

Gihan Jayatilaka

Computer Science PhD student at the University of Maryland, USA

gihan@umd.edu
<https://cs.umd.edu/~gihan/>
[Google Scholar](#) [Github](#)

INTERESTS

- Building large-scale Machine Learning systems to learn from real-world data that is partially/noisily labeled or unlabelled (**semi-supervised learning**, **unsupervised learning**)
- Adapting foundational models (SSL, Diffusion-based Generative) for discriminative tasks (classification, detection).

EDUCATION

- **University of Maryland** College Park, MD, USA
PhD in Computer Science. Advised by Prof. [Abhinav Shrivastava](#)
Aug 2021 - Dec 2026
- **University of Peradeniya** Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
BSc in Computer Engineering (First Class Honors) [[Courses](#), [Thesis](#)]
2015 - 2020

EXPERIENCE

- **Futurewei Technologies** Santa Clara, CA, USA
Research intern (Camera and Vision team)
Summer 2022
 - Applicability of Vision Transformers for implicit ground-truth tasks
- **University of Peradeniya** Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Research Assistant
Aug 2020 - Jul 2021
 - Computer vision for COVID-19 mitigation
 - Low light image enhancement and Intrinsic Image Decomposition
- **University of Peradeniya** Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Undergraduate Thesis Student
May 2020 - Jul 2020
 - Retinex decomposition of low light images and GAN based enhancement
- **Living Analytics Research Center, Singapore Management University** Singapore
Research Intern
Feb 2019 - Jul 2019
 - Computer vision based screen to camera communication

ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Discriminative Capabilities of Generative Models**
The current SOTA for generative and discriminative tasks in computer vision is the same ViT architecture. However, ViT's are trained as diffusion models for generation and Self supervised pretrained and supervised tuned for classification. In this work, we explore the possibility of using diffusion models for image recognition.
- **Attribute Understanding of CLIP**
In this work, we improve the capability of CLIP (which acts as a vision encoder for most VLMs) to understand attributes of objects in images. Our [early results](#) show the two staged VLMs fail to do so due to the inherent limitations of the contrastive training technique in CLIP. We quantify the issue and attempt solve it through reconfiguring the datasets.

Most of my completed projects have an accompanying publication in the next section.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

- [P 11] **Utilization of Neighbor Information for Generalized Category Discovery and Image Clustering**
Gihan Jayatilaka , Abhinav Shrivastava, Matthew Gwilliam
In Under review for ICCV 2025
[PDF](#) . [Project Page](#)
In this work, we achieve SOTA for Image Clustering and Generalized Category Discovery on almost all the generic image classification and fine-grained datasets (e.g. ImageNet, CUB, STL, CIFAR, Aircrafts).
Tools: Embeddings, Unsupervised/Self Supervised/Semi Supervised learning, similarity search/retrieval

- [C 8] **An optical physics inspired CNN approach for intrinsic image decomposition**
 Harshana Weligampola, [Gihan Jayatilaka](#) , Suren Sritharan, Parakrama Ekanayake, Roshan Ragel, Vijitha Herath, Roshan Godaliyadda
 In *2021 IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP)*. IEEE.
[PDF](#) , [PDF \(Paywalled\)](#) , [DOI](#) , [Poster \(PDF\)](#) , [Poster \(JPG\)](#) , [Presentation\(PDF\)](#) , [Presentation\(Youtube\)](#)
- [C 7] **DeepLight: Robust & Unobtrusive Real-time Screen-Camera Communication for Real-World Displays**
 Vu Tran, [Gihan Jayatilaka](#) , Ashwin Ashok, Archan Misra,
 In *2021 20th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Information Processing in Sensor Networks (IPSN)*. IEEE.
Best paper artifact award.
[PDF](#) , [PDF \(paywalled\)](#) , [Code](#) , [DOI](#) , [Presentation \(PDF\)](#) , [Presentation \(Youtube\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

