

# Suman Adhya

## PhD Scholar at SMCS in IACS

adhyasuman.github.io

@adhyasuman30@gmail.com

linkedin.com/in/sumanadhya AdhyaSuman Google Scholar

IACS, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032, West Bengal, India



## Vision Statement

My doctoral research advanced the robustness, interpretability, and efficiency of neural topic models by improving representation learning, preventing posterior collapse, and applying knowledge distillation. Building on this foundation, my current agenda centers on mechanistic interpretability—a line of research that seeks to open the “black box” of LLMs by mapping internal circuits, tracing how features are represented and combined, and identifying causal mechanisms behind model behavior. These insights provide the basis for designing low-resource LLMs that retain strong capabilities while requiring fewer computational demands.

## Short Bio





I am a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Mathematical & Computational Sciences (SMCS) in IACS, with a specialization in topic modeling for NLP. My research focuses on enhancing the quality of topic representations, improving interpretability, and increasing the efficiency of topic models, with publications in venues such as ACL 2025, NAACL 2024, EACL 2023, ECIR 2023, and IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence. I plan to submit my thesis in September 2025 and am currently seeking a postdoctoral position.

## Education

Ongoing Oct 2025	Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science Ph.D. from the School of Mathematical & Computational Sciences (SMCS)	Kolkata, India
Jul 2020 Aug 2018	Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science M.Sc. in Mathematics & Computing from SMCS	Kolkata, India
2018 2015	Serampore College, University of Calcutta B.Sc.(Hons.) in Mathematics	Kolkata, India

## Research Contributions & Artifacts


- DTECT: Dynamic Topic Explorer & Context Tracker** 2025
- > An **end-to-end interactive system** for exploring and interpreting the **evolution of topics in temporal corpora**, integrating **modeling, evaluation, visualization, and LLM-assisted insights**.
  - > **Artifacts:** [GitHub Codebase](#) | [Hugging Face Demo](#) | [Video Walkthrough](#)
- S2WTM** 2025
- > A novel topic model, the **Spherical Sliced-Wasserstein Autoencoder**, that mitigates **posterior collapse** on **hyper-spherical manifolds** to generate more coherent and diverse topics. Presented at **ACL 2025**.
  - > **Artifacts:** [GitHub Codebase](#)
- GINopic** 2024
- > A topic modeling framework that leverages **Graph Isomorphism Networks (GIN)** to capture the **mutual dependencies between words**, an aspect often missed by contextualized models. Presented at **NAACL 2024**.
  - > **Artifacts:** [GitHub Codebase](#)
- CTM-KD** 2023
- > A **knowledge distillation** framework to **compress** large topic models by minimizing both cross-entropy and the **2-Wasserstein distance** between latent distributions. Our student model surpasses the teacher in topic coherence with far fewer parameters. Presented at **ECIR 2023**.
  - > **Artifacts:** [GitHub Codebase](#)
- CTM-Neg** 2022
- > An enhancement for contextualized topic models that introduces a **negative sampling** mechanism using a **triplet loss** on perturbed document-topic vectors. This approach significantly improves both **topic coherence** and **diversity**. Presented at **ICON 2022**.
  - > **Artifacts:** [GitHub Codebase](#)

- [P] **DTECT: Dynamic Topic Explorer & Context Tracker**   
Suman Adhya and Debarshi Kumar Sanyal  
[Code](#) / [Demo](#) / [Video](#) [arXiv]
- [C] **S2WTM: Spherical Sliced-Wasserstein Autoencoder for Topic Modeling**   
Suman Adhya and Debarshi Kumar Sanyal  
*Association for Computational Linguistics, Vienna, Austria* [ACL'25]
- [J] **Evaluating Negative Sampling Approaches for Neural Topic Models**   
Suman Adhya, Avishek Lahiri, Debarshi Kumar Sanyal, and Partha Pratim Das  
*IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence*  
*An extension of work initiated under the guidance of Prof. Partha Pratim Das (Ashoka University).* [IEEE-TAI]
- [C] **GINopic: Topic Modeling with Graph Isomorphism Network**   
Suman Adhya and Debarshi Kumar Sanyal  
*North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Mexico City, Mexico* [NAACL'24]
- [C] **Do Neural Topic Models Really Need Dropout? Analysis of the Effect of Dropout in Topic Modeling**   
Suman Adhya, Avishek Lahiri, and Debarshi Kumar Sanyal  
*17th European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Dubrovnik, Croatia* [EACL'23]
- [C] **Improving Neural Topic Models with Wasserstein Knowledge Distillation**   
Suman Adhya and Debarshi Kumar Sanyal  
*45th European Conference on Information Retrieval, Dublin, Ireland* [ECIR'23]
- [C] **Improving Contextualized Topic Models with Negative Sampling**   
Suman Adhya, Avishek Lahiri, Debarshi Kumar Sanyal, and Partha Pratim Das  
*19th International Conference on Natural Language Processing, New Delhi, India*  
*This work was initiated under the foundational guidance of Prof. Partha Pratim Das (IIT Kharagpur).* [ICON'22]
- [W] **What Does the Indian Parliament Discuss? An Exploratory Analysis of the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha**   
Suman Adhya and Debarshi Kumar Sanyal  
*1st Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Political Sciences, LREC, Marseille, France* [PoliticalNLP @ LREC'22]

