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

Member of Technical Staff
Yutori

📅 Feb 2025 – Present   📍 San Francisco, California

- Advised by Dr. Dhruv Batra and Dr. Devi Parikh
- Building multi-modal web agents.

Staff Research Scientist
Riot Games AI Accelerator

📅 Jul 2023 – Present   📍 Redwood City, California

- Conducting research on multi-agenr RL and game theory for gaming applications.

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.

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

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.

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
JAX Distributed Computing