

Pranam Kolari

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Research Interests

Machine Learning, Information Retrieval, Knowledge Representation/Reasoning and Network Analysis as applied to Social Media, Semantic Web and the Web.

Highlights

Spam classification on the Web, and Social Media/Networks.
Cited by influential blogs and main stream media.
Over 200 research citations.
Research tools used in Academic, Industrial and Federal projects.

Education

Ph.D., Computer Science, December 2007
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Baltimore, MD
Thesis: *Detecting Spam Blogs: An Adaptive Online Approach*
Advisor: Prof. Timothy W. Finin
Committee: Prof. Anupam Joshi, Prof. Yelena Yesha, Prof. Tim Oates, Dr. James Mayfield, Dr. Nicolas Nicolov
GPA: 3.9/4.0

M.S., Computer Science, May 2004
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Baltimore, MD
Thesis: *Enhancing Web Privacy Protection through Declarative Policies*

B.S., Computer Science & Engineering, September 2001
University Visweswaraih College of Engineering
Bangalore, India

Employment

10/2007–Present Research Engineer, Senior
Adversarial Content Classification (Web Spam)
Search & Advertising Sciences
Yahoo! Labs
Santa Clara, CA, USA

1/2004–10/2007 Research Assistant
 Dept. of CSEE, University of Maryland Baltimore County
 Baltimore, MD

5/2006–7/2006 Visiting Ph.D. Fellow
 IBM Toronto Software Labs
 Toronto, ON, Canada

8/2005–10/2005 Visiting Ph.D. Fellow
 IBM Toronto Software Labs
 Toronto, ON, Canada

5/2004–8/2004 Research Intern
 IBM T. J. Watson Research Center
 Yorktown Heights, NY, USA

8/2002–12/2003 Teaching Assistant
 Dept. of CSEE, University of Maryland Baltimore County
 Baltimore, MD

10/2001–07/2002 Software Engineer
 IBM Global Services Ltd.
 Bangalore, India

Honors

IBM CAS Ph.D. Fellowship
 Awarded in 2005, through 2007

Finalist for Academic Blogger Recognition within US
 Awarded in 2006; organized by College Scholarships.org

Upsilon pi Epsilon
 Awarded in 2004 for academic excellence during graduate studies

Govt. of India Recognition
 Awarded for standing 15th in the State of Karnataka (India) in Class X (more than 200000 applicants)

Media Mentions

Baltimore Sun: Fighting Spam Sites - latest battle in the blog wars
 January 15, 2006 (Print, Online); Based on interview

Information Week: Spam Blogs Pollute Internet Searches
 May 12, 2006 (Online); Based on interview

Wired: Spam+Blogs = Trouble
 September 2006 Issue (Print, Online); Research reference

Red Herring: Spam Plagues Blogs
 December 26, 2005 (Online); Research reference

Publications

Journals/Books

Pranam Kolari and Tim Finin. Spings und Splog (In German). *Linux Magazin, Technical Review: Spam*, (07):pp 126–131, August 2008.

- Anupam Joshi, Tim Finin, Akshay Java, Anubhav Kale, and Pranam Kolari. Web 2.0 Mining: Analyzing Social Media. *Next Generation Data Mining (CRC Press)*, To Appear, 2:pp 1–12, October 2008.
- Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, Kelly Lyons, Yelena Yesha, Stephen Perelgut, and Jen Hawkins. Internal Corporate Blogs: Empowering Social Networks within Large Organizations. *CACM (In communication)*, 2008.
- Tim Finin, Anupam Joshi, Pranam Kolari, Akshay Java, Anubhav Kale, and Amit Karandikar. The Information ecology of social media and online communities. *AI Magazine (to Appear)*, 28(3), October 2008.
- Li Ding, Pranam Kolari, Zhongli Ding, and Sasikanth Avancha. Using Ontologies in the Semantic Web: A Survey. *Ontologies in the Context of Information Systems (Springer)*, 14:pp 79–113, October 2006.
- Pranam Kolari and Anupam Joshi. Web Mining - Research and Practice. *IEEE Computing in Science and Engineering - Web Engineering Special Issue*, (6:4):pp 49–53, August 2004.

