

SAI ASHISH SOMAYAJULA

ssomayaj@ucsd.edu [◇ GitHub](#) [◇ Website](#)

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, PhD— University of California, San Diego 2020-Current
Electrical and Computer Engineering, Majors - Intelligent Systems and Robotics, GPA : 3.962/4

Bachelor of Technology— Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) 2016-20
Electrical Engineering with Minors in Computer Science and Engineering, CGPA : 9.68/10

PUBLICATIONS

Mingjia Huo*, **Sai Ashish Somayajula***, Youwei Liang, Ruisi Zhang, Farinaz Koushanfar, and Pengtao Xie. “Token-Specific Watermarking with Enhanced Detectability and Semantic Coherence for Large Language Models” ICML, 2024.

Sai Ashish Somayajula, Youwei Liang, Abhishek Singh, Li Zhang, and Pengtao Xie. “Generalizable and Stable Finetuning of Pretrained Language Models on Low-Resource Texts” NAACL, 2024.

Ruiyi Zhang*, Rushi Qiang*, **Sai Ashish Somayajula**, and Pengtao Xie. “AutoLoRA: Automatically Tuning Matrix Ranks in Low-Rank Adaptation Based on Meta Learning” NAACL, 2024.

Sai Ashish Somayajula, Onkar Litake, Youwei Liang, Ramtin Hosseini, Shamim Nemati, David O. Wilson, Robert N. Weinreb, Atul Malhotra, and Pengtao Xie. “Improving Long COVID-Related Text Classification: A Novel End-to-End Domain-Adaptive Paraphrasing Framework” Scientific Reports, Nature Portfolio, 2024.

Han Guo, **Sai Ashish Somayajula**, Ramtin Hosseini, and Pengtao Xie. “Improving Image Classification of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Using Curriculum Self-Supervised Learning” Scientific Reports, Nature Portfolio, 2024.

Sai Ashish Somayajula, Lifeng Jin, Linfeng Song, Haitao Mi, and Dong Yu. “Bi-level Finetuning with Task-dependent Similarity Structure for Low-resource Training” ACL, 2023.

Sai Ashish Somayajula, Linfeng Song, and Pengtao Xie. “A Multi-Level Optimization Framework for End-to-End Text Augmentation” TACL, 2022.

Pathapati Aravind Ganesh, Chakradhar Nakka, Havish P.N.V.S.S.K., **Sai Ashish Somayajula**, and Amuru Sai Dheeraj, 2020, September. “Supervised Deep Learning for MIMO Precoding” In 2020 IEEE 3rd 5G World Forum (5GWF) (pp. 418-423). IEEE.

Subbareddy, B., **Sai Ashish Somayajula**, and Aditya Siripuram. “Investigating the Relationship between Graph Eigenvector Ordering and the Signal Processing Dual”.

Contributed to the teaching material for the Teaching and Learning Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, [Digital Modulation Techniques](#), [Functional Series](#), [Continuity](#)

PRE-PRINTS AND SUBMISSIONS

Sai Ashish Somayajula, Abhishek Singh, Youwei Liang, and Pengtao Xie. “A Multi-level Optimization Framework for Data Augmentation in Low-Resource Machine Translation” (under review).

Han Guo, Ramtin Hosseini, Ruiyi Zhang, **Sai Ashish Somayajula**, Ranak Roy Chowdhury, Rajesh K. Gupta, Pengtao Xie. “Downstream Task Guided Masking Learning in Masked Autoencoders Using Multi-Level Optimization” (under review).

Yiheng He, **Sai Ashish Somayajula**, Ruiyi Zhang, and Pengtao Xie. “Transformer Architecture Search for Out-of-Domain Generalization” (under review).

Li Zhang, Basu Jindal, **Sai Ashish Somayajula**, and Pengtao Xie. “E2EAug: An End-to-End Data Augmentation Framework for Medical Image Semantic Segmentation” (under review).

INTERNSHIPS

Apple, On Device NLP Research Intern

2023

Dr Vivek Kumar Rangarajan Sridhar

- Delved into multi-modal Large Language Models (LLMs) while working with the Input Experience NLP team, exploring innovative ways to enhance user interactions.

Tencent AI Lab, NLP Research Scientist Intern

2022

Dr. Lifeng Jin, Dr. Linfeng Song, Dr. Haitao Mi

- Worked on inducing task-specific similarity knowledge into language models in low resource settings for soft-data augmentation. Learned a task-specific similarity matrix and the model weights end-to-end framed as a Bi-level optimization problem.

Texas A&M University, Halliburton Engineering Global Program Scholar

2019

Dr. Dileep Kalathil and Dr. Srinivas Shakkottai

- Developed a control algorithm for self-driving cars to navigate in a crowded environment using a pedestrian behavior model, which was developed using Inverse Reinforcement Learning.

L.V Prasad Eye Institute - Engineering Center

2018

Dr. Kiran Kumar Vupparaboina

- Segmentation of Optic disc and Hard exudates in Fundus Images, Choroid layer in Optical coherence tomography(OCT) images using Deep Learning Techniques. Developed a web portal for doctors to use the tools.

