

# TIRTHARAJ DASH

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## INTERESTS

Neuro-Symbolic AI: *Concepts, Implementations and Applications*; Deep Learning: *Concepts, Implementations and Applications*; Graph Representation Learning: *Concepts, Implementations and Applications*; Machine Learning: *Concepts, Implementations and Applications*.

Special interests: Computational Biology, Drug discovery, Healthcare

## EXPERIENCE

**University of Cambridge, UK** Oct 2023 – present

Research Associate (Computational), Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute

Supervisor: [Susanne Bornelöv](#)

Research: Machine learning and AI in Genomics: Genome organisation and regulation, molecular mechanisms of gene regulation

**University of California, San Diego** Oct 2022 – Sep 2023

Postdoctoral Scholar-Employee, The Boolean Lab

Supervisor: [Debashis Sahoo](#)

Research: AI for Health, specifically: Boolean analysis of biological datasets and developing deep learning techniques to solve problems in the field of drug Discovery

**Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, Goa Campus** Aug 2015 – Aug 2022

Assistant Professor (Grade-II), Dept. of Computer Science, APPCAIR (from: Jun 2020)

Research: Involved in several collaborative research projects with industries and academia

Teaching: Deep Learning<sup>\*</sup>, Neural Networks<sup>\*</sup>, Machine Learning<sup>\*</sup>, AI, Database Systems

Grants: The TCS DataLab Projects (PI, Co-PI), The Reflexis CoLab Project (Co-PI)

Others: Designing new courses (e.g. Deep Learning), developing laboratories, mentoring undergrad and grad students, Coaching undergrads for ACM-ICPC

**National Institute of Science & Technology Berhampur** May 2016 – Jul 2016

Summer Research Fellow, Center for Multiscale Modelling

Supervisor: [Prabhat K. Sahu](#) (Now at: Sambalpur University)

Research: Protein sequence analysis using machine learning methods

**Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata** May 2015 – Jul 2015

IASc-INSANA-NASI Summer Research Fellow, ECS Unit

Supervisor: [Nikhil R. Pal](#)

Research: Studying the effects of various distance measures on Self Organizing Feature Map

**National Institute of Science & Technology Berhampur** Jun 2014 – Aug 2015

Assistant Professor, School of Computer Science

Research: Member of Center for Multiscale Modelling, Data Science Group

Teaching: Analysis and Design of Algorithms, Object-Oriented Programming

Others: Developing laboratories for research in data science

**Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology Burla** Aug 2012 – May 2014

Teaching and Research Assistant, Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Research: List update problems, Concepts and implementations of evolutionary neural networks

Teaching: Labs in programming, database systems; Tutorials for software engineering

## EDUCATION

- Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, India** Jan 2017 – Jul 2022  
*Ph.D. in Computer Science* (Thesis submitted: May 13, 2022, defended: Jul 19, 2022)  
Thesis: *Inclusion of Symbolic Domain-Knowledge into Deep Neural Networks* ▶ [www](#)  
Supervisor: [Ashwin Srinivasan](#)  
Co-supervisor: [Sukanta Mondal](#)
- Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology Burla, India** Jul 2012 – Jun 2014  
*M.Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering (GPA: 9.78/10; University medalist)*  
Thesis: *Pattern Recognition using Soft Computing Approaches* ▶ [www](#)  
Supervisor: [H.S. Behera](#)
- National Institute of Science and Technology, Berhampur, India** Aug 2008 – Jul 2012  
*B.Tech. in Information Technology (GPA: 8.91/10; Institute medalist)*  
Thesis: *Designing Parallel Algorithms for Solving Ordinary Differential Equations*  
Supervisor: [Motahar Reza](#)

## SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Postdoctoral Affiliate of Trinity College, Cambridge</b>                                    | 2024       |
| <b>Best PhD Thesis Award</b> from BITS Pilani, India   | 2023       |
| <b>Best Short Paper Award</b> from the ACM in ACMSE  | 2022       |
| <b>ICML 2021</b> Workshop on Computational Biology Fellowship                                  | 2021       |
| Selected to participate at the <b>Google Research India Graduate Symposium</b>                 | 2021       |
| <b>AWSAR Award 2019</b> from DST, Govt. of India (Country Rank: <b>9</b> in Best-100 Category) | 2020       |
| <b>Best Student Research Paper Award</b> from the Machine Learning Journal in ILP              | 2018       |
| <b>Travel Grant</b> from <a href="#">EurAI</a> to attend ACAI-2018, Ferrara, Italy             | 2018       |
| <b>Summer Research Fellowship</b> from NIST Berhampur  | 2016       |
| <b>IASc-INSANA-SASI Summer Research Fellowship</b>   | 2015       |
| <b>Qualified Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE)</b>                                  | 2012, 2015 |
| <b>Qualified UGC National Eligibility Test (NET)</b>   | 2014       |
| <b>University Silver Medal</b> for Best Post Graduate in Computer Science and Engineering      | 2014       |
| <b>GATE Scholarship</b> from MHRD, India during my masters' studies                            | 2012–2014  |
| Participated in the Regional Round of the <b>ACM ICPC</b>                                      | 2012, 2013 |
| <b>Institute Silver Medal</b> for Best Graduate in Information Technology                      | 2013       |
| <b>Director's Certificates</b> for Academic Performances during B.Tech.                        | 2008–2012  |

## SPONSORED PROPOSALS

1. R.P. Pradhan, [T. Dash](#) (Co-PI): Indian Ocean Region Seaport and vessel traffic atlas project for classroom teaching; Received funding of INR 140,000 from Teaching-Learning Center, BITS Pilani, Goa Campus for Oct 2021 – Mar 2022
2. [T. Dash](#): The TCS DataLab Project; Received funding of INR 619,500 from TCS Research, India for Jul 2021 – Dec 2021
3. [T. Dash](#): The TCS DataLab Project; Received funding of INR 619,500 from TCS Research, India for Jan 2021 – Jun 2021

4. A. Srinivasan, T. Dash (Co-PI): The TCS DataLab Project; Received funding of INR 2,550,000 from TCS Research, India for Jul 2019 – Jul 2020
5. A. Srinivasan, T. Dash (Co-PI): The CoLab Project; Received funding of INR 2,500,000 from Reflexis Systems, USA for Jul 2019 – Dec 2019
6. A. Srinivasan, T. Dash (Co-PI): The TCS DataLab Project; Received funding of INR 2,500,000 from TCS Research, India for Jan 2019 – Jun 2019

## REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. A. Srinivasan, A. Baskar, T. Dash, D. Shah, “Composition of Relational Features with an Application to Explaining Black-Box Predictors”, *Machine Learning*, **2023**. [MLJ](#)
2. B.R. Senapati, P.M. Khilar, T. Dash, R.R. Swain, “AI-assisted Emergency Healthcare using Vehicular Network and Support Vector Machine”, *Wireless Personal Communication*, **2023**. [WPC](#)
3. R.R. Swain, T. Dash, P.M. Khilar, “Automated Fault Diagnosis in Wireless Sensor Networks: A Comprehensive Survey”, *Wireless Personal Communications*, **2022**. [WPC](#)
4. T. Dash, S. Chitlangia, A. Ahuja, A. Srinivasan, “A Review of Some Techniques for Inclusion of Domain-Knowledge into Deep Neural Networks”, *Nature Scientific Reports*, **2022**. [SCI. REP](#)
5. I. Olier, O.I. Orhobor, T. Dash, A. Davis, L.N. Soldatova, J. Vanschoren, R.D. King, “Transformational machine learning: Learning how to learn from many related scientific problems”, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A.*, **2021**. [\(news\)](#) [PNAS](#)
6. T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, A. Baskar, “Inclusion of domain-knowledge into GNNs using mode-directed inverse entailment”, *Machine Learning*, **2021**. [MLJ](#)
7. T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, L. Vig, “Incorporating symbolic domain knowledge into graph neural networks”, *Machine Learning*, **2021**. [MLJ](#)
8. R. Kaushik, S. Jain, S. Jain, T. Dash, “Performance evaluation of deep neural networks for forecasting time-series with multiple structural breaks and high volatility”, *CAAI Transactions on Intelligence Technology*, **2021**. [CAAI TIT](#)
9. R.R. Swain, T. Dash, P.M. Khilar, “Lightweight approach to automated fault diagnosis in WSNs”, *IET Networks*, **2020**. [IET NETW](#)
10. R.R. Swain, T. Dash, P.M. Khilar, “A complete diagnosis of faulty sensor modules in a wireless sensor network”, *Ad Hoc Networks*, **2019**. [ADHOC](#)
11. T. Dash, S.N. Dambekodi, P.N. Reddy, A. Abraham, “Adversarial neural networks for playing hide-and-search board game Scotland Yard”, *Neural Computing and Applications*, **2018**. [NCAA](#)
12. T. Dash, H.S. Behera, “A comprehensive study on evolutionary algorithm-based multilayer perceptron for real-world data classification under uncertainty”, *Expert Systems*, **2018**. [EXSY](#)
13. R.R. Swain, P.M. Khilar, T. Dash, “Fault diagnosis and its prediction in wireless sensor networks using regression learning to achieve fault tolerance”, *International Journal of Communication Systems*, **2018**. [IJCS](#)
14. R.R. Swain, P.M. Khilar, T. Dash, “Multifault diagnosis in WSN using a hybrid metaheuristic trained neural network”, *Digital Communications and Networks*, **2018**. [DCAN](#)
15. R.R. Swain, P.M. Khilar, T. Dash, “Neural network based automated detection of link failures in wireless sensor networks and extension to a study on the detection of disjoint nodes”, *Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing*, **2018**. [JAIHC](#)
16. P.P. Pai, T. Dash, S. Mondal, “Sequence-based discrimination of protein-RNA interacting residues using a probabilistic approach”, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, **2017**. [JTB](#)

