

RESEARCH INTERESTS

3D Computer Vision - Developing faithful (to geometry), generalizable, and dynamic 3D representations.

EDUCATION

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science

Sep 2022 - Present

Email: ac2538@cornell.edu

Website: justachetan.github.io

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi

New Delhi, India

B. Tech., Computer Science & Applied Mathematics; CGPA: 9.24/10.00

Aug 2016 - Jan 2021

- o Department Rank 1
- Received the Innovative Student Projects Award for best thesis in Computer Science from the Indian National Academy of Engineering. One of the highest honors for undergraduates in India.

Publications

Conferences & Journals

- Aditya Chetan*, Brihi Joshi*, Hridoy Sankar Dutta*, Tanmoy Chakraborty. CoReRank: Ranking to Detect Users Involved in Blackmarket-based Collusive Retweeting Activities. In 12th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM 2019). (Acceptance Rate: 16%, CORE2018 A*)
- Udit Arora, Hridoy Sankar Dutta, Brihi Joshi*, **Aditya Chetan***, Tanmoy Chakraborty. Analyzing and Detecting Collusive Users Involved in Blackmarket Retweeting Activities. In *ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST)*. (Impact Factor: **3.971**)
- Hridoy Sankar Dutta, Aditya Chetan*, Brihi Joshi*, Tanmoy Chakraborty. Retweet Us, We Will Retweet You: Spotting Collusive Retweeters Involved in Blackmarket Services. In *The 2018 IEEE/ACM International Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM 2018)*. (Acceptance Rate: 15%)

Other Publications

- Aditya Chetan, Guandao Yang, Zichen Wang, Steve Marschner, Bharath Hariharan. Accurate Differential Operators for Neural Fields. (Under Submission at ICLR 2024)
- Aditya Chetan, Nipun Kwatra. Distance Learner: Incorporating Manifold Prior to Model Training. In The Second Workshop on Symmetry and Geometry in Neural Representations (NeurReps) at NeurIPS 2023.
- Brihi Joshi*, Shravika Mittal*, **Aditya Chetan***. Did You "Read" the Next Episode? Using Textual Cues for Predicting Podcast Popularity. In *The First Workshop on NLP for Music and Audio at ISMIR 2020*.
- Aditya Chetan, Jennifer Guo, Leticia Mattos Da Silva, Jacob Ridgway, Silvia Sellán, Alec Jacobson. The Space of Signed Distance Fields. Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program 2021 Project Report. [link]
- Nishtha Madaan, Gautam Singh, Sameep Mehta, **Aditya Chetan***, Brihi Joshi*. Generating Clues for Gender-based Occupation De-biasing in Text. [link]

*Equal contribution

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Sep 2022 - Present

Graduate Research Assistant

- ${ \circ \ \, {\bf Dynamic \ Scene \ Reconstruction \ from \ Monocular \ Videos} } \\ Advised \ by: \ Prof. \ Bharath \ Hariharan \ { \it \& Prof. \ Noah \ Snavely} }$
 - * Developing methods for the reconstruction of dynamic scenes from monocular videos.
 - * **Keywords:** Non-Rigid SfM, Neural Fields

• Accurate Differential Operators for Neural Fields

Advised by: Prof. Bharath Hariharan & Prof. Steve Marschner

- * Developed spatial differential operators for Hybrid Neural SDFs as an alternative to automatic differentiation.
- * Showed improved performance of Hybrid Neural SDFs in applications like rendering and physical simulation.
- * Keywords: Geometry Processing, Signed Distance Fields, Hybrid SDFs

Microsoft Research India

• Research Fellow

Research Intern

Research Intern

Bengaluru, India (Virtual)

Sep 2021 - July 2022

Jan 2021 - Jun 2021

o Geometry for Adversarial Robustness of Neural Networks [report]

