

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ph.D. in Computer Science, minor in Robotics

GPA: **4.9/5.0**

Expected May 2025

M.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

GPA: **4.9/5.0**

September 2022

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering

GPA: **4.1/4.2**

December 2017

Selected Research (8 first-author publications + 2 under review + 2 work in progress)

MIT – PhD Candidate, advised by Prof. Cathy Wu

Sep 2019 – May 2025 (Expected)

- ∴ Focus: **Reinforcement learning** and **generative modeling** for **multi-agent autonomous driving** that **generalize**.
- ∴ Integrated **machine learning** and **reinforcement learning (Python, PyTorch)** to control multiple traffic agents in **real-world conditions** and **generative modeling (LLMs)** to model traffic scenarios and human driving behaviors at scale.

V Jayawardana, et al. IntersectionZoo: Eco-driving for Benchmarking Multi-Agent Contextual Reinforcement Learning. *In review ICLR 2025*. [OpenReview](#) | [GitHub](#)

J. Cho, V Jayawardana, S Li, C Wu. Model-Based Transfer Learning for Contextual Reinforcement Learning. *NeurIPS 2024*.

V Jayawardana, S Li, C Wu, Y Farid, K Oguchi. Generalizing Cooperative Eco-driving via Multi-residual Task Learning. *ICRA 2024*.

V Jayawardana, et al. Learning to Mitigate Metropolitan Carbon Emissions with Dynamic Eco-driving at Scale. *ECC 2022* and *in review at TR-C*. [Webpage](#)

V Jayawardana, C Tang, S Li, D Suo, C Wu. The Impact of Task Underspecification in Evaluating Deep Reinforcement Learning. *NeurIPS 2022*.

V Jayawardana*, D Suo*, C Wu. Model-free Learning of Corridor Clearance: A Near-term Deployment Perspective, *IEEE T-ITS 2023*.

Cornell University – Visiting Research Scholar, advised by Prof. Samitha Samaranyake

June 2018 – Aug 2018

- ∴ Designed and developed a **real-world data-driven ride-sharing simulator (C++, threading)** and Integer programming models (**C++, Gurobi, Mosek**) for ridesharing. Improved ride service rate by 13.4%. [GitHub](#)
- ∴ Designed a learning-guided ride-pooling algorithm with passenger choice modeling. Improved ride revenue by 22%.

Y Kim, V Jayawardana, S Samaranyake. Learning-Augmented Vehicle Dispatching with Slack Times for High-Capacity Ride-Pooling. *TR-C 2025*. Conditional Acceptance.

University of Moratuwa – Undergraduate Researcher, advised by Dr. Shehan Perera

Jan 2017 – Dec 2017

- ∴ Trained **machine learning** models for **language modeling, ontology modeling, and document retrieval**.

V Jayawardana, et al. Word Vector Embeddings and Domain Specific Semantic-based Semi-supervised Ontology Instance Population, *ICTer 2017*.

V Jayawardana, et al. Deriving a Representative Vector for Ontology Classes with Instance Word Vector Embeddings, *INTECH 2017*.

Work Experience (5 total: 3 research + 1 engineering + 1 data science)

NVIDIA – Research Scientist Intern (Hosted by Sanja Fidler, Jonah Philion, and Jason Peng)

June 2024 – Aug 2024

- ∴ Built tokenized driving datasets and designed **GPT-style token-prediction models** and task-specialized loss functions to model **multi-agent autonomous driving (sim-agent)** as a **language modeling** task – to be submitted for publication.
- ∴ Designed and developed a **residual reinforcement learning** method and a **gym** environment to efficiently **fine-tune** a **pre-trained large transformer** vehicle control model with Waymo vehicle motion data in **closed-loop (alignment)**.

Toyota North America – Research Intern (Hosted by Kentaro Oguchi and Yashar Farid)

June 2023 – Aug 2023

- ∴ Designed and implemented a **multi-agent reinforcement learning** algorithm that **generalize** across traffic scenarios for coordinated **planning** of hundreds of **autonomous vehicles** to **optimize energy efficiency** in driving.
- ∴ Demonstrated improved performance over heuristically designed (37%) and learning-based (64%) baselines. Results were published in ICRA 2024, and a patent was filed for the invention.

WSO2 – Software Engineering Intern (Hosted by Prabath Siriwardena)

July 2016 – Dec 2016

- ∴ Designed and developed the WSO2 SCIM 2.0 library Charon 2.0 for **cross-domain identity management (Java, microservices, unit testing, Git)** and integrated with the WSO2 Identity Server. [GitHub](#)
- ∴ Designed and developed an open-source SCIM 2.0 compliance test suite. [GitHub](#)

Others: Consultant Research Engineer at PickMe 2018-2019, Research Assistant at University of Moratuwa 2018-2019

Other

- Co-organizer: Autonomous Vehicle Across Scales Workshop, RSS 2024 [AVAS](#)
- 2024 Rising Star in Cyber-Physical Systems Research, University of Virginia, NSF [CPS Rising Stars](#)
- Teaching: MIT 1.200 Transportation: Foundations and Methods, UoM CS4622 Machine Learning
 - 2022 Harold L. Hazen Award for Teaching Excellence, MIT EECS
- 2017 Gold Award at National Best Quality ICT Awards, Sri Lanka Sector of British Computer Society
- 2017 Google Summer of Code [GitHub](#)

Expert skills: **Python, PyTorch, Numpy, Pandas, Matplotlib, C++, Java, Git, SUMO**

Proficient skills: AWS, Tensorflow, scikit-learn, Jax, Linux, SQL, Javascript, Gurobi, Mosek, C#, Slurm, Docker, CARLA, HTML, CSS