

Shashank Singh
Curriculum Vitae
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Statistics & Machine Learning, Carnegie Mellon University	2019
	Thesis: <i>Estimating Probability Distributions and Their Properties</i>	
M.S.	Machine Learning, Carnegie Mellon University	2017
M.S.	Mathematical Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University	2014
	Thesis: <i>Concentration Inequalities for Density Functionals</i>	
B.S.	Mathematical Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University	2014
B.S.	Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University	2014

WORK EXPERIENCE

2019 Sep-	Software Engineer at Google (Pittsburgh, PA)
2018 Sep-Dec	Applied Scientist Intern at Amazon Web Services (New York, NY) <i>Developed new algorithms to compress deep neural networks used in computer vision (see paper "DARC: Differentiable ARchitecture Compression").</i>
2015 May-Aug	Software Engineering Intern at Google (Mountain View, CA) <i>Designed, implemented, and tested anomaly detection pipeline for detecting fraudulent activity amongst billions of daily user engagements with online products.</i>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2019	NeurIPS 2019 Honorable Mention for Outstanding Paper Award
2017	R. K. Mellon Foundation Presidential Fellow in Life Sciences (1 year grad. funding)
2015	NSF Graduate Research Fellow (3 years graduate funding)
2012	Undergraduate Research Fellow in Computational Neuroscience, Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, Carnegie Mellon University. (1 year research stipend)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2019 | Kim, J.*, **Singh, S.***, Thiessen, E. D., & Fisher, A. V. "A Hidden Markov Model for Analyzing Eye-Tracking of Moving Objects". To appear in *Behavior Research Methods*.
- Rashid, S., Long, Z., **Singh, S.**, Kohram, M., Vashistha, H., Navlakha, S., Salman, H., Oltvai, Z. N., Bar-Joseph, Z. "Adjustment in tumbling rates improves bacterial chemotaxis on obstacle-laden terrains". In *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*.
- Rashid, S., **Singh, S.**, Navlakha, S., & Bar-Joseph, Z. "A Bacterial based Distributed Gradient Descent Model for Mass Scale Evacuations". In *Swarm and Evolutionary Computation*.
- 2018 | **Singh, S.**, Yang, Y., Póczos, B., & Ma, J. "Predicting Enhancer-Promoter Interaction from Genomic Sequence with Deep Neural Networks". *Quantitative Biology*, Special Issue on Applications of Deep Learning to Biology.

Conference Proceedings

- 2019 | Uppal, A., **Singh, S.** & Póczos, B. *Nonparametric Density Estimation & Convergence of GANs under Besov IPM Losses*. Accepted as **Oral Presentation** at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS). (0.5% accept rate; **Honorable Mention for Outstanding Paper Award**)
- 2018 | **Singh, S.**, Uppal, A., Li, B., Li, C.-L., Zaheer, M., & Póczos, B. *Nonparametric Density Estimation under Adversarial Losses*. Accepted as Poster Presentation at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS). (20.8% accept rate)
- Kim, J.*, **Singh, S.***, Vande Velde, A., Thiessen, E.D., & Fisher, A.V. *A Hidden Markov Model for Analyzing Eye-Tracking of Moving Objects*. Full paper presented orally in Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci). (22.5% accept rate)
- Singh, S.**, Póczos, B., & Ma, J. *Minimax Reconstruction Risk of Convolutional Sparse Dictionary Learning*. International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS). (33.2% accept rate)
- 2017 | **Singh, S.** & Póczos, B. *Nonparanormal Information Estimation*. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). (25.5% accept rate)
- Yang, Y., Zhang, R., **Singh, S.**, & Ma, J. *Exploiting sequence-based features for predicting enhancer-promoter interactions*. Full Paper in Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB). (16.5% accept rate; F1000Prime Recommended)

- 2016 | **Singh, S.**, Du, S., & Póczos, B. *Efficient Nonparametric Smoothness Estimation*. Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS). (22.7% accept rate)
- Singh, S.** & Póczos, B. *Finite-Sample Analysis of Fixed- k Nearest Neighbor Density Functional Estimators*. Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS). (22.7% accept rate)
- Singh, S.**, Rashid, S., Navlakha, S., & Bar-Joseph, Z. *Distributed Gradient Descent in Bacterial Food Search*. Full Paper in Research in Computational Molecular Biology (RECOMB). (20.6% accept rate)
- 2014 | **Singh, S.** & Póczos, B. *Exponential Concentration of a Density Functional Estimator*. Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS). (24.7% accept rate)
- Singh, S.** & Póczos, B. *Generalized Exponential Concentration Inequality for Rényi Divergence Estimation*. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). (Cycle 1; 14.7% accept rate; **1 of 18 papers nominated for JMLR fast-track**)

Technical Reports

- 2016 | **Singh, S.** & Póczos, B. *Analysis of k -Nearest Neighbor Distances with Application to Entropy Estimation*.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Conference Talks

- 2019 | *Accelerating Convergence in Wasserstein Distribution in High Dimensions*. 2019 INFORMS Annual Meeting, Session on Recent Advances in Learning and Distributionally Robust Optimization. At the Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA, USA, on October 20. (20 minutes)