- [C 10] **S2TPVFormer: Spatio-Temporal Tri-Perspective View for temporally coherent 3D Semantic Occupancy Prediction**
 Sathira Silva*, Savindu Wannigama*, [Gihan Jayatilaka](#) , Muhammad Haris Khan, Roshan Ragel
 In *AAAI 2025 (Machine Learning for Autonomous Driving Workshop)*
Best paper award.
[PDF](#) , [DOI](#) , [Poster \(PDF\)](#)
- [J 9] **Holistic Interpretation of Public Scenes Using Computer Vision and Temporal Graphs to Identify Social Distancing Violation**
[Gihan Jayatilaka](#) , Jameel Hassan, Suren Sritharan, Janith Bandara Senanayaka, Harshana Weligampola, Roshan Godaliyadda, Parakrama Ekanayake, Vijitha Herath, Janaka Ekanayake, and Samath Dharmaratne
 In *MDPI Applied Sciences*
[DOI](#) , [PDF](#) , [HTML](#) , [Presentation](#) , [Project Page](#)
- [C 6] **Hands Off: A Handshake Interaction Detection and Localization Model for COVID-19 Threat Control**
 Jameel Hassan, Suren Sritharan, [Gihan Jayatilaka](#) , Roshan Godaliyadda, Parakrama Ekanayake, Vijitha Herath, Janaka Ekanayake
 In *2021 IEEE International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS)*
[PDF](#) , [PDF\(Paywalled\)](#) , [DOI](#) , [Presentation\(PDF\)](#) , [Presentation\(Youtube\)](#) , [Code](#)
- [C 5] **Generalizing of Foreground Estimation Algorithms in Dynamic Background Conditions (Abstract)**
[Gihan Jayatilaka](#)* , Harshana Weligampola*, Suren Sritharan*, Dhammika Elkaduwe, Roshan Godaliyadda, Parakrama Ekanayake, Vijitha Herath, Nalin Harischandra
 In *SLTC International Research Conference 2020*
[PDF](#) , [Presentation\(PDF\)](#)
- [C 4] **Non-contact Infant Sleep Apnea Detection**
[Gihan Jayatilaka](#)* , Harshana Weligampola*, Suren Sritharan*, Pankayaraj Pathmanathan, Roshan Ragel, Isuru Nawinne
 In *2019 IEEE International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS)*
[PDF](#) , [PDF\(Paywalled\)](#) , [DOI](#)
- [C 3] **A Retinex based GAN Pipeline to Utilize Paired and Unpaired Datasets for Enhancing Low Light Images**
 Harshana Weligampola, [Gihan Jayatilaka](#) , Suren Sritharan, Roshan Goldaliyadda, Parakrama Ekanayeka, Roshan Ragel, Vijitha Herath
 In *MERCON 2020*
[PDF](#) , [PDF\(paywalled\)](#) , [Presentation\(PDF\)](#) , [Presentation\(Youtube\)](#) , [DOI](#)
- [J 2] **GPU accelerated adaptive banded event alignment for rapid comparative nanopore signal analysis**
 Hasindu Gamaarachchi, Chun Wai Lam, [Gihan Jayatilaka](#) , Hiruna Samarakoon, Jared T. Simpson, Martin A. Smith, Sri Parameswaran
 In *BMC Bioinformatics* 21, 343 (2020)
[PDF](#) , [HTML](#) [DOI](#)

- [J 1] **Adaptive hierarchical clustering for hyperspectral image classification: Umbrella Clustering**
 S.S.P. Vithana, E.M.M.B. Ekanayake, E.M.H.E.B. Ekanayake, A.R.M.A.N. Rathnayake, G.C. Jayatilaka , H.M.V.R. Herath, G.M.R.I. Godaliyadda and M.P.B. Ekanayake
 In *J. Spectral Imaging 8, a11 (2019)*
[PDF](#) , [HTML](#) , [DOI](#)