17. R.R. Swain, T. Dash, P.M. Khilar, “An effective graph-theoretic approach towards simultaneous detection of fault(s) and cut(s) in wireless sensor networks”, *International Journal of Communication Systems*, **2017**. **IJCS**
18. T. Dash, “A study on intrusion detection using neural networks trained with evolutionary algorithms”, *Soft Computing*, **2015**. **SOCO**
19. T. Dash, “Automatic navigation of wall following mobile robot using Adaptive Resonance Theory of Type-1”, *Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures*, **2015**. **BICA**
20. T. Dash, P.K. Sahu, “Gradient Gravitational Search: An Efficient Metaheuristic Algorithm for Global Optimization”, *Journal of Computational Chemistry*, **2015**. **JCC**

## REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

1. S.B. Brahmavar, A. Srinivasan, T. Dash, S.R. Krishnan, L. Vig, A. Roy, R. Aduri, “Generating Novel Leads for Drug Discovery using LLMs with Logical Feedback”, *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, **2024**. **AAAI**
2. S.B. Brahmavar, R. Rajesh, T. Dash, L. Vig, T.T. Verlekar, M.M. Hasan, T. Khan, E. Meijering, A. Srinivasan, “IKD+: Reliable Low Complexity Deep Models for Retinopathy Classification”, *International Conference on Image Processing*, **2023**. **ICIP**
3. S.R. Chitnis, S. Liu, T. Dash, T.T. Verlekar, A. Di Ieva, S. Berkovsky, L. Vig, A. Srinivasan, “Domain-Specific Pretraining Improves Confidence in Whole Slide Image Classification”, *Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society*, **2023**. **EMBC**
4. R. Patra, R. Hebbalaguppe, T. Dash, G. Shroff, L. Vig, “Calibrating Deep Neural Networks using Explicit Regularisation and Dynamic Data Pruning”, *IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision*, **2023**. (Spotlight Paper) **WACV**
5. V. Shah, A. Sharma, G. Shroff, L. Vig, T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, “Knowledge-based Analogical Reasoning in Neuro-symbolic Latent Spaces”, *International Workshop on Neural-Symbolic Learning and Reasoning*, **2022**. **NESY**
6. G. Chhablani, A. Sharma, H. Pandey, T. Dash, “Superpixel-based Knowledge Infusion in Deep Neural Networks for Image Classification”, *ACM Southeast Regional Conference*, **2022**. (Best Short Paper Award) **ACMSE**
7. A. Sonwane, G. Shroff, L. Vig, A. Srinivasan, T. Dash, “Solving Visual Analogies Using Neural Algorithmic Reasoning (Student Abstract)”, *AAAI Conf on Artificial Intelligence*, **2022**. **AAAI**
8. A. Lalwani, A. Saraiya, A. Singh, A. Jain, T. Dash, “Machine Learning in Sports: A Case Study on Using Explainable Models for Predicting Outcomes of Volleyball Matches”, *International Conference on Sports Engineering*, **2022**. **ICSE**
9. S. Chitlangia, A. Sonwane, T. Dash, L. Vig, A. Srinivasan, G. Shroff, “Using Program Synthesis and Inductive Logic Programming to solve Bongard Problems”, *International Workshop on Approaches and Applications of Inductive Programming*, **2021**. **AAIP**
10. T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, L. Vig, A. Roy, “Using Domain-Knowledge to Assist Lead Discovery in Early-Stage Drug Design”, *Intl Conf on Inductive Logic Programming*, **2021**. **ILP**
11. H. Shah, A. Vaswani, T. Dash, R. Hebbalaguppe, A. Srinivasan, “Empirical Study of Data-Free Iterative Knowledge Distillation”, *Intl Conf on Artificial Neural Netw*, **2021**. **ICANN**
12. A. Sharma, H. Pandey, G. Chhablani, Y. Bhartia, T. Dash, “LRG at SemEval-2021 Task 4: Improving Reading Comprehension with Abstract Words using Augmentation, Linguistic Features and Voting”, *International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation*, **2021**. **SEMEVAL**