Contributed Conference/Workshop Talks

- 2017 | *On the Reconstruction Risk of Convolutional Sparse Dictionary Learning*. 55th Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing. At the Allerton Retreat Center, Monticello, IL, USA, on October 4. (20 minutes)
- Nonparanormal Information Estimation: Realistic High-Dimensional Dependence Estimation*. 34th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). At the International Convention Center, Sydney, Australia, August 8. (20 minutes)
- 2014 | *Low-Communication Distributed Optimization via *E. Coli* Swarm Foraging*. 2nd Workshop on Biological Distributed Algorithms, Austin, TX, Oct 12. (20 minutes)
- Exponential Concentration Inequality for a Rényi Divergence Estimator*. At 31st International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Beijing, China, June 22. (20 minutes)

Other Talks and Poster Presentations

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| 2019 | <p><i>Nonparametric Density Estimation under IPM Losses.</i> Poster at Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), Denver, CO, USA, July 29.</p> <p><i>Measuring Selective Sustained Attention in Children with TrackIt and Eyetracking.</i> Poster at Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Montreal, Canada, July 27.</p> |
| 2018 | <p><i>Nonparametric Density Estimation under Adversarial Losses.</i> Poster at Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), Montreal, Canada.</p> <p><i>Minimax Reconstruction Risk of Convolutional Sparse Dictionary Learning.</i> Poster at International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), Lanzarote, Spain.</p> |
| 2017 | <p><i>Nonparanormal Information Estimation.</i> Poster at International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Sydney, Australia.</p> <p><i>Predicting Enhancer-Promoter Interaction using only Genomic Sequence Features.</i> Poster at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meeting on Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression. Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA, Feb. 28.</p> |
| 2016 | <p><i>Predicting Enhancer-Promoter Interaction from Genomic Sequence with Deep Learning.</i> Poster at NIPS Workshop on Machine Learning in Computational Biology, Barcelona, Spain, Dec 10.</p> <p><i>Finite-Sample Analysis of Fixed-k Nearest Neighbor Density Functional Estimators.</i> Poster, Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS), Barcelona, Spain, Dec 6.</p> <p><i>Efficient Nonparametric Smoothness Estimation.</i> Poster at Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS), Barcelona, Spain, Dec 5.</p> |
| 2014 | <p><i>Exponential Concentration of a Density Functional Estimator.</i> Poster at Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS), in Montreal, Canada.</p> <p><i>Exponential Concentration Inequality for a Rényi-α Divergence Estimator.</i> Poster at International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Beijing, China.</p> |
| 2012 | <p><i>Neuronal interaction and dynamics of uncertainty resolution in V2.</i> CNBC Undergraduate Program in Neural Computation, in Pittsburgh, PA, USA.</p> |
| 2011 | <p><i>Temporal evolution of probabilistic population codes for stereo vision in V1.</i> Meeting of the Minds CMU Research Symposium, in Pittsburgh, PA, USA.</p> |

OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

Some free, open-source software that I have authored in connection to my scientific projects:

2018	<i>eyetracking</i> . Hidden Markov Model and pre-processing utilities for decoding visual object-tracking experiments, written to support a CogSci 2018 paper. Python. https://github.com/sss1/eyetracking
2017	<i>convolutional-dictionary</i> . An implementation of convolutional sparse dictionary learning and related simulations, written to support an AISTATS 2018 paper. MATLAB. https://github.com/sss1/convolutional-dictionary
2017	<i>nonparanormal-information</i> . Estimators for entropy and mutual information assuming a nonparanormal model, written to support an ICML 2017 paper. MATLAB. https://github.com/sss1/nonparanormal-information
2016	<i>sobolev-estimation</i> . Nonparametric estimators for Sobolev norms, distances, and inner products of probability densities, written to support a NIPS 2016 paper. MATLAB. https://github.com/sss1/sobolev-estimation

MENTORING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Mentoring of PhD Students

Ananya Uppal	PhD in Mathematical Sciences	03/18-
	Project: <i>Density Estimation under Besov IPM Losses</i>	

Mentoring of MS Students

Rui Peng	MS in Machine Learning	08/16-12/17
	Project: <i>Predicting Higher-order Chromatin Interactions from Human Genomic Sequence with Deep Neural Networks</i>	
	Member of Data Analysis Project Committee	
Boyue Li	MS in Biotech. Innovation and Computation	08/17-08/18
	Project: <i>Estimating KL Divergence in Exponential Families</i>	

As Teaching Assistant at Carnegie Mellon University

10-704	Information Processing and Learning <i>Professor Aarti Singh</i>	Fall 2016
36-462	Data Mining <i>Professor Max G'Sell</i>	Spring 2015
36-309	Experimental Design for Behavioral and Social Sciences <i>Professor Howard Seltman</i>	Fall 2014
21-373	Algebraic Structures <i>Professor Rick Statman</i>	Fall 2013
15-251	Great Theoretical Ideas in Computer Science <i>Professors Ryan O'Donnell & Danny Sleator</i>	Spring 2012
15-211	Fundamental Data Structures and Algorithms <i>Professors Jim Morris & Chris Langmead</i>	Fall 2011

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Reviewer for the following journals:

Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR)

Machine Learning Journal (MLJ)

IEEE Transactions on Information Theory

PLOS ONE

Communications on Pure and Applied Analysis

Reviewer for the following conferences:

Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) Conference, 2016–2019

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2018–2020

– 2019 Top 5% Reviewer (awarded free ICML registration)

Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2017–2020

Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), 2018

IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), 2019

International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), 2016

Biological Distributed Algorithms Workshop (BDA), 2016

Student Member of:

Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS)

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)

Cognitive Science Society (CSS)