

# 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

---

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

---

- <b>Second Highest CGPA</b> in B.Tech Program across all departments (240 students).	2020
- Academic Excellence Award for the Highest CGPA in Electrical Engineering.	2019
- Achieved <i>Microsoft Azure Award</i> 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

---

<b>Supervision at Dr. Pengtao Xie’s Lab, UCSD</b>	Current
Mentoring masters and early year PhD students on various projects in the lab.	
<b>Mentor at ENLACE program 2021, UCSD</b>	2021
Mentored college and high school students on the research project titled, “Deep Learning Algorithms for the Disease Segmentation of Chest X-rays”.	
<b>First Year PhD representative at UCSD</b>	2020
Student representative at ECE GSC UCSD.	
<b>Head of Elektronika—<i>Electronics and Signal Processing Club of IIT-H</i></b>	2018
A student activity club aimed to foster the culture of critical thinking and innovation in technology among students.	
<b>Head of Marketing Team—<i>Entrepreneurship Cell of IIT-H</i></b>	2018
Head of a team that captivates investors to invest in fresh ideas for start-ups from students.	
<b>Co-Founder of College Counsel</b>	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.	
<b>Indian Carnatic Singer</b>	2016
Diploma in Indian Carnatic music.	

## SKILLS

---

<b>Languages/Python Libraries</b>	C, C++, Python, SQL, Keras, PyTorch, Tensorflow, Numpy, OpenCV
<b>Softwares/OS</b>	Matlab, Scilab, Octave, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, 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.