Conferences

- Justin Martineau, Akshay Java, Pranam Kolari, Timothy W. Finin, Anupam Joshi, and James Mayfield. Blogvox: Learning sentiment classifiers. In *AAAI*, pages 1888–1889, 2007.
- Akshay Java, Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, Anupam Joshi, and Tim Oates. Feeds That Matter: A Study of Bloglines Subscriptions. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2007)*. Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, March 2007.
- Anubhav Kale, Amit Karandikar, Pranam Kolari, Akshay Java, Anupam Joshi, and Tim Finin. Modeling Trust and Influence in the Blogosphere Using Link Polarity. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2007)*, March 2007. Short Paper.
- Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, Yelena Yesha, Yaacov Yesha, Kelly Lyons, Stephen Perelgut, and Jen Hawkins. On the Structure, Properties and Utility of Internal Corporate Blogs. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2007)*, March 2007. Nominated for Best Paper Award.
- Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, Akshay Java, and Anupam Joshi. Towards Spam Detection at Ping Servers. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2007)*, March 2007. Demo Paper.
- Akshay Java, Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, James Mayfield, Anupam Joshi, and Justin Martineau. The UMBC/JHU blogvox system. In *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Text Retrieval Conference (TREC)*, November 2006.
- Pranam Kolari, Akshay Java, Tim Finin, Tim Oates, and Anupam Joshi. Detecting Spam Blogs: A Machine Learning Approach. In *Proceedings of the 21st National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2006)*. Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, July 2006.
- Boanerges Aleman-Meza, Meenakshi Nagarajan, Cartic Ramakrishnan, Amit Sheth, Budak Arpinar, Li Ding, Pranam Kolari, Anupam Joshi, and Tim Finin. Semantic Analytics on Social Networks: Experiences in Addressing the Problem of Conflict of Interest Detection. In *Proceedings of the 15th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW2006)*, pages 407–416. ACM Press, May 2006. Nominated for Best Student Paper Award.
- Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, and Anupam Joshi. SVMs for the Blogosphere: Blog Identification and Splog Detection. In *AAAI Spring Symposium on Computational Approaches to Analysing Weblogs*. Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, March 2006.

- Pranam Kolari and Tim Finin. Memeta: A Framework for Multi-Relational Analytics on the Blogosphere. In *AAAI 2006 Student Abstract Program*, February 2006.
- Li Ding, Rong Pan, Tim Finin, Anupam Joshi, Yun Peng, and Pranam Kolari. Finding and Ranking Knowledge on the Semantic Web. In *Proceedings of the 4th International Semantic Web Conference*, LNCS 3729, pages 156–170. Springer, November 2005.
- Tim Finin, Li Ding, Rong Pan, Anupam Joshi, Pranam Kolari, Akshay Java, and Yun Peng. Swoogle: Searching for knowledge on the Semantic Web. In *AAAI 05 (intelligent systems demo)*, July 2005.
- Li Ding, Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, Anupam Joshi, Yun Peng, and Yelena Yesha. On Homeland Security and the Semantic Web: A Provenance and Trust Aware Inference Framework. In *Proceedings of the AAAI Spring Symposium on AI Technologies for Homeland Security*. AAAI Press, March 2005. (poster paper).

Workshops

- Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, Kelly Lyons, and Yelena Yesha. Expert Search through Internal Corporate Blogs. In *Workshop on Future Challenges in Expertise Retrieval (SIGIR 2008)*, July 2008. Position Paper.
- Akshay Java, Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, James Mayfield, Anupam Joshi, and Justin Martineau. BlogVox: Separating Blog Wheat from Blog Chaff. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Analytics for Noisy Unstructured Text Data, 20th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-2007)*, January 2007.
- Pranam Kolari, Akshay Java, Tim Finin, James Mayfield, Anupam Joshi, and Justin Martineau. Blog Track Open Task: Spam Blog Classification. In *TREC 2006 Blog Track Notebook*. November 2006.
- Pranam Kolari, Tim Finin, Yelena Yesha, Kelly Lyons, Jen Hawkins, and Stephen Perelgut. Policy Management of Enterprise Systems: A Requirements Study. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Workshop on Policies for Distributed Systems and Networks*. IEEE Press, June 2006.
- Pranam Kolari, Akshay Java, and Tim Finin. Characterizing the Splogosphere. In *Proceedings of the 3rd Annual Workshop on Weblogging Ecosystem: Aggregation, Analysis and Dynamics, 15th World Wide Web Conference*. Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, May 2006.
- Pranam Kolari, Li Ding, Shashidhara Ganjugunte, Lalana Kagal, Anupam Joshi, and Tim Finin. Enhancing Web Privacy Protection through Declarative Policies. In *Proceedings of the IEEE Workshop on Policy for Distributed Systems and Networks (POLICY 2005)*, June 2005.
- Li Ding, Pranam Kolari, Shashidhara Ganjugunte, Tim Finin, and Anupam Joshi. Modeling and Evaluating Trust Network Inference. In *Seventh International Workshop on Trust in Agent Societies at AAMAS 2004*, July 2004.

