AAKANKSHA PEERU

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Authorised to work for any US employer (no sponsorship required)

EDUCATION

University of Southern California   Los Angeles
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science   September 2023-May 2027
Dean's List Honoree (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
GPA : 3.60 / 4.0
Minor in AI Applications

WORK EXPERIENCE

Interaction Lab, University of Southern California   Los Angeles, California
CURVE Fellowship Researcher   August 2025-Present
- Conduct undergraduate research in USC's Socially Assistive Robotics Lab (SAR), focused on creating AI-powered robots to support children with (ASD) through personalised social interaction and analysing over 100 video datasets
- Pair with a multidisciplinary team of 1 PhD mentor, 2 undergraduates, and engineers to explore Vision-Language Models for child-robot interaction
- Engage in weekly research meetings, sharing updates, troubleshooting code, and integrating feedback on experiment design with over 4 Vision-Language Models (InternVLM, SmolVLM, VideoLLaMA) to examine children's gestures, and engagement

InspireEdge Solutions   Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Python Developer Intern   June 2025-August 2025
- Developed a full-stack to-do list web application leveraging Django framework and SQLite database
- Implemented features such as task creation, deletion, status tracking, and filtering by importance or completion by designing an intuitive front-end interface, deploying HTML, CSS, and Django templating engine
- Collaborated with 3 interns to generate a user-friendly dashboard with a homepage showing pending tasks and a sidebar for task categories
- Maintained object-oriented and multi-tiered web-based application, utilizing design patterns entailing MVC architecture; initiated life-cycle development with 2 process stakeholders

BestowBooks, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh   Visakhapatnam
Non-Profit Director   May 2022-August 2025
- Found a literacy-focused non-profit to enrich reading access for children in sheltered homes by distributing donated books and building custom reading curricula in collaboration with educators and student volunteers
- Partnered with 3 local NGOs and orphanages, gathering community feedback to guide platform development and curriculum design
- Utilised Mistral AI to generate age-appropriate, goal-driven reading curricula, integrating LLM-based content planning into education for underserved communities, later deployed to prepare reading assignments for 100+ ten-year-olds

Step Up Tutoring   Los Angeles, California
Math and Science Tutor   August 2024-May 2025
- Designed personalised learning plans for 230+ students across varying skill levels using insights from AI-based assessment tools
- Cooperated closely with educators and over 5 families to provide customized academic support and mentorship to elementary students
- Monitored 10+ students' progress with quantitative assessment techniques (games, puzzles), applying data to adapt instruction methods, reinforcing evidence-based pedagogy and partnering with parents to support holistic learning

SKILLS

Programming Languages: Java, Python, C, C++
Web Development: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Full Stack Development, REST APIs, Dango
Machine Learning & AI: PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, Hugging Face Transformers, CNNs, RNNs, LSTMs, Opencv
Data Science & Visualization: Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Seaborn
Tools & Platforms: Git, GitHub, VS Code, Postman, SQLite/MySQL
Data Structures and Algorithms

CERTIFICATIONS

Deep Learning Specialisation: Coursera (Andrew Ng)