Advised by: Dr. Nipun Kwatra

- * Developed methods to improve adversarial robustness of DNNs by leveraging geometry of the data manifold.
- * Devised novel training schemes for DNNs. Empirically confirmed benefits on synthetic datasets.
- * Worked on scaling our methods to real-world datasets like MNIST and CIFAR-10.
- * Conducted a literature survey on Geometric Deep Learning to explore connections to Adversarial Robustness.
- * Keywords: Adversarial Robustness, Topology, Deep Learning, Differential Geometry

Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences

Toronto, Canada (Virtual)

Jul 2021 - Aug 2021

• The Space of Signed Distance Functions [report]

Advised by: Silvia Sellán and Prof. Alec Jacobson

- * Developed methods for deforming/smoothing Implicit Surface Representations like SDFs directly.
- * Showed that surface fairing (in particular, MCF) is instantaneously equivalent to Gaussian smoothing of SDFs.
- * Reviewed, implemented, and analysed existing algorithms for smoothing implicit surface representations.
- * Proposed a neural network-based pipeline for processing SDFs to produce the effects of Mean Curvature Flow.
- * Keywords: Geometry Processing, Signed Distance Fields, Mean Curvature Flow

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi

New Delhi, India

 $Under graduate\ Researcher$

Aug 2020 - Aug 2021

• Functional Maps for Non-isometric Shape Correspondence Advised by: Prof. Kaushik Kalyanaraman

- * Worked on open problems pertaining to shape registration, with a focus on the Functional Maps approach.
- * Reviewed literature such as the SIGGRAPH'17 course, landmark papers like Ovsjanikov et al., Edelstein et al.
- * Reformulated the shape registration problem using recent advances in Computational Optimal Transport.
- st Keywords: Geometry Processing, Shape Registration, Differential Geometry

Max Planck Institute for Informatics

Saarbrücken, Germany

 $\bullet \quad \textit{Visiting Scholar}$

Research Collaborator

Jul 2019 - Dec 2019

Jan 2020 - Aug 2022

• Inferring and Modelling Users' Interests from Conversational Text [details]

Advised by: Dr. Paramita Mirza and Prof. Andrew Yates

- * Worked on extracting preferences of users from conversational data to offer personalized recommendations.
- * Designed a framework for weakly supervised travel-related aspect extraction from conversational data.
- st Worked on developing novel methods for a spect-based neural information extraction, under minimal supervision.
- * Keywords: Natural Language Processing, Weak Supervision, Knowledge Bases

Laboratory for Computational Social Systems (LCS2), IIIT Delhi

New Delhi, India

 $Under graduate\ Researcher$

Jan 2018 - Jan 2021

• Understanding adversarial collusive activities in OSNs (Undergraduate Thesis)

Advised by: Prof. Tanmoy Chakraborty

- * Worked on detecting collusive retweeters on Twitter, focusing on users of freemium blackmarket services.
 - * Curated an open data set of manually annotated users from various freemium services.
 - * Proposed a novel set of features for detection and tested its effectiveness on several machine learning models.

- * Developed an unsupervised and semi-supervised approach for detection of collusive retweeters.
- * **Keywords:** Machine Learning, OSNs, Data Science

IBM India Research Laboratory

Undergraduate Researcher

New Delhi, India Nov 2017 - Mar 2019

• Occupational Debiasing [code][paper]

Advised by: Dr. Sameep Mehta

- * Proposed a pipeline to detect occupational gender bias in text, accounting for demography and time period.
- * Developed a web app implementing the pipeline, and curated a dataset for evidence-based bias detection.
- * **Keywords:** NLP, Machine Learning, Flask

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi

New Delhi, India

Teaching Assistant with Prof. Tanmoy Chakraborty

Jan 2020 - Jun 2020

- o CSE559 Mining Large Networks
 - * Sole TA of the first offering. Created assignments, exams, conducted office-hours, and mentored student projects.
 - * Assisted with lecture content and contributed chapters to a book written by the instructor for the course.
 - * Received positive feedback from the class that included junior and senior-year UG, PG, and Ph.D. students.
 - * Also delivered two lectures in the course on the topic, "Information Cascades in Networks".

