

Goal

To train machines to understand the visual world through language to collaborate better with humans.

Appointments

Fall'21 - ?	Research Fellow , Boston University <i>Advised by Kate Saenko, Bryan Plummer, and Ranjay Krishna (University of Washington).</i>
Summer'24 - ?	Student Collaborator , Allen Institute for AI, PRIOR Team <i>PhD research on 3D reasoning in multimodal language models.</i>
Fall'23, Spring'25	Teaching Fellow , Boston University <i>Helped design, co-instruct graduate-level Multimodal ML classes.</i>
Summer'23	AI Resident , Google X Moonshot Labs <i>Mineral Team- adapted multimodal language models for custom phrase localization - detecting specific diseases on strawberries described by language.</i>
Summer'22	Research Scientist Intern , Meta (Facebook) AI (FAIR-Accel) <i>Developed a benchmark to explore adaptation strategies for compositional reasoning in vision-language models (NeurIPS 2023).</i>
2017 - 2021	Computer Scientist , SRI International <i>Developed vision-language models that can rationalize for DARPA Explainable AI Program.</i>
Summer'16	Deep Learning Intern , Blue River Technology <i>Developed plant localization- key selling point leading to John Deere acquisition for \$305M.</i>
2016 - 2017	Graduate Research Assistant , Virginia Tech <i>Improved robustness of models that can answer questions about images. Advised by Devi Parikh, Dhruv Batra</i>

Education

2021 - ?	Ph.D., Boston University , Computer Science <i>Teaching machines to reason about the 3D visual world through language. Advised by Kate Saenko, Bryan A. Plummer.</i>
2024 - ?	Visiting PhD Student, University of Washington , Computer Science <i>Teaching machines to reason about the 3D visual world through language. Advised by Ranjay Krishna</i>
2022 - 2023	Visiting Student, MIT , AIForImpact Venture Studio, Media Lab <i>Formulating how vision-language AI can impact various verticals.</i>
2015 - 2017	M.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University , Computer Engineering <i>Thesis: Developing models that can converse with humans, advised by Devi Parikh.</i>
2011 - 2015	B.Tech., SRM University, India , Electrical Engineering <i>GPA: 9.05/10, First-Class Distinction. Received Academic Merit Scholarship.</i>

Research Publications

Pre-prints

- 1 E. I. Brown, **A. Ray**, R. Krishna, R. Girshick, R. Fergus, and S. Xie, *Sims: Can simple simulators elicit spatial understanding in video language models?* preprint, 2025.

- 2 A. Ray, J. Duan, R. Tan, D. Bashkirova, R. Hendrix, K. Ehsani, A. Kembhavi, B. A. Plummer, R. Krishna, K.-H. Zeng, and K. Saenko, *Sat: Spatial aptitude training for multimodal language models*, preprint, 2024.

Peer-reviewed Conferences

- 1 J. Zhang, Z. Huang, A. Ray, and E. Ohn-Bar, "Feedback-guided autonomous driving," *IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2024, (Highlight, top 2.8%).
- 2 A. Ray, F. Radenovic, A. Dubey, B. A. Plummer, R. Krishna, and K. Saenko, "Cola: A benchmark for compositional text-to-image retrieval," *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2023.
- 3 R. Tan, A. Ray, A. Burns, B. A. Plummer, J. Salamon, O. Nieto, B. Russell, and K. Saenko, "Language-guided audio-visual source separation via trimodal consistency," *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, pp. 10 575–10 584, 2023.
- 4 K. Alipour, A. Ray, X. Lin, M. Cogswell, J. P. Schulze, Y. Yao, and G. T. Burachas, "Improving users' mental model with attention-directed counterfactual edits," *Applied AI Letters*, vol. 2, no. 4, e47, 2021.
- 5 A. Ray, M. Cogswell, X. Lin, K. Alipour, A. Divakaran, Y. Yao, and G. Burachas, "Generating and evaluating explanations of attended and error-inducing input regions for vqa models," *Applied AI Letters*, vol. 2, no. 4, e51, 2021.
- 6 K. Alipour, A. Ray, X. Lin, J. P. Schulze, Y. Yao, and G. T. Burachas, "The impact of explanations on ai competency prediction in vqa," *2020 IEEE International Conference on Humanized Computing and Communication with Artificial Intelligence (HCCAI)*, pp. 25–32, 2020.
- 7 A. Ray, K. Sikka, A. Divakaran, S. Lee, and G. Burachas, "Sunny and dark outside?! improving answer consistency in vqa through entailed question generation," *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pp. 5860–5865, 2019.
- 8 A. Ray, Y. Yao, R. Kumar, A. Divakaran, and G. Burachas, "Can you explain that? lucid explanations help human-ai collaborative image retrieval," *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 153–161, 2019.
- 9 A. Ray, G. Christie, M. Bansal, D. Batra, and D. Parikh, "Question relevance in vqa: Identifying non-visual and false-premise questions," *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2016.

