

# Vin Bhaskara

Applied AI Research & Engineering | Vector AI Scholar |  
Kaggle Expert | IIT Silver Medalist | Prev: Samsung AI

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## EDUCATION

**M.Sc. in Applied Computing** (Deep Learning), Department of Computer Science, 4.0/4.0 (**A+**) Sep 2018 – Dec 2019  
**University of Toronto**, Downtown Toronto, Canada

- Received the **Vector Institute Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence (VSAI)** valued at \$17,500 awarded to **66 scholars in Ontario**
- Thesis: “Robust Single-Shot Object Detection for Computer Vision.” Supervisors: Dr. Alex Levinstein and Prof. Allan Jepson

**B.Tech. in Engineering Physics** with Minor in **Electronics Engineering**, Department **Rank 1** Jul 2012 – Jun 2016  
**Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)**, Guwahati, India

- Institute Silver Medalist** for the best academic performance in the department among the graduating class of 2016 at IIT Guwahati
- Primary author** of a [foundational paper](#) on Quantum Entanglement and **visiting scholar** at the **Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC)**, University of Waterloo, Canada

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**7+ years** of full-time experience in applied AI

**Senior Applied Scientist**, Foundation Models and LLMs **Borealis AI (RBC Research Institute), Montréal**  
Deep Learning for Capital Markets and Credit Modeling at Canada’s Largest Bank Aug 2022 – Present

- Led R&D on **fine-tuned MLMs** and **agentic RAG** with **LLMs** for **capital markets**, delivering **\$5M+ per desk annually** using **Bloomberg chat data** across Repo, Equity Derivatives, Structured Rates, and U.S. Treasuries trading desks
- Delivered enhanced **Credit Models** using **Foundation Models** trained on proprietary transaction data, **driving \$10M+ in annual revenue** across **13M customers** while improving **fairness** and **interpretability**

**Research Engineer**, Computer Vision **Samsung AI Centre, Toronto**  
Deep Learning for Image Enhancement and Synthesis Feb 2020 – Jun 2022

- Led projects in Multi-frame Alignment for **Burst Photography** using Neural Implicit Models, and **Self-Supervised Learning** for **blind image denoising (low-light night mode)** and **super-resolution (digital zoom)** on Samsung Galaxy mobile phone cameras

**Software Engineer 2** **Broadcom Inc. (formerly Symantec)**  
Machine Learning and Big Data for Malware Detection Jul 2016 – Jul 2018

- Co-led the development of an **XGBoost** model in production on **Norton Anti-Virus** by leveraging Symantec’s **Big Data** telemetry of file attributes, which reduced **over 60%** of previously missed malware detections
- Led research on **proactive protection against malware** by modeling **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)** over a distributed image representation of dynamic file behavior (Preprint: [arXiv:stat.ML/1807.07525](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.07525))

## SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Citations: **298**, h-index: **8** - [Google Scholar](#)

- V.S. Bhaskara\***, T.A. Armstrong\*, A. Jepson, A. Levinstein. “GraN-GAN: Piecewise Gradient Normalization for Generative Adversarial Networks,” [WACV 2022 Conference](#) (2022 IEEE Winter Conference on Applications in Computer Vision) Jan 2022
- V.S. Bhaskara\***, H. Wang\*, A. Levinstein\*, S. Tsogkas, A. Jepson. “Efficient Super-Resolution Using MobileNetV3,” [ECCV 2020 Workshop](#) (2020 European Conference on Computer Vision Workshop) Jan 2021
- V.S. Bhaskara\***, S.N. Swain\*, P.K. Panigrahi. “Generalized Entanglement Measure for Continuous-Variable Systems,” [Physical Review A \(PRA\) 105, 052441 \(2022\)](#), American Physical Society May 2022
- V.S. Bhaskara**, P.K. Panigrahi. “Generalized concurrence measure for faithful quantification of multiparticle pure state entanglement using Lagrange’s identity and wedge product,” [Quantum Inf. Process. 16 \(5\), 118](#), Springer Mar 2017
- J. Flannery, G. Bappi, **V.S. Bhaskara**, O. Alshehri, M. Bajcsy. “Implementing Bragg mirrors in a hollow-core photonic crystal fiber,” [Optical Materials Express 7 \(4\), 1198](#), Optical Society of America Journal Mar 2017
- C.M. Haapamaki, J. Flannery, G. Bappi, R. Al-Maruf, **V.S. Bhaskara**, O. Alshehri, T. Yoon, M. Bajcsy. “Mesoscale cavities in hollow-core waveguides for quantum optics with atomic ensembles,” [Nanophotonics 5 \(1\)](#), De Gruyter Journal Sep 2016

(\* Denotes equal contribution)