## Skills


<b>Programming Languages</b>	Python (Proficient), C, R (Familiar)
<b>Tools &amp; Frameworks</b>	PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace, LangChain, Scikit-learn, Pandas, Scipy, Gensim, Sentence-Transformers, PyTorch Geometric (PyG), FAISS, Streamlit
<b>Algorithms &amp; Methods</b>	Topic Modeling, Representation Learning, Knowledge Distillation, Negative Sampling, Optimal Transport, Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)


## Presentations

- > ACL 2025, Poster Presentation  July 2025 (Vienna, Austria)
- > PIC 2025, Lighting Talk and Poster Presentation  Feb 2025 (Mysore, India)
- > NAACL 2024, Poster Presentation  June 2024 (Virtual)
- > PIC 2024, Poster Presentation  Feb 2024 (Mysore, India)
- > EACL 2023, Poster Presentation  May 2023 (Dubrovnik, Croatia)
- > ECIR 2023, Short Paper Presentation  March 2023 (Virtual)
- > ICON 2022, Full Paper Presentation  December 2022 (IIIT-Delhi, India)
- > PoliticalNLP @ LREC 2022, Poster Presentation  June 2022 (Virtual)


## Travel Grants and Awards


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**ACM India-IARCS Travel Grant, 2025**  : Awarded for presenting our paper at ACL'25 held in Vienna, Austria.


**ANRF-International Travel Support, 2025**  : Awarded for presenting our paper at ACL'25 held in Vienna, Austria.

**ACM India Research Facilitation Grant, 2025**  : Awarded to cover the extra page charges of our paper at IEEE-TAI.

**Microsoft Research Travel Grant, 2024**  : Awarded for presenting our paper at NAACL'24 held in Mexico City, Mexico.

**ACM India-IARCS Travel Grant, 2024**  : Awarded for presenting our paper at NAACL'24 held in Mexico City, Mexico.

**Microsoft Research Travel Grant, 2023**  : Awarded for presenting our paper at EACL'23 held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

**Travel Grant for EACL, 2023**  : Awarded for presenting our paper at EACL'23 held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

**The INSPIRE-SHE Award, DST, 2015-2018**  : Awarded for securing a top 1% rank in Class 12th examinations.

## Teaching Assistant

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**Introduction to Machine Learning [PHD 226/ COM 4203], IACS**

January - June, 2024

- > Assisted a graduate-level course with approximately **20 students**.
- > **Responsibilities:** Designed and graded all programming assignments, and conducted dedicated doubt-clearing sessions to resolve student queries.
- > **Topics Covered:** Assignments spanned key ML concepts, including Linear Regression, Decision Trees, SVM, k-NN, the EM Algorithm, and Neural Networks.

**Laboratory - Numerical Methods (PHS 4211), IACS**








January - June, 2021




- > Managed lab sessions for a cohort of **20+ master's students**.
- > **Responsibilities:** Designed and graded weekly lab assignments in Python. Conducted tutorials and dedicated doubt-clearing sessions to support students with implementation.

## Academic Responsibility

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**Volunteer coordinator** EACL'23 

**Review committee member** ARR - Feb'25 , EMNLP'24 Industry Track , ARR - June'24 , ARR - April'24 , ARR - February'24 , ACL'23 , EMNLP'22 

**Program committee member** PoliticalNLP'24 , EMNLP'23 Industry Track , PoliticalNLP'22 

## Community Service

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**Student Representative, Anti-Ragging Cell, IACS**

2023 - Current

*Actively contribute to fostering a safe and supportive campus environment for all students.*

**Research and Technical Assistant, Research Scholars' Association, IACS**

2023-2024

*Liaised between research scholars and Central Scientific Services to guarantee student access to computational resources for research.*

**System Manager, Research Scholars' Association, IACS**

2022-2023

*Managed and maintained the online resources for the scholars' association.*

## References

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References will be provided on request.