



Arun Maiya Receives 2021 Goodpaster Award for Excellence in Research

ALEXANDRIA, VA (May 2022) – Arun Maiya, research staff member in the Information Technology and Systems Division at one of the three federally funded research and development centers operated by IDA, was presented with the Goodpaster Award for Excellence in Research.

The award is named in honor of former IDA president and trustee Andrew J. Goodpaster and is presented annually in recognition of research excellence and intellectual leadership within the IDA community.

“Arun is a pioneer in applied research and is focused on the use of computational methods to extract meaning from raw data,” says IDA President Norty Schwartz. “He has led important, high-impact research and development efforts to help sponsors make sense of huge amounts of data.”

Maiya’s work has made a real impact. He routinely produces quality results that are immediately useful to sponsors and has set the standard for rigorous analytic abilities, trusted expertise and innate leadership skills. Maiya has deep technical expertise in artificial intelligence, natural language processing, machine learning, computer vision and network science. His major software contributions since joining IDA in 2011 include IDA Text Analytics (IDATA) and ktrain.

Maiya designed IDATA as a suite of software capabilities developed to facilitate the search, exploration and analyses of large document sets using state-of-the-art machine learning, natural language processing and information retrieval. IDATA’s capabilities have proven to be very valuable for IDA researchers in solving the most challenging sponsor problems.

Maiya also developed the machine learning library known as ktrain, which makes deep learning and artificial intelligence more accessible and easier to apply. The ktrain library supports text, images, graphs and tables and has been downloaded more than half a million times by users around the world for a wide range of use cases in government, industry and academia. The open-source software is available on GitHub; it has been highlighted in several textbooks on artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Maiya earned his doctoral degree in computer science from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2011. He earned his master’s degree in computer science from DePaul University in 2000 and his bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1994.

As a recognized leader and active member of the larger data science community, Maiya has served on program committees for, and presented at, the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining as well as other top-tier computer science conferences.



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