Yashwanthi Anand

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Ph.D. student developing learning and planning algorithms for autonomous agents, with a focus on reinforcement learning, and learning from human feedback.

Research

Feb 2025 **Adaptive Querying for Reward Learning from Human Feedback**, *(Under submission)*.

Jan 2025 **Multi-Objective Planning with Contextual Lexicographic Reward Preferences**, *International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), 2025*.

June 2024 **Adaptive Feedback Selection for Learning to Avoid Negative Side Effects in Autonomous Agents**, *Workshop on Reinforcement Learning Beyond Rewards, RLC 2024*.

July 2021 **Visual Exploration of Large-Scale Image Datasets for ML with Treemaps**, *IEEE VIS 2022*.

2021 **Resource-Aware Distributed Data Sanitization for Privacy-Preserving ML**, *MS Thesis*.

Projects

Feb 2022 **Score Distribution Graph-Based Visualization Framework**.
- Designed a visualization tool using deep learning embeddings and t-SNE.
- Provided an interactive UI for model analysis.
- Tools: Node.js, D3.js

June 2020 **Single Object Tracking for Videos**.
- Evaluated tracking models (e.g., Mask R-CNN, Siamese Networks) on VOT2018 dataset.
- Tools: TensorFlow, OpenCV

March 2020 **Predicting Tumor Suppressing Genes**.
- Used semi-supervised learning with Graph Convolution Networks to predict tumor-suppressing genes.
- Achieved 75% accuracy.
- Tools: PyTorch

Education

2021 – Present **PhD in Computer Science**, *Oregon State University, Corvallis*.
- Advisor: Dr. Sandhya Saisubramanian
- Research: Safe reinforcement learning, Human-in-the-loop AI
- GPA: 3.5/4.0

2019 – 2021 **MS in Computer Science**, *Oregon State University, Corvallis*.
- Advisors: Dr. Thinh Nguyen, Dr. Jinsub Kim
- Focus: Privacy-preserving ML
- GPA: 3.6/4.0
- Coursework: RL, Deep Learning, CV, Algorithms

2015 – 2019 **BE in Computer Science**, *Coimbatore Institute of Technology, India*.
- CGPA: 8.5/10
- Key Courses: AI, ML, OS, Computer Networks

Work Experience

2021 – Present **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Oregon State University*.
- Developing safe RL methods for autonomous systems.
- Investigating sample-efficient RL using human feedback.

2019 – 2021 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *Oregon State University*.
- Led Computer Networks (CS372) labs for 100+ students.
- Managed grading and student assistance.

Dec 2018 **Intern, ikval Softwares LLP**.
- Built a text-to-speech engine for vernacular languages.
- Developed phonetic mappings for Tamil characters.

Dec 2016 **Resident Intern, Forge Accelerator**.
- Assisted in business incubation for startups.
- Organized a statewide student innovation challenge.

Leadership & Service

2022 – Present **Student Reviewer**, *AAAI, CHI, IUI*.
- Reviewed peer submissions for top-tier AI and HCI conferences.

2022 – 2023 **Treasurer, Faculty Relations Officer**, *EECS Graduate Student Association*.
- Managed budget and strengthened faculty-student relations.