Abdul Muntakim Rafi

LinkedIn: [LinkedIn]
Google Scholar: [icon]
GitHub: [icon]
ResearchGate: [icon]

Nota bene

- I update my CV of Failures way less often than my CV of Successes (meaning this document is just the tip of the iceberg), which, ironically, is a failure in itself!
- The information contained in this CV must not be used by HR in a salary negotiation.
- Read each section from bottom to top, starting with the last point and ending with the first.

Research Interests I was not smart or brave enough to explore

Human cognition

Education

- **Ph.D.**
  Sadly I did not apply to the higher ranked schools for Ph.D. Pretty sure would've been rejected from a lot of places if I applied.
- **MSc**
  - *Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters scholarships*: I wanted to get into this program. It was a cherished dream. I remember working day and night for three months to finish a research work and making the preprint available on arxiv so that I could write about it in my application. You get to travel to 3 European countries while doing a masters degree in Image Processing and Computer Vision. What an amazing experience it would have been! But I had a poor CGPA in my undergrad, hence I had a weak application in terms of academic excellence. I did not get the scholarship.
  - *Commonwealth Master's Scholarships*: I did not get it. But after the Erasmus rejection, this did not matter much. I did not want to try my luck again next year. I took these two rejections as omens and decided to travel North. It was late April (too late for fall term application) but I managed to get a position in uWindsor for the September term.

Job

- **Summer Research Internship, Calico**   2022,2023
  I passionately applied to Calico for internship twice during my Ph.D. I wanted to work with a research group there who have pioneered few works in my field. I have been rejected twice. They didn't even interview me.
- **Summer Research Internship, Google**   2019
  This happened during the first term of my Masters. I was interviewed over phone by two research scientists from Google (separately). The technical questions were not difficult at all, but from a wide range. I failed the interview. I blame my lack of knowledge on generative neural networks.
- **Management Trainee, Pathao**   2018
  This happened couple of months after I had finished undergrad and it was hilarious. Went there thinking they were taking exam for the data analyst position. I was excited about just the thought of working at a company like Pathao (ride sharing app) where I could do a lot of things with data and make visible impact. But after going there, I surprisingly found out it was an interview for the management trainee position (that's when I learned to give more attention to emails). I passed the first two rounds though. Obviously failed the final round.
- **Research Assistant, EEE BUET**   2018
  There was a well paid research assistant position open at my department after my graduation for a government funded project. I applied, attended the interview, and they did not take me.
- **Deep Learning Engineer, Gaze Technology**   2018
  It was a Bangladeshi startup, where I applied right before graduation. Nailed the coding test and did the interview. But didn't hear back from them. It took me a while to realize I have gotten my first job rejection.

Courses

- **BSc:** Electronics I (C+), Solid State Devices (C+), VLSI I (C+), Energy Conversion II (B-), Power System I (B-)

Publications

- **Bioinformatics**   2024
  I was a co-author of a published paper 'GIL: a python package for designing custom indexing primers.' The first co-author wanted me to add it my failures as the paper has not been cited even once in the two years after its publication. I agree

with my first author as this is the only research article I have been part of which has zero citation. Please use the goddamn tool. We worked hard on it.

- **_IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP)_**   2020
  Got rejected. I thank God every night for the rejection. It was a crap paper I wrote. The worst thing is its not even a top conference. I vowed never to submit unfinished works again.
- **_IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security_**   2018 - 2019
  Got rejected thrice from this journal for two different papers. It had become personal after the second rejection. So we just had to submit third time again. Haha. One of the co-authors almost lost his mind when we were discussing whether we should submit again for the 4th time. If I am being honest, the papers significantly improved; thanks to those rejections and the reviewers.

Awards and Scholarships

- **Google Ph.D. Fellowship**   2024
  This was supposed to be the last fellowship application of my Ph.D. It was the best application package I had ever created with an amazing research proposal that would save humanity one day. My recommendation letters were so great, it made me wonder what would happen if I started living up to them. But, alas, the universe had other plans.
- **Vanier Scholarship**   2021
  This is the first rejection of my Ph.D. life. It cost me a major pay bump from my Fourier (4-year) fellowship. I couldn't believe seeing the rejection at university level (my application did not even make it to the final round. I was stopped at the second round by the amazing applications of my peers at UBC). I was sad for almost one whole hour. But eventually felt glad that I am surrounded by people with better accomplishments.
- **Google Ph.D. Fellowship**   2022
  I had a decent research proposal. They rejected my application at the university level. Damn you UBC!
- **Ontario Graduate Scholarships**   2020
  I was rejected. I was sad for quite some time after this (desperately needed money at that point thanks to the high tuition fee of uWindsor). So I just assumed maybe the system was just rigged against me and I need to somehow manage without the scholarships.
- **Daththon arranged by Robi Axiata Ltd.**   2019
  This is the first Hackathon I participated in. It was an amazing dataset they gave us, full of all sorts of noises. We spent so much thought and time in cleaning the data. Winning this would have been a major confidence boost, also there was a good amount of prize money involved. But in the end it became one of the most horrible experiences of my life. When the hackathon finished, our solution for the only machine learning problem stood first in the leader-board (with only 1 submission). We were visibly the favourite going into the presentation. Everyone was wondering what we did and I was also contacted by the organizers before the presentation to be present for interviews and personal awards (top data scientist). But what I did? I literally burnt down 300k BDT (3500 USD) worth of prize money for my team and myself with my stage fright. We won nothing.
- **IEEE Signal Processing Cup 2018**   2017-2018
  I was in my undergrad. We worked hard and were close to being in top 3 but ended up being at 4th position (only top 3 were invited to the ICIP conference for the final round). A scandalous thing happened too. We were at 23rd position in the accompanying kaggle competition private leader-board. But we got removed from the leader-board as everyone from our team had their own account, submitting their own predictions (there was a limit of 5 predictions in a day from a team). Poof went our kaggle medal!
- **Math, Science, and Physics Olympiad**   2009-2013
  Never got the chance to be in the national team of these Olympiads to participate at international level.

Extracurricular Activities

- **Vice President of Academic Affairs, GSS UBC**   2021
  Got only 1 vote out of $\tilde{1}5$ voters. [No, I did not vote for myself.]
- **Online Courses:**   2019-
  I have around 20 courses I need to do but not doing because I am lazy.