

# SNEH PANDYA

100 Forsyth St. ♦ Boston, MA 02115

(847) · 212 · 3536 ♦ sn.pandya@northeastern.edu ♦ snehjp2.github.io

## EDUCATION

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**Northeastern University**

*2021-Present*

Ph.D., Physics

**Princeton Deep Learning Theory Summer School**

*July 2021*

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

*2017-2021*

B.S., Physics, Minors in Mathematics & Astronomy

GPA: 3.78/4.00

Member of Sigma Nu Fraternity

## SELECTED RESEARCH

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**Junior Researcher, NSF IAIFI**

January 2022 - Present

*Prof. Fabian Ruehle*

*Boston, MA*

- Studying neural network scaling laws.

**Research Assistant, High Energy Theory Group**

March 2021 - September 2021

*Prof. Yonatahn Kahn*

*Urbana, IL*

- Executed numerical simulations using PyTorch to analyze the statistics of preactivations in a neural network to see how the choice of initialization distribution of neurons affects the network output.

**Research Assistant, Galaxy & Black Hole Astrophysics Group**

March 2019 - May 2021

*Prof. Xin Liu*

*Urbana, IL*

- Developed effective machine learning algorithms and feature engineering pipeline to weigh supermassive black holes using observational data from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey.

**Research Assistant, Nuclear Physics Group**

June 2020 - September 2020

*Prof. Douglas Beck*

*Urbana, IL*

- Investigated magnetic field interactions for spin and higher number particulate systems in the context of quantum “squeezed” states to retrieve the dynamics for arbitrary spin particles.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**S. Pandya\***, J. Lin\*, D. Pratap, X. Liu, M. Kind. AGNet: Weighing Black Holes with Machine Learning. Neurips 2020 Machine Learning for the Physical Sciences. arXiv:2011.15095

**S. Pandya\***, J. Lin\*, D. Pratap, X. Liu, M. Kind, V. Kindratenko. AGNet: Weighing Black Holes with Deep Learning. Submitted to MNRAS. arXiv:2108.07749

## CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

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Mathematical Physics Days, *Oral Presentation (Invited)* (Video) ..... 2021

Illinois Astrofest, *Poster (1st Place)* ..... 2021

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Workshop, *Poster* (Video, Poster) ..... 2020

Illinois Undergraduate Research Symposium, *Poster* (Video, Poster, Press) ..... 2020

## WORK

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### **SPIN Intern & NSF REU Fellow**

August 2019 - May 2021

*National Center for Supercomputing Applications*

*Urbana, IL*

- Utilized HAL supercomputing cluster to accelerate neural network training time, execute data simulation pipeline to expand training data set, and create informative visualizations for a general audience.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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### **Fiddler Innovation Undergraduate Fellowship Award**

2021

*National Center for Supercomputing Applications*

*Urbana, IL*

- \$1500 awarded to undergraduate students showing outstanding contributions during the Summer 2020 REU Inclusion program. The Fiddler Fellowship award is part of a \$2 million-dollar endowment from Jerry Fiddler and Melissa Alden to the University of Illinois in support of student and faculty interdisciplinary research initiatives through the Illinois' Emerging Digital Research and Education in Arts Media (eDream) Institute at NCSA.

## TEACHING

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### **Department of Physics**

2021-2022

*Northeastern University*

*Boston, MA*

- Teaching assistant, PHYS 1148 Physics for Life Sciences Lab
- Teaching assistant, Physics for Engineering Discussion
- Teaching assistant, PHYS 1152 Physics for Engineering Lab

## RELEVANT ADVANCED COURSEWORK

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Statistical Field Theory (Tong)

General Relativity (Carroll)

Complex Analysis

Applied Statistics with R

Cosmology (Sparke & Gallagher)

## SKILLS

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**Programming:** Python (PyTorch, sklearn, Pandas, AstroPy), RStudio

**Software:** Mathematica, GitHub, LaTeX

**Other:** Scientific Outreach (high school audiences), Public Speaking, Tennis, Photography