

Sriyash Poddar

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EDUCATION

University of Washington (UW)

Seattle, US

PhD Student in Computer Science & Engineering, GPA: 4.00/4.00, in progress

Sept. 2023 – Present

Advisors: Prof. Abhishek Gupta, Prof. Natasha Jaques

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur

Kharagpur, IN

M.Tech and B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering, GPA: 9.4/10.0

Jul. 2018 – Sept. 2023

Advisor: Prof. Partha P. Chakrabarti

PUBLICATIONS

- [5] **Poddar S.***, Wan Y.*, Ivison H., Gupta A.†, Jaques N.† "Personalizing Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback with Variational Preference Learning", *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems* (NeurIPS) (**spotlight**), 2024 [paper]
- [4] **Poddar S.**, Mavrogiannis C., Srinivasa S. S. "From Crowd Motion Prediction to Robot Navigation in Crowds", *International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2023 [paper]
- [3] Mavrogiannis C., Balasubramanian K., **Poddar S.**, Gandra A., Srinivasa S. S. "Winding Through: Crowd Navigation via Topological Invariance", *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)*, 2023 [paper]
- [2] Anand T., Badjatiya P., **Poddar S.**, Subramanian J., Theocharous G., Balaji K. "Optimal sequential decision-making with changing action space", *US Patent App. 17/659,983* [paper]
- [1] Mukherjee R., **Poddar S.***, Naik A.*, Dasgupta S., Ganguly N. "Understanding the Role of Affect Dimensions in Detecting Emotions from Tweets: Multi-task Approach", *International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval*, 2021 [paper]

* equal contribution, † equal advising

WORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

Seattle, US

Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

Sept. 2023 – Present

- Real-world improvement and sim2real transfer via in-context learning.
- Training foundational models using diverse human feedback.

Research Scientist Intern

Menlo Park, US

FAIR Embodiment & Actions, Meta

June. 2025 – Present

- Building agents that can learn to explore novel environments to solve long range mobile manipulation tasks.

Research Intern

Montreal, CA

Mila - Quebec AI Institute, Advisor: Prof. Sarath Chandar

May 2022 - July 2022

- Intrinsic motivation for handling non-stationarity in multi-agent reinforcement learning.

Visiting Undergraduate Researcher

Montreal, CA

University of Washington (UW), Advisor: Prof. Siddhartha Srinivasa

Nov 2021 - Jan 2022

- Model predictive control and human motion prediction for safe crowd navigation.

Maching Learning Research Intern

Noida, IN

Adobe Media and Data Science Research

May 2021 – July 2021

- Continual reinforcement learning in dynamic action spaces such as recommender systems.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Reviewer

NeurIPS, ICRA, HRI, T-RO

Teaching Assistant

CSE 599 - Social Reinforcement Learning

Seattle, US

Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant

CS60077 - Reinforcement Learning

Kharagpur, IN

Winter 2023

Kharagpur Robosoccer Students Group

Humanoid Team Member

Kharagpur, IN

April 2021 - April 2023

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

CMMRS

Received full funding to attend summer school at the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

Saarbrücken, DE

2022

MITACS Globalink and DAAD-Wise

Awarded funding for research internships in Canada and Germany.

2022

IIT JEE

Among the top 0.1% out of 1M students in JEE-Advanced and Mains.

2018

KVPY Fellowship

Awarded the fellowship by the Department of Science & Technology, India.

2018