Sharan Vaswani

Montreal, QC, Canada

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https://vaswanis.github.io/

Current Position

- **Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms** — Montreal, Canada
  Postdoctoral Researcher — *January 2019 -*

Education

- **University of British Columbia** — Vancouver, Canada
  Doctor of Philosophy (Computer Science) — *Sep 2015 - Dec 2018*
  - Supervisors: Mark Schmidt, Laks Lakshmanan
  - Thesis: Structured Bandits and Applications

- **University of British Columbia** — Vancouver, Canada
  Master of Science (Computer Science) — *Sep 2013 - July 2015*
  - Supervisor: Laks Lakshmanan
  - Thesis: Influence Maximization in Bandit and Adaptive settings
  - Overall GPA: 4.32 / 4.33

- **Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani** — Goa, India
  Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Science) — *Aug 2008 - July 2012*
  - Overall GPA: 9.37 / 10

Selected Publications

- "Fast and Faster Convergence of SGD for Over-Parameterized Models and an Accelerated Perceptron", **Sharan Vaswani**, Francis Bach, Mark Schmidt. International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2019.

- "Online Influence Maximization under Independent Cascade Model with Semi-Bandit Feedback", Zheng Wen, Branislav Kveton, Michal Valko, **Sharan Vaswani**. Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS), 2017.

- "Model-Independent Online Learning for Influence Maximization", **Sharan Vaswani**, Branislav Kveton, Zheng Wen, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh, Laks Lakshmanan, Mark Schmidt. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2017.

- "Horde of Bandits using Gaussian Markov Random Fields", **Sharan Vaswani**, Mark Schmidt, Laks Lakshmanan. International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2017. **(Oral presentation)**

- "Influence Maximization with Bandits", **Sharan Vaswani**, Laks Lakshmanan, Mark Schmidt. NIPS workshop on Networks in the Social and Information Sciences, 2015.

- "Modeling Non-Progressive Phenomena for Influence Propagation", Vincent Yun Lou, Smriti Bhagat, Laks Lakshmanan, **Sharan Vaswani**. ACM Conference on Online Social Networks (COSN), 2014.

Working Papers and Preprints

- "Garbage In, Reward Out: Bootstrapping Exploration in Multi-Armed Bandits", Branislav Kveton, Csaba Szepesvari, **Sharan Vaswani**, Zheng Wen, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh, Tor Lattimore. arXiv:1811.05154, 2019.

- "New Insights into Bootstrapping for Bandits", **Sharan Vaswani**, Branislav Kveton, Zheng Wen, Anup Rao, Mark Schmidt, Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori. arXiv:1805.09793, 2018.

- "Combining Bayesian Optimization and Lipschitz Optimization", Mohamed Osama Ahmed, **Sharan Vaswani**, Mark Schmidt. arXiv:1810.04336, 2018.

- "Adaptive Influence Maximization in Social Networks: Why Commit when You can Adapt?", **Sharan Vaswani**, Laks V.S. Lakshmanan. arXiv:1604.08171, 2016.

Work Experience

- **Inria Paris**
  Intern
  Paris, France
  May 2018 - July, 2018

- **Apple**
  Intern
  Seattle, USA
  June 2017 - August, 2017

- **Limespot**
  Machine Learning Consultant
  Vancouver, Canada
  March - May 2017; Sept, 2017 - Oct, 2017

- **Adobe Research**
  Data Scientist Intern
  San Jose, USA
  Aug 2016 - Oct 2016

- **University of British Columbia**
  Teaching Assistant
  Vancouver, Canada
  Sep 2013 - Dec 2018

- **Siemens Corporate Research and Technologies**
  Research Engineer, Parallel Systems
  Bangalore, India
  July 2012 - June 2013

- **Siemens Corporate Research and Technologies**
  Research Intern, Parallel Systems
  Bangalore, India
  January 2012 - June 2012

- **Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani**
  Teaching Assistant
  Goa, India
  Aug 2012 - Dec 2012

- **Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research**
  Intern
  Kalpakkam, India
  May 2010 - July 2010

Patents

- "Influence Maximization Determination in a Social Network System", **Sharan Vaswani**, Branislav Kveton, Zheng Wen, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh. US Patent Application, 2018.

Awards

- Top 30% of highest scoring reviewers for NIPS 2018.

- Travel award for AISTATS 2017, ICML 2017, 2018, NIPS 2017.

- Four Year Doctoral Fellowship awarded by the University of British Columbia.

- Merit Scholarship awarded by Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani.

Service

- Conference reviewer for ICLR'17-'18, NIPS'17-'19, ICML'17 - '19, AISTATS'19, JMLR, IEEE TNNLS

- Conference volunteer for NIPS'16.

- Volunteer in the UBC Computer Science Graduate Admissions committee for 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

- Student representative in the UBC Computer Science Faculty Recruiting committee for 2015-2016.

- Conference sub-reviewer for SIGMOD'18, AAAI'17,'18, WWW'17, SDM'15,'17, KDD'16,'17, ICDM'14.