

RODDAM NARASIMHA DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Data Science: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly

ABSTRACT

Data Science has become the buzzword of choice in recent times, especially in the software industry. The accompanying hoopla has spawned frenetic claims foretelling the development of great and wondrous solutions to all kinds of contemporary local and global challenges. In this talk, we will attempt to provide a more nuanced and balanced view of the area. Specifically, we will make the case that data science is certainly a potent force-multiplier for solving challenging problems, but is equally subject to methodological abuse, leading to grossly erroneous conclusions. Worse, such misuse could also be deliberate to suit preconceived outcomes and biases, concealed under a scientific veneer. In a nutshell, we will advocate the view that data science should be a tool of last resort, not first, and leveraged as a support, not substitute, for domain expertise.



Date
August 5, 2019
Time
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Venue
**Academic Building 1/103
IIT Gandhinagar
Palaj, Gandhinagar 382355**



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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jayant Haritsa is a professor at the Suprcomputer Education and Research Center and the Department of Computational & Data Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. A 2014 Infosys Laureate and a distinguished alumnus of IIT-Madras, Professor Haritsa received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. His work lies at the intersection of database systems and data mining, with a focus on query processing across a range of database systems. He has been conferred with the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award and Distinguished Scientist of ACM award in 2009 and the ACCS CDAC Foundation Award in 2013. He is a Fellow of IEEE, Indian Academy of Sciences, Indian National Academy of Engineering, and National Academy of Sciences, India.