GOWTHAM ASOKAN

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EDUCATION & AFFILIATIONS

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

M.S. Computer Science   MAY 2021

COURSES: SOFTWARE DESIGN, DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS, COMPUTER ARCHITECTURE, OPERATING SYSTEMS, DATA SCIENCE WITH PYTHON, DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION WITH R, DATABASE MANAGEMENT.

B.A. Economics and Political Science   MAY 2019

COURSES: EMPIRICAL ECONOMICS, EUROPEAN POLITICS, QUANTITATIVE VOTING BEHAVIOR, HEALTHCARE ECONOMICS, INDUSTRY & MARKET ORGANIZATION

ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL   MAY 2015

VOLUNTEERING

Living assistance volunteer - Bomonti Old Age Home in Istanbul   April 2014
CFO - Boston Area Model United Nations Conference   October 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, T.H CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, Boston, MA | July 2021 – Present
Data Scientist
- Working on the Apple Women's Health Study with an interdisciplinary team of biostatisticians, epidemiologists, doctors, and researchers on a longitudinal study on menstrual cycles, PCOS, and other related issues working with Apple and the NIEH.
- Leveraging an Apache Spark distributed computing cluster to build the data pipeline for Apple watch collected sensor data to inform the study.
- Performing regressions, clustering, data visualizations, and linear mixed models to model the impact of heart rate data on the phase of participants menstrual cycle phases.
- Maintaining the software and data stacks that supports the researchers including a Hadoop file system repository, a custom-built JupyterLab distributed cluster, and data exports.

BOSTON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, Boston, MA | January 2021 – May 2021
Data Science Research Intern
- Scraped and wrangled data from public API sources from Bing, Yelp, and Yellowpages to build a public business dataset for the City of Boston's BPDA.
- Worked with a cross-functional team of urban planners, economists, and policy analysts to deliver analysis about neighborhood characteristics in Boston – demographics, foot traffic, and profile of businesses.
- Cleaned and pre-processed the data by standardizing addresses, reverse geocoding, removing fuzzy duplicates using haversine distances and string similarities with Python's Dask for improved parallelized performance on large datasets.

BU SPARK!, Boston, MA | November 2019 – May 2021
Data Science Project Manager
- Leading 6 teams focused on interdisciplinary data science projects serving local governments, non-profits, and publications such as the City of Boston, NAACP, WGBH, ACLU, and the Associated Press.
- Lead the delivery of a data report on Boston Police overtime abuse in collaboration with the ACLU to inform City council hearings.
- Conducting analysis on racial media bias using BERT derived neural nets to build semantic understanding, campaign finance contributions, topic modelling, and web scraping tools using Selenium and Beautiful Soup.
- Projecting evictions in MA using an Autoregressive-moving-average model and creating a time series dashboard on Tableau to match to state rental assistance funding to determine Census blocks most at risk of evictions in the COVID housing crisis.
- Building Machine learning and statistical models on novel applications – using k-means clustering to create batch based deduplication of rental listings, logistic regression models predicting police officers' likelihood to contribute politically based on misconduct reports, Decision tree to model a multi-round game to understand the relationship between aggression and cooperation levels in children.

CERES INSTITUTE, WHEELOCK COLLEGE - Boston, MA | June 2020 – August 2020
Research Manager
- Worked with an interdisciplinary team examining youth recidivism in the MA Department of Youth Services' YES program using caseworker notes and youth demographic information.
- Managed a team of 2 researchers to produce data visualizations, LDA topic clustering to determine causes for youth engagement in the YES support program

AXON, Seattle, WA | June 2018 – August 2018
Public Relations Intern
- Designed European marketing plan for Germany, France, UK, and Italy in collaboration with cross-functional teams across Gov. affairs, Product marketing, and Europe.
- Synthesized European market concerns and needs such as AI, Cloud security, GDPR, and upgraded law enforcement technologies into report as foundational support for the upcoming 5-year business operations.
- Produced messaging map for the Taser 7 by leveraging engineering specifications for public messaging.
- Organized and managed interview between the President of Axon and the Phoenix Business Journal to boost company brand profile in preparation for Software recruitment event.

SKILLS

Python – Natural Language Processing, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, NLTK, C++, R, SQL, Stata, Web Development, Video Editing and Production, Public Speaking, Fluent Tamil, Fluent Turkish, Elementary French, IT customer service