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Goldman Sachs
Summer Analyst

Bengaluru, India

Jun 2020 - Jul 2020

- $\circ \ \mathbf{R\&D} \ \mathbf{Engineering} \ \mathbf{Team}$
 - * Developed NLP tools for automating Client Onboarding procedures at Goldman Sachs.
 - * Built a Named Entity Recognition (NER) pipeline for recognizing person entity names from a variety of financial documents (Prospectus, Annual Reports, LLC, LP Agreements, etc.), using minimal labeled data.
 - * Implemented data augmentation, masking techniques, and post-processing heuristics to improve performance.
 - * **Keywords:** NLP, Named Entity Recognition, Deep Learning

Philips India

Bengaluru, India

Research Intern

May 2019 - Jul 2019

- o Radiology & Cardiology Informatics Team
 - * Built Narrative AI, a system for extracting clinical facts and entities from doctor-patient conversations.
 - * Wrote a web app as an end-to-end system to record conversations, handwritten text and display entities.
 - * Created a digital prescription board to identify medical terms from Handwritten text.
 - * Designed an NLP pipeline incorporating text-preprocessing, clinical NER, and information extraction.
 - * Surveyed the contemporary literature in Clinical NER and highlighted the open problems in our work.
 - * **Keywords:** Data Science, NLP, Healthcare, Python, MetaMap

Microsoft India

Hyderabad, India

Jun 2017 - Jul 2017

Global Delivery Intern

• Emerging Capabilities group

- * Creation and integration of chat-bots into the workflow of the MS Sales team, to help handle clients.
- * Learned how to write web apps using the MVC framework in C# following Agile principles.
- * Developed an FAQ chat-bot for new hires of my team, to help them with beginner questions.
- * Used Azure Cloud Services to deploy apps and gained experience in troubleshooting deployed apps.
- * Keywords: Chat-bots, Microsoft Bot Framework, Microsoft Azure, Agile, C#, .NET

AWARDS

- Cornell University Fellowship: Financial support for the academic year 2022-23 for doctoral studies at Cornell.
- INAE Innovative Student Projects Award 2021: Awarded for best thesis at the undergraduate level in Computer Engineering and Information Technology discipline. One of the highest honors for undergraduates in India.
- Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program 2021: One of 36 selected students from 150+ applicants for a funded research opportunity at the Fields Institute, Canada.
- LOGML Summer School 2021: Selected as a student attendee. (One of 100 selected out of 450+ applicants).

 Undertook a week-long project on Self-supervised Non-Rigid Shape Registration with Oshri Halimi (Technion, Israel).
- Lisbon ML Summer School 2021: Selected as a student attendee from 750+ applications. [certificate]
- Dean's Award for Academic Excellence: For excellent academic performance in the 2018-19 academic session.
- Google Travel Grant: Awarded full travel support of 2800 USD for visiting WSDM 2019
- Dean's Award for Innovation R&D: For high quality research beyond coursework in the 2017-18 academic session.
- Best Technical Poster Runner-up at GHCI 2018: Received for the project, "Generating Clues for Gender-based Occupation De-biasing in Text" done in conjunction with IBM India Research Laboratory.

SKILLS

- Courses: Computer Vision[†], Linear Algebra, Probability and Statistics, Real Analysis, ODEs & PDEs, Calculus in R^{n†}, Scientific Computing, Numerical PDEs[†], Differential Geometry, Linear Optimisation, Deep Learning[†], Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing[†], Speech Recognition [†], Affective Computing[†], Geometric Deep Learning[§]
- Tools & Technologies: Python, Java, C#, MATLAB, gptoolbox, NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, git, Flask, Docker

(†Graduate level course, §MOOC)