13. K. Mahajan, M. Sharma, L. Vig, R. Khincha, S. Krishnan, A. Niranjana, T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, G. Shroff, "CovidDiagnosis: Deep Diagnosis of Covid-19 Patients using Chest X-rays", *International Workshop on Thoracic Image Analysis*, **2020**. [TIA@MICCAI](#)
14. S. Krishnan, R. Khincha, L. Vig, T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, "A Case Study of Transfer of Lesion-Knowledge", *International Workshop on Medical Image Learning with Less Labels and Imperfect Data*, **2020**. [MIL3ID@MICCAI](#)
15. S. Yalburgi, T. Dash, R. Hebbalaguppe, S. Hegde, A. Srinivasan, "An Empirical Study of Iterative Knowledge Distillation for Neural Network Compression", *European Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks, Computational Intelligence and Machine Learning*, **2020**. [ESANN](#)
16. T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, R.S. Joshi, A. Baskar, "Discrete Stochastic Search and Its Application to Feature-Selection for Deep Relational Machines", *Intl Conf on Artif. Neural Netw*, **2019**. [ICANN](#)
17. T. Dash, A. Srinivasan, L. Vig, O.I. Orhobor, R.D. King, "Large-Scale Assessment of Deep Relational Machines", *Intl Conf on Inductive Logic Programming*, **2018**. (Best Student Paper Award) [ILP](#)
18. P.S.M. Saladi, T. Dash, "Genetic Algorithm-Based Oversampling Technique to Learn from Imbalanced Data", *Intl Conf on Soft Computing for Problem Solving*, **2017**. [SocProS](#)
19. S. Iyer, S. Chaturvedi, T. Dash, "Image Captioning-Based Image Search Engine: An Alternative to Retrieval by Metadata", *Intl Conf on Soft Computing for Problem Solving*, **2017**. [SocProS](#)
20. R.R. Swain, T. Dash, P.M. Khilar, "Investigation of RBF Kernelized ANFIS for Fault Diagnosis in Wireless Sensor Networks", *International Conf on Computational Intelligence*, **2017**. [ICCI](#)
21. A. Saboo, A. Sharma, T. Dash, "GASOM: Genetic Algorithm Assisted Architecture Learning in Self Organizing Maps", *International Conf on Neural Information Processing*, **2017**. [ICONIP](#)
22. P.N. Reddy, S.N. Dambekodi, T. Dash, "Towards Continuous Monitoring of Environment under Uncertainty: A Fuzzy Granular Decision Tree Approach", *ISEC Workshop on Development aspects of Intelligent Adaptive Systems workshop*, **2017**. [DIAS@ISEC](#)
23. T. Dash, T. Nayak, R.R. Swain, "Controlling Wall Following Robot Navigation Based on Gravitational Search and Feed Forward Neural Network", *International Conference on Perception and Machine Intelligence*, **2015**. [PerMIn](#)
24. T. Dash, S.K. Nayak, H.S. Behera, "Hybrid Gravitational Search and Particle Swarm Based Fuzzy MLP for Medical Data Classification", *International Conference on Computational Intelligence in Data Mining*, **2014**. [ICCIDM](#)
25. R. Mohanty, T. Dash, B. Khan, S.P. Dash, "An Experimental Study of a Novel Move-to-Front-or-Middle (MFM) List Update Algorithm", *Intl Conf on Applied Algorithms*, **2014**. [ICAA](#)