HONORS AND AWARDS

	[A] Algorithms	[C] Competitive Programming	[E] Examinations	[D] Development
2025	[A]	39th Annual AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning for Autonomous Driving Workshop. <u>AAAI-W 2025 Best Paper Award.</u>		
2022	[A]	ACM/IEEE International Conference on Information Processing in Sensor Networks. <u>IPSN 2021 Best Paper Artifact Award.</u>		
2021	[]	University of Maryland, College Park : <u>Dean's Fellowship</u>		
2020	[A]	Prof. E.F.Bartholomeusz Endowment award for <u>best mathematical thesis</u> project of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya (413 students).		
2020	[A]	Escape 2020 – Thesis project symposium of the Deaprtment of Computer Engineering (60 students), University of Peradeniya. <u>Nominated for best thesis</u>		
2019	[E]	Huawei Seeds for the Future: Selected to <u>top 10</u> CS/IT undergraduates of the country in terms of academic merit to participate in the program.		
2019	[A]	StatHack 2.0 – nationwide inter university statistical data analysis competition (90 teams) organized by Dept. of Statistics, University of Colombo. <u>Winners</u>		
2019	[C]	IEEEExtreme 12.0: (World wide algorithmic programming competition : 4300 teams) National Runners up , World Rank 67		
2019	[A]	Dialog Axiata Datathon - data science hackathon in SL on smart city planing (for students and data science professionals). Best data engineer award		
2019	[C]	ACES Coders v7.0 (National level inter university algorithmic programming competition: 120 competing teams) <u>Champions</u>		
2019	[C]	Google Code Jam Qualification round : Perfect score, Best performance in SL, World Rank 298 (24000 participants)		
2018	[C]	IEEEExtreme 12.0: (World wide algorithmic programming competition : 4000 teams) <u>National Runners up , World Rank 79</u>		
2018	[A]	IEEE Region 10 Humanitarian Technology Conference (Asia / Australia region) Humanitarian Technology Products Competition for grad/undergrad students. <u>Champions</u> . Project: Infant sleep apnea detection system		
2018	[A]	SLIIT Codefest: Emerging Innovator nationwide open competition: <u>Champions - Gold award</u> . Project: Infant sleep apnea detection system		
2018	[A]	BrainStorm: The Premier Biomedical Competition in Sri Lanka. <u>Runners up and Silver medal</u> . Project: Infant sleep apnea detection system		
2018	[A]	Dialog NB-IOT Hackathon (Invitational undergrad and professional dev hackathon) Project: Infant sleep apnea detection system: <u>Runners up</u>		
2018	[A]	United Nations' Social Innovation Challenge: Shortlisted for national innovation camp and to the per-incubation program (<u>Top 14 out of 700+ teams</u>)		
2018	[R]	Sri Lanka Robotics Competition (Inter-university robotics competition) Project Galvans : <u>National rank 4</u>		
2017	[C]	IEEEExtreme 11.0: <u>National Champions, World Rank 124</u>		
2017	[A]	ACES Hackathon 2017: (Intra university hackathon) Project: Expert miner: <u>Software section winners, Best idea of the competition</u>		
2016	[A]	IEEEExtreme 10.0: <u>National Champions, World Rank 62</u>		
2016	[A]	ACES Coders v6.0 <u>Champions</u>		
2016	[D]	ACES Hackathon 2016: Project Motify: <u>Software section winners, Most popular idea of the competition</u>		
2016	[E]	HDTs Scholarship award in recognition of 2014 GCE AL performances		
2015	[E]	Mahapola merit scholarship for performance in GCE AL examination		
2015	[E]	Member of the SL national team for Asian and International Physics Olympiads		
2015	[E]	Sri Lanka Mathematics Olympiad: <u>National rank 25, High distinction</u>		
2014	[E]	GCE AL (Advanced Level) examination. Mathematics A, Physics A, Chemistry A. z score 2.55 , National rank 86 (30,000+ students).		
2014	[E]	Sri Lanka Physics Olympiad: <u>National rank 8, Silver Medal</u>		
2014	[E]	Sri Lanka Mathematics Olympiad: <u>High distinction</u>		
2013	[E]	Star Quest - Astronomical quiz competition: <u>National rank 4.</u>		

2013 [E] National Chemistry Quiz (iChem, SL): National rank 2, High distinction
2013 [E] Sri Lanka Mathematics Olympiad: National rank 35, High distinction.