Pressbury - Health Care Start-up

2017

- Developed a low power ECG monitoring device namely “CADENCE-ECG” that can interface with smartphones which is launched in the market.

PROJECTS

COVID-19 Analysis Mobile Application

2020

Prof. Kiran Kumar Kuchi

- I was leading the data analysis wing of the COVID-19 App developed by Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad which is submitted for further usage by Government of Telangana, India.

IITH-RU Project Based Learning Program

2019

Dr. Ravikumar Bhimasingu and Dr. S.Suriya Prakash

Ritsumeikan University-Japan

- Among the ten students from IITH to work in a cross-culture program with Ritsumeikan University. Performed a case study analysis on the concept of AI and Blockchains for the power grid.

Engineering the Eye Hackathon, LV Prasad Eye Institute

2018

- awarded Microsoft Azure Award

- Developed a prototype product to assist visually challenged through unknown indoor environments. Designed a smart cane equipped with a virtual eye to the glasses to guide the user, replicating a dog’s behavior.

Soldier Support, Inter IIT Technical meet

2017

- Worked on a problem statement given by Defence Research and Development Organisation, India to upgrade the gear of soldiers. We secured the sixth position in this challenge.

ACCOLADES

- **Second Highest CGPA** in B.Tech Program across all departments (240 students). 2020
- Academic Excellence Award for the Highest CGPA in Electrical Engineering. 2019
- Achieved *Microsoft Azure Award* in “Engineering the Eye-2018 hackathon” 2018
- Represented IIT-Hyderabad in the prestigious Inter-IIT Technical meet and secured 6th position. 2018
- Academic Excellence Award for the Highest CGPA in freshman year. 2017
- Runners-up in PWC challenge with theme as “Smart Cities”- Megathon. 2017
- Class X - Overall Topper Award, Gold medal in Mathematics and Science. 2014
- Bronze medal in National Science olympiad. 2012

TEACHING ASSISTANT

At UCSD:

- ECE 271A - Statistical Learning with Professor Nuno M Vasconcelos.
- ECE 208 - Computational Evolutionary Biology with Professor Siavash Mirarab.
- ECE 285 - Deep Generative models with Professor Pengtao Xie.
- ECE 269 - Linear Algebra with Professor Piya Pal.
- ECE 100 - Linear Electronic Systems with Professor Dan Sievenpiper.

At IIT-H: Vector calculus, Linear Algebra, Introduction to AI and ML, Representation Learning, and Probabilistic Graphical Models.

MENTORING AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-organizer, NEURIPS Workshop on Foundation Models for Healthcare 2024

Member of the organizing committee for the ‘Foundation Models for Healthcare’ workshop at NEURIPS 2024.

Supervision at Dr. Pengtao Xie’s Lab, UCSD

Current

Mentoring masters and early year PhD students on various projects in the lab.

Mentor at ENLACE program 2021, UCSD

2021

Mentored college and high school students on the research project titled, “Deep Learning Algorithms for the Disease Segmentation of Chest X-rays”.

First Year PhD representative at UCSD

2020

Student representative at ECE GSC UCSD.

Head of Elektronika—*Electronics and Signal Processing Club of IIT-H*

2018

A student activity club aimed to foster the culture of critical thinking and innovation in technology among students.

Head of Marketing Team—*Entrepreneurship Cell of IIT-H*

2018

Head of a team that captivates investors to invest in fresh ideas for start-ups from students.

Co-Founder of College Counsel

2017

A start-up that helps a JEE (the exam to be cleared for admission to the IIT) qualified student choose a branch they are suited for according to their rank and interest.

Indian Carnatic Singer

2016

Diploma in Indian Carnatic music.

SKILLS

Languages/Python Libraries Softwares/OS

C, C++, Python, SQL, Keras, PyTorch, Tensorflow, Numpy, OpenCV
Matlab, Scilab, Octave, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office, Windows, Ubuntu

REFERENCES

Dr. Vivek Kumar Rangarajan Sridhar, Engineering Manager, NLP, Apple

vrangarajansridh@apple.com

[website](#)

- Mentor during my internship at Apple.

Dr. Dong Yu, Distinguished Scientist, Tencent AI

dyu@tencent.com

[website](#)

- Advisor during my internship at Tencent.

Dr. Lifeng Jin, Research Scientist, Tencent AI

lifengjin@tencent.com

[website](#)

- Mentor during my internship at Tencent.

Dr. Pengtao Xie, Assistant Professor at Department of ECE, University of California, San Diego

p1xie@ucsd.edu

[website](#)

- Working under his guidance currently at UCSD.

Prof. Mohammed Zafar Ali Khan, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering IIT Hyderabad

zafar@iith.ac.in

[website](#)

- Teacher and research project guide

Dr. Sumohana Channappayya, Associate Professor and Dean R&D, IIT Hyderabad

sumohana@iith.ac.in

[website](#)

- Teacher and research project guide

Dr. Dileep Kalathil, Assistant Professor at the Department of ECE, Texas A&M University

dileep.kalathil@tamu.edu

[website](#)

- Worked on a project under his and Prof. Srinivas Shakkottai's guidance during my summer internship at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Aditya Siripuram, Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Hyderabad

staditya@iith.ac.in

- Teacher, research project guide and advisor.