PROJECTS

- Auto-Decoder++: Towards a faster Auto-Decoder [report]
 - Proposed a method to speed up Auto-Decoder training through better latent code initialization.
 - Showed faster convergence and improved latent space structure Vs. vanilla Auto-Decoders for image representation.
 - o **Keywords:** Auto-Decoders, Generative Modelling
- DiffGeoOps [code] ★ 32 ₺ 5 on
 - o Python library implementing different algorithms for computing discrete curvature for triangulated 2D manifolds.
 - Can generate plots of Mean Curvature, Gaussian Curvature and Principal curvatures for given 3D meshes.
 - **Keywords:** Differential Geometry, Geometry Processing
- Virtual Element Methods [code] [report] ★ 6 on
 - Reviewed literature on the Virtual Element Methods for solving Partial Differential Equations.
 - Implemented a solver for two dimensional Poisson equation on general polygonal meshes in Python.
 - o **Keywords:** Virtual Element Methods, Finite Element Methods, PDE Solver
- Triplet Training for Podcast Popularity [code][paper][talk]
 - Used triplet training technique to counter the inherent class imbalance in podcast popularity prediction.
 - UG-only team project, accepted at the NLP4MusA workshop at ISMIR 2020 (proceedings on ACL Anthology).
 - o Keywords: Deep Learning, NLP, Representation Learning
- Emotional Text-to-speech [webpage][slides] ★ 311 \$\mathcal{P}\$ 46 on \(\mathcal{O}\)
 - Developed over Tacotron and HTS toolkit for emotional speech synthesis for English.
 - \circ Explored fine-tuning approaches for pre-trained models to synthesize emotional speech using ~15 mins. of audio.
 - Keywords: Deep Learning, Speech Synthesis, HMM

- Deep Multi-task Piano Transcription [report]
 - o Developed over Google Magenta's Onsets and Frames work for polyphonic piano transcription
 - Devised a smaller architecture inspired by the paper achieving comparable results in shorter training times.
 - **Keywords:** Deep Learning, MIR
- $img2IAT_EX [demo][code][slides] \bigstar 16 \ \% 5 on \bigcirc$
 - An end-to-end model for converting handwritten mathematical expressions to compilable LATEX
 - Made use of image segmentation, supervised classifiers such as CNNs, SVM, etc. and heuristics for conversion.
 - o **Keywords:** Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Image Processing
- SemEval19 Task 3: EmoContext [report]
 - Worked on the task of contextual emotion detection in text. This was a shared task for a workshop at ACL 2019.
 - Used deep learning models like LSTMs, DeepMoji and ElMo for trying to increase accuracy.
 - o Keywords: NLP, Sentiment Analysis, Deep Learning
- IEDatron: Gesture Mimicking Robot [details]
 - This project aims to improve a human's ability to control a robot, through a robot that copies its actions.
 - o Built using a Microsoft Kinect v1.8, an Arduino Mega, HC-05 Bluetooth module and Servo motors.
 - Was amongst the top 10 projects in the first-year batch and received a mention in the Director's blog [link]
 - o Keywords: Computer Vision, Robotics, IoT

Co-curricular Activities

- Cornell URM Graduate School Application Support: Advised students from under-represented minorities on their graduate school applications for Cornell for Fall 2023.
- SIGGRAPH Research Career Development Committee: Member since February 2021. Part of the Undergraduate Mentoring Sub-committee.
- Student Mentor at IIITD: Mentored first-year undergraduates, helping them adjust to college life.
- Student Volunteer at COLING 2020: Helping conduct the premier NLP conference virtually.
- Volunteer at IIITD Summer Camp 2017: Taught middle-school children from Govt. Schools concepts in Maths, Science, and provided career counselling. [press release]
- Talks:
 - Introduction to ML: Introduced a typical ML pipeline and talked about various paradigms of learning (Supervised, Unsupervised, etc.), some basic algorithms and the math behind them. [notebook]
 - Mathematics of ML: A DIY talk to demonstrate the mathematics behind basic machine learning models. Delivered at a Women Who Code Delhi meetup. [notebook]
 - Maths in LATEX: Short talk on how to use LATEX for writing mathematical content delivered at the Évariste Mathematics club at IIIT Delhi. [slides]

• Clubs

- Founding member of the Évariste Maths club at IIIT Delhi. Link to the club's ideation doc: [link]
- o Core team member of Google Developer Student club at IIIT Delhi from 2019 2020 [certificate]