WORKSHOPS/TRAINING ATTENDED

2019 [Huawei seeds for the future 2019](#) two week study in China about telecommunication, 5G, cloud etc:
2018 Hackadev National Social Innovation camp organized by United Nations Development Project and Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Center.
2017 Joint Indo-Sri Lanka workshop on big data analytics at 2017 IEEE International Conference on Information Systems.
2014-15 Sri Lanka National Physics Olympiad Team training at University of Colombo, Department of Physics.

TEACHING

2025 Sp Graduate TA for CMSC132 Object Oriented Programming
2024 Fa Graduate TA for CMSC133 Object Oriented Programming
2021-24 Graduate TA for [CMSC 351 Algorithms](#) (2021 Fa, 2022 Sp, 2022 Fa, 2024 Sp).
2023 Fa Graduate TA for CMSC 420 Advanced Data Structures.
2023 Sp Graduate TA for [CMSC 430 Design and Implementation of Programming Languages](#) .
2022 Volunteer problem setter for Algorithm Implementation Tutorials for CO322 (E18) course.
2021 Volunteer organizer of [Neural Networks Reading Group](#) for CO542 (E15) course.
2020 Casual instructor (TA) for Computer Architecture and Digital Logic courses of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya.
2018-19 Volunteer instructor (TA) for [GP106 Computing](#) (E16, E17)

SERVICES

Reviewing: [Springer IJCV](#) (2024), [ACM JCSS](#) (2024), IEEE Access (2023), [ICARC](#) (2021)
2019-23 Scientific Committee, [National Informatics Olympiad](#) , Sri Lanka.
2021-22 Student reviewer, CS MS/PhD admissions, University of Maryland 2022 Fall and 2023 Fall.
2022 Invited speaker, “ [What is data science?](#) ” (in Sinhala) for high school students.
2021 Invited speaker at “ [Introduction to competitive algorithmic programming](#) ” @ IEEE Student Branch of University of Vocational Technology, Sri Lanka.
2020 Web chair, [Wearsys](#) 2020: 6th ACM Workshop on wearable systems and applications.
2018 Instructor at “computational thinking” session series for algorithmic programming competition enthusiasts of University of Peradeniya.
2018 “Gold chasers” Sri Lanka iPhO (International physics olympiad) team support program, Rotract club, University of Moratuwa.
2017 Speaker at “ [Intro to competitive programming](#) ” webinar for IEEE Student branch University of Wollongong.
2017 Instructor at Weekly “Interactive coding sessions” for freshman class of University of Peradeniya.

SKILLS

Languages	Java, Python , C, MATLAB, Bash scripting
Tools (ML)	Pytorch, Tensorflow , Keras, Sci-kit learn
Tools (other)	Latex, git, CUDA, SLURM

REFERENCES

- PhD (Department of Computer Science, University of Maryland)
 - Prof. [Abhinav Shrivastava](#) (abhinav@cs.umd.edu).
- Pre-doctoral
 - Prof. [Roshan Godaliyadda](#) (roshangodd@ee.pdn.ac.lk)

OTHER

- Full name: Gihan Chanaka Jayatilaka.
- I am a Sri Lankan citizen studying in USA on an F1 student visa. I can intern inside the US on CPT. I need to get a visa to work outside the US.
- Mobile: +12409386618
- Address: 4320 Rowalt Dr, APT 102, College Park, MD 20740, USA.