

Ashutosh Chaubey

Overview

Areas of Interest. LLM Post-training, Multimodal LLMs, Multimodal Emotion and Social AI, Speech and Audio, Video Generation, Vision-Language Models

Summary. My research at USC aims to develop *multimodal social understanding* and *behavior generation* algorithms using *multimodal large language models* and large *diffusion models* respectively. Prior to USC, I have three years of industry experience on *speech understanding* and *multimodal content retrieval*.

Education

- 2024 - 2027 **PhD in Computer Science**, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.
 GPA 4.0/4.0, Advisor - Prof. Mohammad Soleymani, Expected Graduation - 06/2027
- 2017 - 2021 **BS in Computer Science**, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee.
 GPA 9.718/10.0 - Third-highest GPA amongst all the graduating students of IIT Roorkee 2021

Research Experience

- Aug 2024 - **Graduate Researcher**, Institute for Creative Technologies, University of Southern California, [Part-time].
 Present Advisor - Prof. Mohammad Soleymani
 - Worked on **Face-LLaVA**, a general vision-language model for different face analysis and face reasoning tasks, **outperforming all open source SOTA VLMs** on nine face analysis benchmarks. [WACV 2026]
 - Evaluated **vision-language alignment** in MLLMs testing factual information retrieval and showed that probing internal states of the language model can reveal mis-alignment with **near 100% accuracy**. [EMNLP 2025]
 - Proposed diffusion-based photorealistic listener behaviour animation using audio-visual speaker signals - **improvements of upto 73% on photorealism and 6% on motion generation**. [ICCV 2025]
- Apr 2023 - **Founding Research Engineer**, Anoki Inc, [Full-time].
- Jul 2024 Advisor - Dr. Susmita Ghose
 - Worked on multimodal video retrieval using text, image, and audio – proposed system achieves **near 100% retrieval performance** with a much lighter framework compared to baselines [WACV 2025] [US Patent 1 2 3]
- Jul 2021 - **Data Scientist**, LG Ad Solutions (formerly Alphonso Inc.), [Full-time].
- Mar 2023 Advisor - Dr. Susmita Ghose
 - Proposed a novel relation network-based pipeline for end-to-end speaker recognition, improving the baseline performance by **up to 12% relatively**. [Interspeech 2022] [ASRU 2023]
- May 2020 - **Research Intern**, Big-data Experience Lab, Adobe Research, [Full-time].
- Jul 2020 Advisor - Dr. Sumit Shekhar
 - Used reinforcement learning (deep Q-learning) to learn an optimal acquisition function for active learning by modeling the active learning cycle as a Markov Decision Process. [CVPR 2022 Workshops]
 - Reduced the annotation effort by using a weak learning setting where the annotator just has to verify the current model predictions on acquired samples. [US Patent App. 17/170,307]
- Jan 2019 - **Research Intern**, Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bengaluru | Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Mar 2020 [Part-time].
- Advisors - Prof. R Venkatesh Babu | Prof. R. Balasubramanian
 - Worked on multi-person human pose prediction using synthetic dual person dataset to mitigate data limitations.
 - Worked on automatic evaluation of text-to-speech (TTS) systems and proposed a GAN-decoder-based scoring mechanism. [ACPR 2019]
 - Experimented with state-of-the-art universal adversarial perturbation techniques (attacks and defenses) and wrote a survey paper with over 50 citations. [Survey Paper]

Publications

- 2025 **Face-LLaVA : Facial Expression and Attribute Understanding through Instruction Tuning**.
Ashutosh Chaubey, Xulang Guan, Mohammad Soleymani
 Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (**WACV**) 2026 - R1 (6.4% accept.) [Preprint] [Webpage]
- 2025 **Can VLMs Recall Factual Associations From Visual References ?**
 Dhananjay Ashok, **Ashutosh Chaubey**, Hirona Arai, Jonathan May, Jesse Thomason
 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**) 2025 [Preprint]
- 2025 **DiTaiListener : Controllable High Fidelity Listener Video Generation with Diffusion**.
 Maksim Siniukov, Di Chang, Minh Tran, Hongkun Gong, **Ashutosh Chaubey**, Mohammad Soleymani
 International Conference on Computer Vision (**ICCV**) 2025 [Preprint] [Webpage]

- 2024 **ContextIQ : A Multimodal Expert-Based Video Retrieval System for Contextual Advertising.**
Ashutosh Chaubey, Anoubhav Agarwaal, Sartaki Roy, Aayush Agrawal, Susmita Ghose
Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (**WACV**) 2025 [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Poster\]](#)
- 2023 **Meta-Learning Framework for End-to-End Imposter Identification in Unseen Speaker Recognition.**
Ashutosh Chaubey, Sparsh Sinha, Susmita Ghose
IEEE Workshop on Automatic Speech and Understanding (**ASRU**) 2023 [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Poster\]](#)
- 2022 **Improved Relation Networks for End-to-End Speaker Verification and Identification.**
Ashutosh Chaubey, Sparsh Sinha, Susmita Ghose
Interspeech 2022 [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Poster\]](#)
- 2022 **OPAD : An Optimized Policy-based Active Learning Framework for Document Content Analysis.**
Sumit Shekhar, Bhanu Prakash Reddy Guda, **Ashutosh Chaubey**, Ishan Jindal, Avneet Jain
CVPR 2022 Workshop on Fair, Data Efficient and Trusted Computer Vision [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Patent\]](#)
- 2020 **Universal Adversarial Perturbations : A Survey.**
Ashutosh Chaubey*, Nikhil Agrawal*, Kavya Barnwal, Keerat K. Guliani, Pramod Mehta
arXiv Preprint (50+ citations) [\[Paper\]](#)
- 2019 **A GAN-based Ensemble Technique for Automatic Evaluation of Machine Synthesized Speech.**
Ashutosh Chaubey*, Jaynil Jaiswal*, Bhimavarapu Sasi Kiran Reddy, Shashank Kashyap, Puneet Kumar, Raman Balasubramanian, Partha Pratim Roy
Asian Conference on Pattern Recognition (**ACPR**) 2019 [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Poster\]](#)

Academic Services

- Conference CVPR 2025-26, ICCV 2025, WACV 2026
- Reviewer
- Teaching CS561 (Foundations of AI) – Fall 2025, CSCI 535 (Multimodal Probabilistic Learning of Human Communication) – Spring 2025

Supervised Students

- Jiacheng Pang – Research Internship, Grad Student at USC, Summer 2025 - Present
- Xulang Guan – CURVE Fellowship, Undergraduate at USC, Fall 2024 - Present
- Belle Hsieh – Research Internship, Undergraduate at UPenn, Summer 2025
- Hongkun Gong – CURVE Fellowship, Undergraduate at USC (Now, Grad Student at Columbia), Fall 2024

Skills

- Coding Languages - Python [Advanced], C++ [Intermediate]
Frameworks/Libraries - PyTorch, NumPy, Pandas, Transformers
Tools - VSCode, Git, Anaconda, Docker