyanath Skanda Vaidyanath

EDUCATION

M.S. Computer Science A.I. Track

Stanford University

Sep 2021 – Present

- **CGPA: 4.06/4**

B.E. (Hons.) Computer Science with a Minor in Data Science

BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus

June 2016 – May 2020

- **Class valedictorian.**
- **CGPA: 9.93/10, Major CGPA (only CS courses): 10.00/10**

RECENT EXPERIENCE

Staff Research Scientist

Riot Games AI Accelerator

Jul 2023 – Present Redwood City, California

- Conducting large scale AI research for gaming applications.
- **Keywords:** Reinforcement learning, distributed computing, large language models.

Research Engineer Intern

Google DeepMind

Jun 2022 – Sep 2022 Mountain View, California

- Advised by Dr. Xinghua Lou and Dr. Dileep George
- Developed a benchmark to test long-term planning capabilities of SoTA RL algorithms and planners.
- **Keywords:** Planning, reinforcement learning

Graduate Researcher

Stanford University

Sep 2021 – Present Stanford, California

- Advised by Prof. Stefano Ermon and Prof. Dorsa Sadigh
- Worked on developing self-supervised models for satellite images, language-conditioned imitation learning and multi-agent reinforcement learning
- **Keywords:** Self-supervised learning, reinforcement learning, robotics

Research Intern

Microsoft Research

Dec 2020 – July 2021 Bangalore, India

- Advised by Dr. Sriram Rajamani
- Used program synthesis techniques to generate code from multi-modal user input using large language models like GPT-3 and Codex.
- **Keywords:** Program Synthesis, natural language processing

AWARDS, HONORS

- BITS Hyderabad Merit Scholarship for finishing in the top 1% of my graduating class every semester
- IUSSTF-Viterbi Scholar 2019. I was one out of fifteen students chosen from India for the programme.
- Max Planck Institute for Informatics 2019 Research Scholar Fellowship

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Akash Velu*, **Skanda Vaidyanath***, Dilip Arumugam. Hindsight-DICE: Stable Credit Assignment for Deep Reinforcement Learning. [pdf]
- Divyansh Garg*, **Skanda Vaidyanath***, Kuno Kim, Jiaming Song, Stefano Ermon. LISA: Learning Interporetable Skill Abstractions from Language. *NeurIPS 2022* [pdf] [website]
- Naman Jain, **Skanda Vaidyanath**, Arun Iyer, Nagarajan Natarajan, Suresh Parthasarathy, Sriram Rajamani, Rahul Sharma. Jigsaw: Large Language Models meet Program Synthesis. *ICSE 2022* [pdf][blog]

SELECT COURSEWORK

Meta-Learning | PGMs | RL | CV | Convex Optimization | Information Retrieval | Interactive Robotics | NLP

ACTIVITIES

- Course Assistant, Deep Learning: CS230 Autumn 2022, Spring 2023
- Course Assistant, Artificial Intelligence: CS221 Spring 2022
- Course Assistant , Reinforcement Learning: CS234 Winter 2022, Winter 2023
- Research With Impact, SGSI 2021, Stanford University [link]
- Leadership Labs, SGSI 2020, Stanford University [link]

SKILLS

Python | C/C++ | Pytorch | Tensorflow | Distributed Computing