

AYUSH KUMAR SHAH

Ph.D. student in Computer Science

✉ as1211@rit.edu 📍 Rochester, New York ☎ (585) 471-9866
🌐 ayushkumarshah 🔗 linkedin.com/in/ayush7/ 💻 shahayush.com

Research Interests: Pattern recognition, computer vision, detection and recognition of graphical structures, multi-modal deep learning, natural language processing, visual scene parsing

EDUCATION

PhD in Computing and Information Sciences

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

CGPA: 3.92/4

Advisor: Dr. Richard Zanibbi

Research Group: Document and Pattern Recognition Lab (DPRL)

Area of focus: extraction and visual parsing of graphical structures and notations, focusing on mathematical formulas and chemical diagrams in documents.

Relevant Courses: Pattern Recognition, Computer Vision, Mathematics for Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Software Engineering

Aug 2020 – Present

Rochester, NY, USA

Bachelors in Computer Engineering

Kathmandu University

CGPA: 3.96/4

Relevant Courses: Artificial Intelligence, Data Structures and Algorithms, Algorithm and Complexity, Software Engineering, Probability and Statistics, Machine Learning, Speech and Language Processing, C, C++

Aug 2015 – Oct 2019

Kavre, Nepal

PUBLICATION

- **A. K. Shah**, A. Dey, and R. Zanibbi, “A Math Formula Extraction and Evaluation Framework for PDF Documents,” in Document Analysis and Recognition – ICDAR 2021, Cham, 2021, pp. 19–34. doi: 10.1007/978-3-030-86331-9_2

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Document and Pattern Recognition Lab (DPRL), RIT

Graduate Research Assistant

Rochester, New York

Aug 2020 – Present

- Worked on the MathSeer project, a system to make finding mathematical information easier by creating innovative search engines, interfaces, and algorithms for extracting and recognizing math
- Built a new open-source math formula extraction pipeline for PDF files
- Adopted distributed parallelization methods with multiple GPUs and implemented custom dataloader with dynamic batch size to fully utilize the GPU, which increased the speed of the math formula parser by 6 times
- Built new tools for visualization and evaluation of parsing results and errors
- Worked on a PDF symbol extractor that identifies precise bounding box locations in born-digital PDF documents
- Developed a simple and effective algorithm to perform detection of math expressions using visual features alone
- Wrote an API for recognizing handwritten and typeset formulas and output the corresponding \LaTeX and MathML
- Currently working on improving the accuracy of the math formula parser by experimenting better visual features and attention mechanisms
- Currently working on adopting the parser to work with more complex graphical structures like chemical diagrams

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages

Python, R, Matlab, C, C++, JAVA

Python Packages

Pytorch, Tensorflow, Scikit-Learn, OpenCV, Nltk, Pandas, Numpy, Matplotlib, Fastapi, BeautifulSoup, Regex, NetworkX, Jupyter

Database

MySQL, MongoDB

Miscellaneous

Git, Github, Bash, \LaTeX , Jira, Linux, Arduino, Raspberry-pi

WORK EXPERIENCE

Fusemachines

Machine Learning Engineer

Kathmandu, Nepal

June 2019 – Aug 2020

- Worked on the ML pipeline: data cleaning and pre-processing, model building, tuning hyperparameters, model training, and model evaluation in NLP and Computer Vision domain.
- Developed a product classifier using chemical attributes to optimize business decisions for products that go unsold using boosting algorithms including Gradient Boosting, Random Forests, XGBoost, LightGBM.
- Built an intelligent character recognition system using CNN and RNN to predict handwritten texts (both English and Nepali) in manually-filled form fields with an accuracy of 95%.
- Analysed data provided by a subscription-based e-commerce client for building a recommendation system, which led to an increase in revenue through cross-selling by 6% (large as we were serving 600k users).
- Designed, reviewed, and refined reading materials, quizzes, assignments, and projects for Fusemachines AI Education Programs - “Foundations in AI: Mathematics for AI” (linear algebra, calculus, probability and statistics, etc.), “Micro Degree™ in Artificial Intelligence: Machine Learning, Computer Vision” (regression, image processing, feature detection, image classification, object recognition, etc.)

