

# Varun Mulchandani

vmmulcha@ncsu.edu | varun-mulchandani.github.io

Location: Raleigh, NC, USA ; Citizenship: U.S. Citizen

**Research Interests:** Reasoning, Out-of-Distribution Generalization, Spurious and Invariant Correlations.

## Education

<b>North Carolina State University</b> <i>PhD in Computer Science, Advisor: Dr. Jung-Eun Kim</i>	Raleigh, NC, USA Aug 2024 -
<b>North Carolina State University</b> <i>Master of Science in Computer Science, Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jung-Eun Kim</i>	Raleigh, NC, USA Aug 2022 – Jul 2024
• Full Tuition Waiver (3/4 semesters), GPA: 4.0/4.0	

  

<b>Vellore Institute of Technology</b> <i>B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering</i>	Vellore, TN, India July 2018 – May 2022
• GPA: 9.34/10	

## Publications

[1] **Varun Mulchandani** and Jung-Eun Kim. Severing Spurious Correlations with Data Pruning. In International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**), 2025 (**Spotlight, < 5.1%**).

## Experience

<b>North Carolina State University</b> <i>Graduate Research Assistant; Advisor - Dr. Jung-Eun Kim</i>	Raleigh, NC, USA September 2022 – Present
• Teaching large language models to ignore irrelevant context in reasoning tasks. Training all deep neural networks to learn representations that are robust to shifts in distribution.	
<b>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory</b> <i>Computing Graduate Student Intern</i> <i>Mentors: Dr. Bhavya Kailkhura and Dr. Brian Bartoldson</i>	Livermore, CA, USA June 2025 – Aug 2025
• Worked on improving reasoning abilities of large language models trained with reinforcement learning through continual pre-training and model compression.	
<b>Sandia National Laboratories</b> <i>Graduate Research and Development Intern; Mentor - Dr. Carter Jameson</i>	Albuquerque, NM, USA May 2023 – August 2023
• Built language models to identify occurrences of classified information in official government documents.	
<b>RoboTutor, Carnegie Mellon University</b> <i>Undergraduate Research Intern; Advisor - Dr. Jack Mostow</i>	Pittsburgh, PA, USA(Remote) January 2021 – May 2022
• Reordered the Instructional Sequence of an Intelligent Tutoring System to enhance student learning and engagement with the help of metaheuristic optimization algorithms and machine learning.	
<b>UBS</b> <i>Summer Analyst Intern</i>	Hyderabad, TG, India(Remote) June 2021 – August 2021
• Built tools to automate Data Engineering tasks that were being performed manually daily.	

## AWARDS

NC State Graduate Merit Award, 2024 (3000\$)

NC State Travel Grant, 2025 (1000\$)

Chancellor Merit Scholarship Award, 2019

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Proficient:** Python, PyTorch, NumPy, Bash Scripting

**Intermediate:** Java, SQL, Scikit-Learn, Flask, spaCy