

Daman Arora

Website: <https://daman1209arora.github.io> Email: damana@andrew.cmu.edu

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Machine Learning, GPA: 4.0

Advisor: Andrea Zanette

Pittsburgh, PA

2024 – 2029 (expected)

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Dual (Bachelors and Master of Technology) Degree, Computer Science, CGPA: 9.4

Thesis Topic: Learning Generalized Neural Policies for Relational MDPs

Thesis Advisor: Mausam and Parag Singla

Delhi, India

2018 – 2023

PUBLICATIONS (* Equal Contribution)

Conference Publications:

Training Language Models to Reason Efficiently

2025

Daman Arora, Andrea Zanette

NeurIPS 2025

Message Passing Enables Efficient Reasoning

2026

Xuecheng Liu*, Daman Arora*, Gokul Swamy, Andrea Zanette

COLM 2026

Maximum Likelihood Reinforcement Learning

2026

Fahim Tajwar*, Guanning Zeng*, Yueer Zhou, Yuda Song, Daman Arora, Yiding Jiang, Jeff Scheider, Ruslan Salakhutdinov, Haiwen Feng, Andrea Zanette

Oral at ICML 2026

Best Paper at SPOT, ICLR 2026

Shrinking the Variance: Shrinkage Baselines for Reinforcement Learning with Verifiable Rewards

2025

Guanning Zeng*, Zhaoyi Zhou, Daman Arora, Andrea Zanette

ICML 2026

Have LLMs Advanced Enough? A Challenging Problem Solving Benchmark For Large Language Models

2023

Daman Arora*, Himanshu Gaurav Singh*, Mausam

EMNLP 2023

SymNet3.0: Exploiting Long Range Influences in Learning Generalized Neural Policies for Relational MDPs

2023

Vishal Sharma*, Daman Arora*, Mausam, Parag Singla

UAI 2023

SymNet2.0: Effectively Handling Non-Fluents and Actions in Generalized Neural Policies for Relational MDPs

2022

Vishal Sharma, Daman Arora, Florian Geißer, Mausam, Parag Singla

UAI 2022

Workshop Publications:

Learning and Leveraging Verifiers to Improve Planning Capabilities of Pre-trained Language Models

2023

Daman Arora, Subbarao Kambhampati

ICML Workshop on Knowledge and Logical Reasoning in the Era of Data-driven Learning

MASAI: Modular Architecture for Software-engineering AI Agents

2024

Daman Arora*, Nalin Wadhwa*, Atharv Sonwane*, Abhav Mehrotra, Saiteja Utpala, Ramakrishna B Bairi, Aditya Kanade, Nagarajan Natarajan

NeurIPS 2024 Workshop on Open-World Agents

Pre-prints:

GAR-meets-RAG paradigm for zero-shot Information Retrieval

2023

Daman Arora*, Anush Kini*, Sayak Ray Chowdhury, Nagarajan Natarajan, Gaurav Sinha, Amit Sharma
Preprint, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.20158>

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Microsoft Research India

June 2023 – June 2024

Host: Nagarajan Natarajan

Software Engineer Intern, Sprinklr

May 2022 – July 2022

Software Engineer Intern, UiPath

May 2021 – July 2021

AWARDS

Awarded the NeurIPS 2025 Scholar Award and received fully sponsored stay and conference registration

2025

Awarded the Merit Award for scoring in the top 7% achieving 9.535 and 10 SGPA in the 1st and 2nd semesters at IITD

2019

Achieved an All-India Rank of 158 in the JEE Advanced Examination

2018

Achieved an All-India Rank of 118 in the JEE Mains Examination

2018

Achieved an All-India Rank of 15 in the KVPY Examination

2018