

PhD Research: Elements of Excellence



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Abstract :

In this talk, the speaker will outline a number of elements that he believes are necessary for conducting high quality research. He will begin by briefly describing his expectations for granting a doctorate degree. He will then talk about integrity in research, which will involve discussions on plagiarism, proper etiquette for citing others' works, what constitutes a mistake versus a fraud, and how to best present one's results. Next, he will discuss some strategies for success. These strategies will include (i) a self-examination to assess your own readiness for embarking on a PhD; (ii) how to choose and interact with your advisor, (iii) some strategies for building your tool-set in order to prepare yourself before and during the research process; (iv) a discussion on how to choose a good problem; (v) strategies for solving difficult problems that He have observed to work well, and what to look for in a solution; (vi) how to write a good paper, mistakes to avoid, and some resources that you should always have in your personal library; and (vii) how to create an intellectual environment that will enable you to graduate into a scholar rather than only being a specialist technician. This talk is based on his own observations, mistakes, and interactions with a variety of PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and colleagues over the past thirty years.

Biography :

Ness B. Shroff received his Ph.D. degree from Columbia University, NY in 1994 and joined Purdue university immediately thereafter. At Purdue, he became Professor of the school of Electrical and Computer Engineering and director of CWSA in 2004, a university-wide center on wireless systems and applications. In July 2007, he joined the ECE and CSE departments at The Ohio State University, where he holds the Ohio Eminent Scholar Chaired Professorship of Networking and Communications. From 2009-2012, he also served as a Guest Chaired professor of Wireless Communications at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, and from 2010-2014, he served as an Honorary Guest Professor at Shanghai Jiatong University. He is currently a visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. He serves as the Principal Investigator and Institute Director of the NSF AI Institute on Future Edge Networks and Distributed Intelligence (ai-edge.osu.edu). Dr. Shroff's research focuses on fundamental problems in machine learning, network optimization, stochastic control, and algorithmic design. Dr. Shroff is a Fellow of the IEEE, and a National Science Foundation CAREER awardee. He has received numerous best paper awards and has been on the list of highly cited researchers from Thomson Reuters ISI (previously ISI web of Science) in 2014 and 2015, and in Thomson Reuters Book on The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds in 2014. He received the IEEE INFOCOM achievement award for seminal contributions to scheduling and resource allocation in wireless networks, in 2014.