## GRANTED PATENTS

- H. Wang, X. Sun, **V.S. Bhaskara**, S. Tsogkas, A. Jepson, A. Levinstein. “Unsupervised Super-Resolution Training Data Construction,” Samsung AI Centre Toronto, [US Patent 12,210,587](#) Jan 2025

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Top 5%** (201st of 4,436 teams) in a **solo submission**, earning a **Kaggle Silver Medal** for predicting Nasdaq stock price movements on real market data from **Optiver** 2024
- **“Samsung Research America Rockstar”** peer-to-peer recognition award 2021
- Selected for **AI Residency Program** at **Google X**, Mountain View (did not accept the offer) 2019
- **Symantec WOW** (Winning Our Way) Level 1 & Level 3 **company-wide recognition awards** for “exceptional performance through focused collaboration with teams” 2018
- **Kaggle ‘Competitions Expert’** ranking for being placed **835 out of 69,593** competing data scientists 2017
- Shortlisted **among 25 students selected internationally** for USEQIP 2015 Summer School at the Institute for Quantum Computing and the **Perimeter Institute** for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Canada 2015
- National Initiative on Undergraduate Science (NIUS) **scholarship** awarded by the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)** for pursuing research at leading physics labs in India for the year 2013

OTHER RESEARCH ARTICLES

1. **V.S. Bhaskara**, S. Tsogkas, K. Derpanis, A. Levinshtein. “Part-based Auxiliary Objectives with No Extra Labels for Robust Single-Shot Object Detection,” [dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10079.47521](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10079.47521) Apr 2020
2. **V.S. Bhaskara**, S. Desai. “Exploiting uncertainty of loss landscape for stochastic optimization,” [arXiv:cs.LG/1905.13200](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.13200) May 2019
3. **V.S. Bhaskara**, Y. Fu, S. Gowda. “Risk Prediction in the General Internal Medicine Ward at St. Michael’s Hospital,” [dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.27695.55205](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.27695.55205) Apr 2019
4. **V.S. Bhaskara**, D. Bhattacharyya. “Emulating malware authors for proactive protection using GANs over a distributed image visualization of dynamic file behavior,” [arXiv:stat.ML/1807.07525](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.07525) Jul 2018

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Improving Object Detection in Cluttered Scenes**  
Supervised by Dr. Alex Levinshtein and Prof. Allan Jepson (University of Toronto)

**Research Intern, Samsung AI Centre**  
May 2019 – Dec 2019
- Improving object detection in cluttered scenes using **part-based auxiliary targets** with single-stage methods for **on-device inference**
- Machine Learning to Assess a Patient’s Risk of ICU Transfer in the ER**  
Supervised by Prof. Marzyeh Ghassemi (MIT)

**Research Visitor, St. Michael’s Hospital**  
Feb 2019 – Apr 2019
- Utilizing patient data from the General Internal Medicine ward to assess a patient’s **risk of ICU transfer or death** early
  - Proposed a **data-driven regularization layer** that improved generalization and interpretability of predictions by incorporating **ICD-10 diagnosis codes** into the model (without requiring them during inference)
- Enhancing the Adam Optimizer by Leveraging Loss Landscape Uncertainty**  
Supervised by Prof. Roger Grosse and Prof. Jimmy Ba (University of Toronto)

**Graduate Researcher, University of Toronto**  
Jan 2019 – May 2019
- Developed a novel variant of **momentum** that leverages the **variance of loss landscape** during training as an **exploration** bonus
  - Incorporating into Adam, our method demonstrates up to **6% improvement in validation accuracy** and significantly **faster convergence** in training CNNs on CIFAR-10 compared to the original Adam optimizer
- Improved Curious Agent for Learning Better World Models**  
Supervised by Prof. Jimmy Ba (University of Toronto)

**Graduate Researcher, University of Toronto**  
Sep 2018 – Dec 2018
- Developed a novel curiosity reward formulation by designing a **curious-critic module** for **sample-efficient exploration** of stochastic state spaces in **model-based Reinforcement Learning**, effectively addressing **catastrophic forgetting** of past experiences

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming & Scripting:** Python, C++, Java, C, Bash (Unix Shell)
- **Databases & Big Data:** SQL (RDBMS), NoSQL, Hadoop Ecosystem (Hive, Oozie, HDFS, MapReduce)
- **Packages & Frameworks:** PyTorch, JAX, HuggingFace Transformers, XGBoost, Pandas, Weights & Biases

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- **Program Committee** member for AAAI 2026 2025 – Present
- **Academic Reviewer** for NeurIPS 2025, ICML 2025, CVPR 2025/2023, ICCV 2023, WACV 2023 2023 – Present
- **Mentor to Graduate Students** at Mila (Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute) 2022 – 2023
- **Mentor to Undergrad Students** at the Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto 2022 – Present
- **Research Supervision** to undergraduate student teams through the “Let’s Solve It” program of Borealis AI 2022 – Present