9. What as per you is best about IITH and please suggest an improvement area for betterment?

I love that we are a young and nimble institute, which has enabled us to move fast when it comes to fractional credit courses, introducing new programs at the BTech level to name a few. I am indebted to the bright faculty that have inculcated in me, both technical knowledge as well as a sense of discipline. At IITH, there are a variety of avenues available to students to chart out their unique trajectories based on skills and interests. As for an area of betterment, perhaps finding a way to get temporary exchange students from other countries, if logistically possible, to add to the diversity of exposures to our students.

10. What is the best way to contact you?

The best way to reach me is at my email address - tadityasrinivas@gmail.com

11. Any other message you want to communicate!

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention https://mitadmissions.org/blogs/entry/50_things/, current students should check this out.

Aniket Anand Deshmukh
B.Tech 2013, EE
KID: 20200230

1. Tell us a little about yourself?

I am working as a Data and Applied Scientist at Microsoft AI and Research in Sunnyvale, California. My broader research interests span a variety of areas in statistical and reinforcement learning applied to various applications in text and image. I have published papers in contextual bandits, deep learning and transfer learning at venues like NeurIPS, JMLR and ECCV. I completed my MS-PhD focused on machine learning in 2019 from the Univerxsity of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from IIT Hyderabad. You can find more details about my machine learning research work at https://aniketde.github.io/. Apart from machine learning I love to spend time outdoors and like hiking and camping!

2. What made you join IIT, Hyderabad?

I am from the second (2009-2013) B Tech batch of IIT Hyderabad. The main reason to join IIT Hyderabad was the city of Hyderabad's information technology ecosystem.

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3.   Which subject did you enjoy most and Least & Why?

There are some defining subjects that I can clearly point out. Prof. Balasubramaniam Jayaram taught us a part of real analysis in the first semester. Thinking about the definition of limits, continuity in terms of epsilons and deltas was very hard at the start. But Prof. Balasubramaniam made the course so enjoyable. I still remember thinking about "True and False" questions in the exam which cleared many concepts during the exam! Prof. Balasubramaniam's courses and teaching has had a huge impact on my machine learning career. Speech signal processing course taught by Prof. K Sri Rama Murty was also one of the turning points in my career where I started focusing more on signals and data. I still remember how we could identify the waveforms of phonemes during the speech signal processing course. I can write more details about Prof. Sumohana's image processing course and Prof. Soumya Jana's Information Theory course but to be brief - both professors and their courses have impacted my research career more than anyone else!

4.   Which other activities were you involved in?

As one of the pioneering batches, we had a lot of opportunities to start new initiatives. In 2010-2011, along with my roommate Sharan B. (who is pursuing his PhD in astrophysics), we started Cepheid, the astronomy club of IIT Hyderabad. In 2011-2012, along with Aditya Srinivas (works on AI and ML too), we started Elektronica, the electronics club of IIT Hyderabad. I was a science and technology secretary in 2011-2012 and started the tech festival which is called Nvision today. Life at IIT Hyderabad was busy and happening! There were so many extra-curricular opportunities that I had to manage my time well between academics and other activities.

5.   What specialized training have you had?

My focus is broadly on machine learning with limited labelled data. I love formulating and modelling machine learning problems at hand, coming up with new algorithms and implementing them to solve a practical problem. During the initial phase of my machine learning career, I focused more on theoretical problems but in the last three-four years, I have also been looking at more practical problems using deep learning.

6.   How have your education and training prepared you for your current job role?

I was hired at my current job role because of my expertise in machine learning and reinforcement learning. Strong foundation in mathematics, signals and data from IIT Hyderabad and then focus on machine learning with limited labelled data during Ph.D at the University of Michigan prepared me well for my current job role.

7.   The best moment you can recall from yours' life @ IIT Hyderabad?

Best moments at IIT Hyderabad are almost always with my fellow batchmates and friends. We used to play "Age of Empires 2" game all night at the hostel, go for night walks in the campus, debate philosophy and astronomy and travel to Zam Zam Dhaba to eat spicy food! Friendships formed during the four years at IIT Hyderabad are still running strong! Because of shelter-in-place (covid-19), we started playing "Age of Empires 2" again which has rekindled so many cheerful memories of life at IIT Hyderabad!

8.   What message do you want to convey to the existing student folk @ IIT, Hyderabad?

I had written a long post when I graduated from IIT Hyderabad in 2013 - "To all my IITH juniors - "https://daniket1992.wordpress.com/2013/07/23/to-all-my-iith-juniors/" I still think all these points are relevant.
Briefly- Explore, try new things, work hard, maintain good academic standing, and have fun! IITH alumni are doing really well across the world. Don't worry about your future but have fun and work hard in the present.

9.   What as per you is best about IITH and please suggest an improvement area for betterment?

IITH is a pioneer in academic innovation. IITH was the first one to start a fractal academic system, artificial intelligence focused degree and one of the first to start a double major system in India. IITH should continue to give more academic flexibility to students!

10.   What is the best way to contact you?

Email – daniket1992@gmail.com, Web - https://aniketde.github.io/

Bharat Bhusan Sau
M.Tech 2016, CSE
KID: 20200231

1.   Tell us a little about yourself?

Masters in Computer Science, 2016 pass out.
Senior Software Engineer in Mobiliya Technology, Bangalore.
Role: R&D in AI/DL.
We build great solutions for AI projects, as well as try to make significant progress in AI/DL research fields.

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