

Arijit Ray

 array@bu.edu

 <https://arijitray.com>

 Google Scholar

Goal

To build machines that can *perceive* the world, *interact* with humans, and *think*- to solve tasks in the digital and physical world.

Appointments

Summer'25 - ?	Student Researcher , Google <i>Working with Pixel and Deepmind Foundational Research (Leonidas Guibas).</i>
Summer'24 - 25	Student Collaborator , Allen Institute for AI, PRIOR Team <i>3D and dynamic reasoning in multimodal language models.</i>
Summer'23	AI Resident , Google X Moonshot Labs <i>Mineral Team- adapting multimodal language models for custom phrase localization in images.</i>
Summer'22	Research Scientist Intern , Meta (Facebook) AI (FAIR-Accel) <i>Explored adaptation strategies for compositional reasoning in vision-language models.</i>
2017 - 2021	Computer Scientist , SRI International <i>Lead contributor for the SRI Team for the 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>Improving models that can answer questions about images. Advised by Devi Parikh.</i>

Education

2021 - ?	Ph.D., Boston University , Computer Science <i>Teaching machines to reason about the 3D visual world through language.</i> Advised by Kate Saenko, Bryan A. Plummer, and Ranjay Krishna (University of Washington)
2015 - 2017	M.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University , Computer Engineering Thesis: <i>Developing models that can converse with humans, advised by Devi Parikh.</i>
2011 - 2015	B.Tech., SRM University, India , Electrical Engineering GPA: 9.05/10, First-Class Distinction. Received Academic Merit Scholarship.

Research Publications

Working/Pre-prints

- 1 Ellis II Brown, **Arijit Ray**, Ranjay Krishna, Ross Girshick, Rob Fergus, and Saining Xie. *SIMs: Can Simple Simulators Elicit Spatial Understanding in Video Language Models?* preprint. 2025.
- 2 **Arijit Ray**, Ahmed Abdelkader, Chengzhi Mao, Bryan A. Plummer, Kate Saenko, Ranjay Krishna, Leonidas Guibas, and Wen-Sheng Chu. *Mull-tokens: Modality-Agnostic Latent Thinking.* preprint. 2025.

Peer-reviewed Conferences

- 1 Abhay Deshpande, Yuquan Deng, **Arijit Ray**, Jordi Salvador, Winson Han, Jiafei Duan, Kuo-Hao Zeng, Yuke Zhu, Ranjay Krishna, and Rose Hendrix. "GraspMolmo: Generalizable Task-Oriented Grasping via Large-Scale Synthetic Data Generation". In: *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)* (2025).

- 2 **Arijit Ray**, Jiafei Duan, Ellis Brown, Reuben Tan, Dina Bashkirova, Rose Hendrix, Kiana Ehsani, Aniruddha Kembhavi, Bryan A. Plummer, Ranjay Krishna, Kuo-Hao Zeng, and Kate Saenko. "SAT: Dynamic Spatial Aptitude Training for Multimodal Language Models". In: *Conference on Language Modeling (COLM)* (2025).
- 3 Jimuyang Zhang, Zanming Huang, **Arijit Ray**, and Eshed Ohn-Bar. "Feedback-Guided Autonomous Driving". In: *IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (2024). (Highlight, top 2.8%).
- 4 **Arijit Ray**, Filip Radenovic, Abhimanyu Dubey, Bryan A Plummer, Ranjay Krishna, and Kate Saenko. "COLA: A Benchmark for Compositional Text-to-image Retrieval". In: *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* (2023).
- 5 Reuben Tan, **Arijit Ray**, Andrea Burns, Bryan A Plummer, Justin Salamon, Oriol Nieto, Bryan Russell, and Kate Saenko. "Language-Guided Audio-Visual Source Separation via Trimodal Consistency". In: *IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (2023), pp. 10575–10584.
- 6 Kamran Alipour, **Arijit Ray**, Xiao Lin, Michael Cogswell, Jurgen P Schulze, Yi Yao, and Giedrius T Burachas. "Improving users' mental model with attention-directed counterfactual edits". In: *Applied AI Letters* 2.4 (2021), e47.
- 7 **Arijit Ray**, Michael Cogswell, Xiao Lin, Kamran Alipour, Ajay Divakaran, Yi Yao, and Giedrius Burachas. "Generating and evaluating explanations of attended and error-inducing input regions for VQA models". In: *Applied AI Letters* 2.4 (2021), e51.
- 8 Kamran Alipour, **Arijit Ray**, Xiao Lin, Jurgen P Schulze, Yi Yao, and Giedrius T Burachas. "The impact of explanations on AI competency prediction in VQA". In: *IEEE International Conference on Humanized Computing and Communication with Artificial Intelligence (HCCAI)* (2020), pp. 25–32.
- 9 **Arijit Ray**, Karan Sikka, Ajay Divakaran, Stefan Lee, and Giedrius Burachas. "Sunny and Dark Outside?! Improving Answer Consistency in VQA through Entailed Question Generation". In: *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)* (2019), pp. 5860–5865.
- 10 **Arijit Ray**, Yi Yao, Rakesh Kumar, Ajay Divakaran, and Giedrius Burachas. "Can you explain that? Lucid explanations help human-AI collaborative image retrieval". In: *AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing* 7.1 (2019), pp. 153–161.
- 11 **Arijit Ray**, Gordon Christie, Mohit Bansal, Dhruv Batra, and Devi Parikh. "Question relevance in VQA: identifying non-visual and false-premise questions". In: *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)* (2016).

Workshops/Non-archival

- 1 **Arijit Ray**, Dina Bashkirova, Reuben Tan, Kuo-Hao Zeng, Bryan A Plummer, Ranjay Krishna, and Kate Saenko. *R2D3: Imparting Spatial Reasoning by Reconstructing 3D Scenes from 2D Images*. preprint. 2024.
- 2 Dina Bashkirova, **Arijit Ray**, Rupayan Mallick, Sarah Bargal, Jianming Zhang, Ranjay Krishna, and Kate Saenko. *Lasagna: Layered Score Distillation for Disentangled Object Relighting*. arxiv:2312.00833. 2023.
- 3 Katherine Deng, **Arijit Ray**, Reuben Tan, Saadia Gabriel, Bryan Plummer, and Kate Saenko. *Socratis: Are large multimodal models emotionally aware?* ICCV Workshop on Emotionally and Culturally Aware AI (Oral). 2023.
- 4 Shalini Ghosh, Giedrius Burachas, **Arijit Ray**, and Avi 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 Giedrius Burachas, **Arijit Ray**, and Yi Yao. *Attention-based explanations for artificial intelligence behavior.* US Patent 10,909,401. Feb. 2021.
- 2 Ajay Divakaran, Karan Sikka, **Arijit Ray**, Xiao Lin, and Yi Yao. *User targeted content generation using multimodal embeddings.* US Patent App. 17/191,698. Sept. 2021.

Awards

- 2019 **SRI 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 training a state-of-the-art plant detection model, a key selling point for the acquisition by John Deere.
- 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; Now PhD student at 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 at Meta AI)

Leadership/Venture

- Summer'24 **Build @ Pillar VC**
Selected as one of the Build @ Pillar VC summer cohort for entrepreneurship networking and ideation in the robotics space.
- Spring'23 **Student Leader**, AI For Impact Venture Studio, MIT
Part of the student leadership council organizing networking events with over 100 attendees from 5 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

Professional Service

- 2016 – ? **Reviewer**
Neurips'22-24, CVPR'26,25,24,16, 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

99%ile math score among students in India.

2007 National Science Olympiad

All India Rank: 168, City Rank: 7.

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.