Workshops/Non-archival

- 1 A. Ray, D. Bashkirova, R. Tan, K.-H. Zeng, B. A. Plummer, R. Krishna, and K. Saenko, *R2d3: Imparting spatial reasoning by reconstructing 3d scenes from 2d images*, preprint, 2024.
- 2 D. Bashkirova, A. Ray, R. Mallick, S. Bargal, J. Zhang, R. Krishna, and K. Saenko, *Lasagna: Layered score distillation for disentangled object relighting*, arxiv:2312.00833, 2023.
- 3 K. Deng, R. Tan, S. Gabriel, B. Plummer, K. Saenko, and A. Ray, *Socratis: Are large multimodal models emotionally aware?* ICCV Workshop on Emotionally and Culturally Aware AI (Oral), 2023.
- 4 S. Ghosh, G. Burachas, A. Ray, and A. Ziskind, *Generating natural language explanations for visual question answering using scene graphs and visual attention*, IJCAI/ECAI Workshop on Explainable Artificial Intelligence, XAI 2018, 2018.

Patents

- 1 G. Burachas, A. Ray, and Y. Yao, *Attention-based explanations for artificial intelligence behavior*, US Patent 10,909,401, Feb. 2021.

- 2 A. Divakaran, K. Sikka, **A. Ray**, X. Lin, and Y. Yao, *User targeted content generation using multimodal embeddings*, US Patent App. 17/191,698, Sep. 2021.

Awards

- 2019 **Shark Tank Award**, SRI International, Center for Vision Technologies.
Received \$50,000 for 6 months that supported my project on generating personalized content to convey effects of climate change. Awarded to 3 projects in the center.
- 2016 **Employee of the Fortnight**, Blue River Technology.
For rapidly prototyping plant detection models, key selling point for the company.
- 2013 **Silver Medal**, Research Day, SRM University.
Rank 2 out of ~300 students in the department.
- 2012 **Academic Merit Scholarship**, SRM University.
Rank 3 out of ~300 students in the Electrical Engineering Department.

Mentoring

- 2023 Gitika Jha (AI4All Undergraduate BU; now SDE at Amazon)
Katherine Deng (AI4All Undergraduate BU; now SWE at Fidelity Investments)
Jiayi Shen (AI4All Undergraduate BU; now MS student at Brown University)
Xavier Thomas (MS BU)
- 2022 Praneeth Chandra Bogineni (MS BU; now at a startup, Oplus.ai)
- 2018–2021 Kamran Alipour (UC San Diego; now Senior AI R&D Engineer, Williams Sonoma)
- 2019 Julia Kruk (SRI International; now MS student at Georgia Tech)

Leadership

- Spring'23 **Student Leader**, AI For Impact Venture Studio, MIT Media Lab
Part of the student leadership council organizing networking events with over 100 attendees from 3 schools in the Boston area.
- 2021 – 2022 **Co-chair**, AI+X of BU and Harvard
Started a graduate student workshop investigating how AI can impact contemporary research areas.
- 2016 – 2017 **Vice President**, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society
Vice President of the Virginia Tech Chapter

Venture Experience

- Summer'24 **Build @ Pillar VC**
Selected as one of the Build @ Pillar VC summer cohort for entrepreneurship in the robotics space.

Professional Service

- 2016 – ? **Reviewer**
Neurips'22–24, CVPR'25,24,16, ECCV'24, ICLR'25, EMNLP'23, COLING'22.
- 2022, 2017 **Judge**, Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair
Science fair for high-school students

Media

2023 **The Generative AI Podcast**

I was featured in a podcast about using AI to predict social media responses.

2019 **TechXplore, Phys.org**

An image-guessing game to evaluate the helpfulness of machine explanations, presented also as a CVPR 2019 Demo and AAAI HCOMP 2019 Poster.

2014 **Indian Express, Deccan Chronicle, Engineering.Careers360**

Prototyped an Unmanned Autonomous Drone for identifying disaster victims.

Early Achievements

2011 All India Undergraduate Entrance Examination (SRM-JEE)

99%ile among students in India.

All India Central Board Examinations

Mathematics score: 97/100, 99%ile among students in India.

2007 National Science Olympiad

All India Rank: 168, City Rank: 7. Maintained a national rank < 600 in National Science Olympiads 2008, 2009, 2010

2006 Founded middle-school science society

Goal of encouraging middle-school students to take an interest in science. Won accolades in multiple school/city-level exhibitions.