#### SELECTED PREPRINTS

1. E. Dadlani, T. Dash, D. Sahoo, "An AI-assisted Investigation of Tumor-Associated Macrophages and their Polarization in Colorectal Cancer", *bioRxiv*, **2023**. [bioRxiv](#)
2. R. Khincha, S. Krishnan, T. Dash, L. Vig, A. Srinivasan, "Constructing and Evaluating an Explainable Model for COVID-19 Diagnosis from Chest X-rays", *arXiv*, **2020**. [arXiv](#)

#### PATENTS

1. Method and System for Iterative Knowledge Distillation for Neural Network Compression (Filed at Indian Patent Office, Appl. No. 202021055409, **2020**).

## PARTICIPATIONS & TALKS

1. Poster Talk (with Ekta Dadlani): “Tumor Associated Macrophages and Colorectal Cancer: AI-assisted Predictive Modeling of Macrophage Polarization in Colorectal Cancer” at Structural & Functional Genomics 2023 Retreat, Moores Cancer Center, UC San Diego, May 5, 2022.
2. Invited Talk: “Graph Neural Networks: Concepts, Implementations and Application” at SAIDL-APPCAIR AI Symposium 2022, BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, India, October 9, 2022.
3. Invited Lecture: “Deep Learning in a Human-in-the-Loop Setting” at Amity University, Patna, India, September 2, 2022.
4. Invited Talk: “Deep Learning in a Human-in-the-Loop Setting” at IISER Pune, India, July 28, 2022.
5. Invited Talk: “Inclusion of domain-knowledge into GNNs using mode-directed inverse entailment” at The Intelligent Data Analysis Lab, Czech Technical University, Prague, June 30, 2022.
6. Invited Talk: “Human-in-the-Loop Machine Learning: Inclusion of Domain-Knowledge into Deep Neural Networks” at Davis Institute for Artificial Intelligence, USA, February 25, 2022.
7. Indo-German Spring School on Algorithms for Big Data, IIT Bombay, February 18-22, 2019 (also delivered a talk on: “Learning in the Presence of Expert Knowledge: A talk on Inductive Logic Programming”).
8. Google Faculty Institute Program, Google India, December 11, 2018. I actively participated in various practical sessions on ML@Google.
9. Summer School on Statistical Relational AI (ACAI), Univ. of Ferrara, Italy, August 27-31, 2018. I was awarded official credit for this course: 30 Hours, 5 ECTS credits.

## PROFESSIONAL AND CO-CURRICULAR SERVICES

### Journal Editorial Board

Academic Editor, PLOS One *since 2023*

### Journal Reviewer

IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics *since 2018*

IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics *since 2018*

Neural Processing Letters *since 2017*

Several others: see my homepage.

### Program Committee Member

International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) 2022–2024

IJCAI Special Track on “AI and Social Good” 2023

AAAI–International Workshop on Combining Learning and Reasoning (CLeaR) 2022

International Conference on Database Systems for Advanced Applications (DASFAA) 2022

International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2019–2023

International Conference on Inductive Logic Programming (ILP) 2019

International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks (ICANN) 2019–2022

### Organising Member

Cambridge AI Club for Biomedicine *since 2024*

Deep Learning Journal Club at CRUK CI *since 2024*

International Conference on Computational Intelligence (ICCI) at IIT Kanpur 2017

## Memberships and Affiliations

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

2019 – present

## COMPUTER SKILLS

**GitHub**      <https://github.com/tirtharajdash>

**Languages**   Python, MATLAB, Julia<sup>†</sup>, C, C++, Unix shell      (<sup>†</sup>Learning)

**OS**            Unix, Windows, MacOS

## PERSONAL DETAILS

**DOB**            July 3, 1991

**Gender**        Male

**Nationality**   India

**Languages**    English, Hindi, Odia, Sambalpuri

**Postal Address** Flat B30, Forster Court  
7 Charles Babbage Road  
Cambridge CB3 0FT  
UK

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.