Pranav Pativada

pranavpativada@gmail.com � linkedin.com/in/pranav-pativada

EDUCATION

Australian National University (ANU)

ANU, Canberra

- Bachelor of Philosophy (PhB) (Science) Honours. Majoring in Computer Science and Machine Learning.
- 6.7/7 GPA. 86% Weighted Average Mark (High Distinction Average).
- Research projects in optimisation, computer vision, and transformers.
- Courses in compilers, operating systems, algorithms, networks and proof theory.
- Brindabella Christian College Jan. 2016 – Dec. 2020 Canberra
- 99.45 ATAR (2nd Highest in Year).

PUBLICATIONS/AWARDS

- Best Paper Runner Up @ DICTA 2023: Contrastive-Aware ViT for Weakly Supervised Semantic Segmentation.
- Runner Up @ 2024 BlueDot Impact AI Alignment Projects: Exploring The Intersection of Interpretability and Optimisation.
- Acknowledgement in RSS 2025 Submission: Interior Point Differential Dynamic Programming.

EXPERIENCE

Alignment Research Participant

OAISI, University of Oxford

- Researched mechanistic interpretability and reinforcement learning under the Oxford AI Safety Initiative.
- Steered open-source models to intervene with incapability, an extension to the refusal steering work. This won best project.

Honours Researcher

ANU, Canberra

Researching and developing machine learning optimisers as part of my honours through ANU and Oxford. Software Engineer Intern Nov. 2023 - Feb. 2024

IMC Trading, Sydney

- Implemented a scalable and efficient data streaming system for services to access recent historic trading parameters using Kafka.
- Implemented a shareable LRU cache with configurable eviction and down sampling for each IMC client. Currently in use by global quantitative research teams at **IMC Chicago**.

Machine Learning Research Intern

Data61, Canberra

Implemented a novel **contrastive learning** algorithm to improve initial **class-activation maps** for baseline Vision Transformer models. This resulted in a publication and a runner up award to DICTA 2023.

Software Engineer

Geospatial Intelligence Pty Ltd, Canberra

Created a full-stack application for farmers track crop output and carbon footprints. Implemented REST API's and CRUD operations.

SKILLS

- Python (PyTorch), Java (Kafka, Guava, Dagger), C, PSQL, JavaScript (Node, React, Prisma) Languages
 - Tools Git, Docker, LaTeX, Bash

Feb. 2021 - Present

Jan. 2025

August. 2024 – Now

Nov. 2022 - Nov. 2023

Feb. 2023 - Nov. 2023