Samriddhi College

Computer Science Instructor

Kathmandu, Nepal

Jan 2020 – June 2020

- Designed and implemented daily lesson plans and coding sessions for the course “Foundations in AI: Computer Science and Mathematics” to undergraduate BSc.CSIT students. The course topics include: Introduction to AI, Fundamentals of CS, Python Programming, Data Structure, Database Management System.

HONORS AND AWARDS

RIT Ph.D. Merit Scholarship/Assistantship. Financial Support for Ph.D. at RIT. 2020 – Present

Kathmandu University Merit-based scholarship (4x). \$440 worth scholarship awarded for securing the highest GPA in the Computer Engineering cohort (4/7 semesters). 2015 – 2019

Fusemachines Artificial Intelligence Scholarship Program. Selected among thousands of candidates nationwide for fuse.ai Artificial Intelligence Scholarship Online Course. Nov 2018

American Society of Nepalese Engineers Merit Award. A merit worth \$200, rewarded to the entrance topper of each university in Nepal, seeking admission for undergraduate degrees. May 2016

46th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) Contestant. One of the largest olympiads for high school Physics enthusiasts with 5 contestants, each from 100 participating countries. June 2015

PROJECTS

Nepali Plagiarism Detector 2019
An application that detects plagiarised Devanagari text files using a self-built rule-based stemming algorithm and Cosine similarity.

Guitar chord recognizer 2019
An application that predicts the chords when the Mel spectrograms of guitar sound are fed into a CNN.

AI Plays GTA 5: Simulating self-driving vehicles 2019
A bike-riding agent in a virtual environment (GTA5), built using CNN, used for simulating self-driving vehicles.

Sarangi: Nepali lyrics emotions extraction 2018
A framework that categorizes songs written in the Devanagari script into four emotions using Naive Bayes.

AutoCar 2018
A self-driving car that can detect lanes, stop sign, traffic light and avoid a collision, built using Canny edge detection, Hough transform, Haar cascade classifier, and Arduino programming.

MathMate – advanced mathematical calculator 2018
An android app that solves different types of mathematical equations, numerical computations, and calculus problems showing involved steps.

ONLINE COURSES TAKEN

Computer Vision Nanodegree	Udacity
Deep Learning Nanodegree	Udacity
Natural Language Processing Nanodegree	Udacity
Faster Python Code	Linkedin Learning
Python Design Patterns	Linkedin Learning
Full Stack Web Development with Flask	Linkedin Learning
Pandas foundations	Datacamp
Software Engineering for Data Scientists in Python	Datacamp
Multivariable calculus	Khan Academy
Statistics and Probability	Khan Academy
Linear Algebra by Gilbert Strang	MIT Lecture Series
Conda Essentials	Datacamp

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Entrepreneurds Tales' v2.0 Organizer <i>Kathmandu University</i>	Jul 28, 2019 <i>Kavre, Nepal</i>
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- Organizing team member of a talk event based on the theme “Leadership and Technology in Entrepreneurship” where entrepreneurs shared their experiences and journey to success

IT MEET v 8.0 Organizer <i>Kathmandu University</i>	Dec 28 – 29, 2018 <i>Kavre, Nepal</i>
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- Organizing team member of one of the premier annual IT event of Nepal, IT Meet

Android Community Coordinator <i>Kathmandu University</i>	June 2018 – June 2019 <i>Kavre, Nepal</i>
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- Conducted several workshops and training programs on OOP, JAVA, Android
- Built an android app for the computer club

Executive Board Member <i>Kathmandu University Computer Club</i>	Jun 2017 – Jun 2018 <i>Kavre, Nepal</i>
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- An active student-run club of Department of Computer Science and Engineering
- Conducted regular workshop and organized various annual events like Software Freedom Day

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Hackathon participant	IT Meet 2019
Coding competition winner	IT Meet 2019
Hardware competition participant	IT Meet 2018
Software competition participant	IT Meet 2018
Project demonstration participant	IT Meet 2018
Yomari Code camp participant	IT Meet 2017
Smart City Workshop 2017 Volunteer at IT Park	
Project demonstration volunteer	IT Meet 2017