Reports/Articles

- Pranam Kolari. *Detecting Spam Blogs: An Adaptive Online Approach*. PhD thesis, University of Maryland Baltimore County, December 2007.
- Pranam Kolari. *Enhancing Web Privacy Protection through Declarative Policies*. Master's thesis, University of Maryland Baltimore County, May 2004.
- Pranam Kolari and Li Ding. BPEL for Web Services: Rounding off the Essentials. *SDA-Asia Computing Magazine, June/July 2005.*, February 2005. Available on line at SDA-Asia Computing Magazine and Jax Magazine.

Research Activities

Selected Projects

- *Detecting Spam Blogs: An Adaptive Online Approach*
Part of Ph.D. dissertation spanning 2004 to 2007, with work published at AAAI, TREC and WWW (Workshop), and implementations deployed at multiple locations.
- *Analytics on the Corporate Blogosphere*
Joint work with IBM Toronto Labs, and nominated for the best paper award at ICWSM 2007.
- *Mining Social Media*
Lead and contribute to multiple projects at UMBC that mined blogs and social media for actionable knowledge.
- *Semantic Discovery*
Part of NSF supported collaborative project with University of Georgia, with work published at ISWC and WWW (Best paper nominee), and backing Swoogle, the first Semantic Web search engine.

Talks/Panels/Tutorials

- Social Media, Institute of Pure and Applied Math (IPAM), UCLA, Los Angeles, November 2007
- On Leveraging Social Media, Microsoft Live Labs, Seattle, Washington, May 2007
- Spam in Social Media (Tutorial), ICWSM 2007, Boulder, Colorado, March 2007
- Mining the Corporate Blogosphere, CASCON, Toronto, Canada, October 2006
- Web 2.0 Trends and Directions (Panel), CASCON, Toronto, Canada, October 2006
- The Business of Blogging, IBM Symposium on New Digital Media, December 2006
- Enhancing Web Privacy through the Semantic Web, Samsung, Palo Alto, California, March 2005
- Enhancing P3P through Declarative Policies, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, New York, June 2004

Travel Awards

- Student Volunteer Grant (~ US \$1000) for SIGKDD 2004
- Student Volunteer Grant (~ US \$1000) for AAAI 2006
- Student Travel Grant (US \$150) for AAAI Spring Symposium 2006
- Student Travel Grant (US \$100) for AAAI Spring Symposium 2005
- Student Travel Grant (~ US \$500) for ICWSM 2007

Organizer

- Data Engineering for Blogs, Social Media, and Web 2.0 (ICDE 2008), Cancun, Mexico
- Social Computing Workshop (CASCON 2006), Toronto, Canada

Advising Committee

- Akshay Java, Ph.D 2008, Committee Member

Program Committee

- International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2009)
- WWW 2009 (Social Networks and Web 2.0)
- Workshop on Social Software and Networks (IEEE CCNC 2009)
- IEEE International Conference on Semantic Computing (IEEE ICSC 2008)
- Social Linking Track (HYPERTEXT 2008)
- Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2008)

- International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM 2008)
- Workshop on Adversarial Information Retrieval on the Web (WWW 2008)

Journal Reviewing

- ACM Transactions on Information Systems (ACM TOIS)
- IEEE Internet Computing
- IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics (IEEE-SMC)

External Reviewer

CIKM 2007, AAAI 2006, ICWSM 2006

Technical Skills

Proficient

Java, C++, C, SQL, PHP, Perl, HTML, XML, Servlets, JSP, JDBC, P3P, APPEL, Ajax, RDFS, RDF, OWL, DAML+OIL, Jena, JADE, Jess, Apache, Tomcat, MySQL

Familiar

UML, Prolog, Flora, VHDL, Python, JavaScript, Ajax, EJB, XSLT, Oracle, DB2

Miscellaneous

Citizenship: India

Erdős Number: ≤ 3

August 28, 2008