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Bhavesh Neekhra

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EDUCATION

PhD, Ashoka University, India

2018 – Present

M.E., BITS, Pilani, India

2007-2009

B.E.(Hons), BITS, Pilani, India

2001-2005

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow

JUN 2021 — Present

Ashoka Mphasis Lab, Ashoka University

Sonipat, India

- Area of research: Ensemble methods in machine learning on tabular data for medical applications

Assistant Professor

AUG 2015 — JUL 2018

Presidency University

Bangalore, India

- System administrator for Moodle (open-source learning management system), conducted online exams for university students, entrance exams for PhD students
- Provided technical expertise and developed solutions for the office of Controller of Examination to make exam results available online. Similarly for the office of Practice School to manage the entire workflow of students' internship
- Starting with the inception of the university, helped set up various academic and administrative processes, mentoring students.

Tutor

OCT 2012 — MAR 2015

Gurukul

Pichhore, India

- Taught mathematics for students of class IX to class XII

Teaching Assistant

AUG 2007 — JUL 2009

BITS, Pilani

Pilani, India

- Assisted in teaching and development of various courses at the undergraduate level
- System administrator for mail Server for 5000 users running on LAMP stack
- Exam portal maintenance and development for the division of Work-Integrated Learning Programs (WILP)

Software Test Engineer

JUN 2005 — DEC 2006

Citrix Systems India Pvt. Ltd.

Bangalore, India

- Developed and maintained in-house softwares as a Member of the Networking DevTest team
- Worked on Regression testing and Unit testing for High-Availability (HA) feature of NetScaler device family

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Beyond Disclosure: Compositional Privacy Harm in AI Systems

NeurIPS 2026 Workshop on Privacy in the Era of Large Opaque Models

scFS: systematic evaluation of feature selection strategies reveals transcriptomic redundancy in single-cell RNA sequencing

Under Review

Cross-Modal Mapping of Cancer Stem-Like Cell Plasticity Using Deep Learning

NAR Cancer, 2026

Predictive Performance is Often Insensitive to Feature Selection in High-Dimensional Biological Classification

ICLR 2026 Workshop on Machine Learning for Genomics Explorations

Poster presentation titled "Adaptive machine learning for HIV drug demand forecasting: a case study in india"

Epidemics, 2025

OncoMark: A High-Throughput Neural Multi-Task Learning Framework for Comprehensive Cancer Hallmark Quantification

Communications Biology, 2025

BharatSim: An agent-based modeling framework for India

PLOS Computational Biology, 2024

Poster presentation titled "Machine Learning Methods for Enhanced Forecasting of Antiretroviral Therapy Demand in India"

Gupta-Klinsky India Institute, Johns Hopkins University, 2024

Poster presentation titled "FedTree: Federated Learning on Tabular Medical Data"

ICGA, 2023

Oral Presentation titled "SynthPop++: A Hybrid Framework for Generating A Country-scale Synthetic Population"

AI4ABM Workshop, ICLR, 2023

Oral Presentation titled "Generating Synthetic Population"

New in ML Workshop at ICML, 2022

Error analysis in the reconstruction of a parabola in 3D from two arbitrary perspective views

Proc. SPIE 5675, Vision Geometry XIII, 2005

PATENTS

CANCER HALLMARK ACTIVITY QUANTIFICATION SYSTEM

(Indian Patent Application No. 202511064233, filed July 2025, status: under examination)

SYSTEM TO DETERMINE STEM-LIKE STATE PROFILING OF TUMOR SAMPLES AND A METHOD THEREOF

(Indian Patent Application No. 202411074804, Oct 2024, status: filed)

TALKS/SEMINARS

BharatSim: An agent-based modelling framework for India

1st Agent-based Modeling India Workshop, IIM Kozhikode

Mar 2025

Monkeys on Typewriters: Is Feature Selection Useful for High-Dimensional Data?

CS Colloquium, Ashoka University

Nov 2024

Tech, Data and CS

Young Scholars Programme, Ashoka University

Jun 2024

INTERNSHIPS

DevTest Intern JUL 2004 — DEC 2004

Netscaler Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, India

- Test Automation for High Availability using PERL modules
- Responsibilities included writing test plans and test scripts(Using PERL) for High Availability (HA) feature of NetScaler device family

Intern MAY 2003 — JUL 2003

Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd, Kota, India

- Relay co-ordination studies using ETAP (Electrical Transient Analyzer Program) software

SKILLS

Machine Learning/Data Science	NumPy, Pandas, SciKit-learn, Excel
Programming Languages	C, Python, PHP, Perl, R
Tools	Git, $\LaTeX$
Other	MySQL, LAMP administration, Web Content Development and Management
Communication	Hindi (Mother tongue), English(fluent), French (basic)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for the Tiny Papers at ICLR	2024
Attended the workshop on Computing Research in Curricula: Knowledge, Education & Training conducted at IITGN	Feb 2024
Member of Program Committee for the Table Representation Learning (TRL) workshop at NeurIPS	2023
Graduate Teaching Assistant for AI/ML Winter School organised by Princeton University and Ashoka University	Dec 2022
Volunteered at ICML, ICLR	2022
Volunteered as Tech Producer for Teleconference Sessions and HelpDesk Operations at GECCO	Jul 2021
Volunteered at Big Data Analytics (BDA) Conference	Dec 2020
Placement volunteer for the Computer Science Association (CSA), BITS, Pilani	Jan-May 2005

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Shared 1st place in national-level C Programming contest 'Smash the BUG' held during APOGEE, BITS, Pilani	Mar 2005
Shared 1st place in national-level C Programming contest 'CHAOS' held during APOGEE, BITS, Pilani	Mar 2004
Merit-cum-Need Scholarship recipient at BITS-Pilani during First Degree	2001-2005
Ranked 1st among 200,000+ students in the Class XII Merit List of the Madhya Pradesh State Board	2001
Won 1st Prize in an essay competition organized by the Ministry of I&B, Government of India in class XII	2001
Ranked 39th among 200,000+ students in the Class X Merit list of Madhya Pradesh State Board	1999

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MISCELLANEOUS

Actively participated in events/competitions organized in Citrix Systems India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, India

2005 – 2006

Acted in a stage play during a Theatre workshop organized by Hindi Drama Club, BITS, Pilani, titled **Til ka Tad**

2005