Ashutosh Kakadiya

https://ashutoshaay26.github.io/

Email : ashutoshkakadiya11@gmail.com

Mobile : +91-9824503005

EXPERIENCE

- **Amazon India**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Bangalore, India
  Applied Scientist in Amazon Advertising　　　　　　　　　　　*June.2021 – present*

  ○ **Algorithmic ad moderation for high volume and sponsored ad programs**: Built ML models as a decision-making system in Ads moderation to tackle large-scale ads for various Ad programs and marketplaces. **Achieved +20-25% gain in automated moderation using Transformers and XGBoost models.**.
    * Meta-classification of ads as defective and non-defective based on the ad, advertiser attributes, and flagging of defect signals
    * Large-scale data wrangling, feature engineering, and model training. Scalable model deployment on AWS and maintenance in production
    * **End-to-end ownership of ML pipeline on AWS Sagemaker**; Periodically model improvement, deployment and post monitoring.
    * Designed a service to automate periodic ML model training to tackle data drift and new feature inclusion. Reduced retraining cycle period from **20 days to 12 days**.
    * Built a Reinforcement learning-based POC for dynamic routing of ads to different moderation channels, having varying accuracy and throughput under capacity constraints.

  ○ **Bad Live Ads Suppression and Bad Actor Identification**: Built similarity and ranking models to catch non-compliant live Ad defects to enhance customer experience. **Models contribution is 54% of bad impressions SVP goal. Featured in an annual all-hands meeting.**
    * Understood a business problem and converted it into a formal ML problem. Proposed short-term and long-term approaches for solving in iterative way with continuous impact.
    * Built **similarity model** based on nearest neighbor approach with **68% rejection precision** to catch similar actors given sample input. Built **ranking model** based on a pre-defined policy with **72% rejection precision**.
    * **Reduced TAT time** for moderation and increase the capacity of moderation by 250 in a month via automating data analysis processes which acts as additional knowledge for the moderation team.
    * Designed a GNN based approach as a proactive identification of similar bad actors.

EDUCATION

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**　　　　　　　　　　　　Chennai, India
  Master of Science by Research (Computer Science and Engineering); GPA: 7.81/10　　　*July. 2018 – May. 2021*

  Advisors: Prof. Balaraman Ravindran, IIT Madras & Prof. Sriraam Natarajan, UT Dallas

  Thesis title: Relational Boosted Bandits in the real-world user interactions (accepted in AAAI'21).

  Coursework: Reinforcement Learning, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Linear Algebra & Random Processes, Data structures & Algorithm

- **Ahmedabad University**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Ahmedabad, India
  Bachelor of Technology in Information and Communication Technology; GPA: 3.41/4.0　　*Aug. 2014 – June. 2018*
  Advisors: Prof. Ratnik Gandhi & Prof. Sanjay Chaudhary

INTERNSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS

- **Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Madras**　　　　　Chennai, India
  Teaching Assistant　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　*Aug 2018 - July 2020*

  ○ **Courses**: Reinforcement Learning, Convex Optimization, Artificial Intelligence, Intro. to Programming
  ○ **Responsibility**: Creating and evaluating tutorials, programming assignments, taking doubt sessions and exams for a class of about 80 undergraduates and postgraduates.

- **HireValley Infosolutions (ezDI)**　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Ahmedabad, India
  R&D ML Intern , Recommendation letter from founder　　　　　　　　*May 2017 - April 2018*

  ○ **Multi-tenant SaaS Platform**: Part of a team of four responsible for building a major part of a company. Built a recommendation engine to suggest jobs for candidates and a candidate recommender system for recruiters with both recommendation tasks running on the same source code.
  ○ **Micro Service Architecture**: Built micro-services for each feature scoring algorithm maintained. The MSA is implemented using Amazon Web Services(AWS).

Publications

- **Kakadiya, A.**, Natarajan S., Ravindran, B.. Relational Boosted Bandits. AAAI 2021.

- **Kakadiya, A.**, Natarajan S., Ravindran, B.. Relational Contextual Bandits. In workshop REVEAL 2020, ACM recommendations systems.

- **Kakadiya, A.**, Derasari, R., Mehta, M. , Patel, S., Gandhi, R., Chaudhary, S., and Goswami, R., (2019). A Service-Oriented Architecture for Human Capital Management System. In 2019 Annual IEEE Systems Conference (SysCon) Proceedings . IEEE

- Patel, S., **Kakadiya, A.**, Mehta, M., Derasari, R., Patel, R., and Gandhi, R. (2018). "Correlated Data Generation Using GAN and its Application for Skill Recommendation" in 2nd Workshop on DSHCM collocated with ECML-PKDD'18

Master's Thesis

Title: Relational Boosted Bandits in real-world user interactions

- Proposed a first contextual bandit algorithm, Relational Boosted Bandits(Rb2) for online learning in relational domain

- Incorporated gradient boosted relational trees as a base learner and softmax exploration for the exploration-exploitation trade-off

- New parametric-free sampling algorithm that is suitable for online relational learning

- Empirically demonstrated the effectiveness and interpretability of RB2 with other benchmark algorithms on the cumulative regret evaluation metric on tasks such as link prediction, relational classification, and recommendation

Selected Projects

- **Model Based Reinforcement Learning with Graph Interaction Networks(Feb 2019 - September 2019)**:
  Model-Based Reinforcement Learning is centered at making agents build a sufficiently good model of the environment and then plan on the model.Proposed novel Model-based RL algorithm that incorporate the richer information of interactions within different parts of the agent and environment using graphs interaction networks. Project report
- **News Article Recommendation Algorithm (April 2019)**:
  Proposed a novel recommendation algorithm based on contextual bandit and efficient heuristics.The project was taken as self-study on recommendation algorithms. Used LinUCB as oracle learner and applied ML techniques for building filters to classify relevant users and contents.The CTR improvement of 9% over standard baseline.

Programming Skills

- **Languages**: Python,Java, SQL, C, C++, HTML

- **Tools/Technologies**: PyTorch, XGboost, AWS Sagemaker, ASML, Latex, Openai baselines, HuggingFace, Flask, Pandas, Numpy, Scipy, scikit-learn

Professional Activities

- Lab Instructor, Deep Reinforcement Learning Crash Course Workshop for DRDO scientists at IITM Research Park, December'19

- Lab Instructor and Organizer, Learning in Data Science: Models, Algorithms & Tools Summer School; at Ahmedabad University, July'17

Achievements & Honours

- Selected for Google AI Research Summer School, June'20

- Titled Distinguished Alumni by Dean of SEAS, Ahmedabad University, 2020

- Secured All India Rank 1349 among 107893 candidates in GATE (computer science), 2018

- Secure 25th rank in all over India in 24 hour algorithmic programming competition held by IEEE, October'16

- Selected for Indian Oil Corporation Student Scholarship for Academic excellence. 2014