Ashima Suvarna

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Robust Toxicity Detection, Misinformation Detection, Preference Alignment Large Language Models

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	Sept 2024 - Present
Ph.D. in Computer Science	*Advisor - Prof. Saadia Gabriel*

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	Sept 2021 - Sept 2023
Masters in Science - Computer Science; Deepmind Scholar	*GPA: 3.8/4.0*

Delhi Technological University (Formerly DCE)	Aug 2016 - June 2020
Bachelor of Technology - Computer Engineering	*GPA : 8.9/10*

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ashima Suvarna***, Xiao Liu*, Tanmay Parekh, Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng. *QUDSELECT: Selective Decoding for Questions Under Discussion Parsing.* [Paper]||[Code] **EMNLP 2024**

2. Hritik Bansal*, **Ashima Suvarna***, Gantavya Bhatt*, Nanyun Peng, Kai-Wei Chang, Aditya Grover. *Comparing Bad Apples to Good Oranges: Aligning Large Language Models via Joint Preference Optimization.* [Website]||[Paper]|| [Code] **DMLR Workshop @ ICML 2024**

3. Yixin Wan, Arjun Subramonian, Anaelia Ovalle, Zongyu Lin, **Ashima Suvarna**, Christina Chance, Hritik Bansal, Rebecca Pattichis, Kai-Wei Chang. *Survey of Bias In Text-to-Image Generation: Definition, Evaluation, and Mitigation.* [Paper]|| [Tweet] **Preprint**

4. Zefan Cai*, Po-Nien Kung*, **Ashima Suvarna**, Mingyu Derek Ma, Hritik Bansal, Baobao Chang, P. Jeffrey Brantingham, Wei Wang, Nanyun Peng. *Improving Event Definition Following For Zero-Shot Event Detection.* [Paper] **ACL 2024**

5. **Ashima Suvarna**, Harshita Khandelwal, Nanyun Peng. *PhonologyBench: Evaluating Phonological Skills of Large Language Models.* [Paper]||[Tweet]|Code **KnowledgeableLMs Workshop @ ACL 2024**

WORK EXPERIENCE

PLUSLAB, UCLA	Los Angeles, California
Research Associate (Advisor - Prof. Nanyun Peng)	*Jun 2023 - July 2024*

Walmart Inc.	Sunnyvale, California
Data Scientist Intern	*Jun 2022 - Sep 2022*

Dimagi Inc.	New Delhi, India
Technical Project Analyst	*June 2020 - August 2021*

University of New Brunswick	Fredericton, Canada
Mitacs Research Intern	*June 2019 - August 2019*

SERVICE

Reviewer: ACL SRW 2024, NAACL SRW 2024, ICLR Tiny Papers 2024, NeurIPS D&B 2024
Program Committee: SoCal NLP Symposium 2023
Volunteer: Enactus DTU 2016-2018, Mentorship Office-Hours

TALKS

- Interpretable Machine Learning (CS 224) [Slides]
- A Distributional Approach to Controlled Text Generation (CS 269) [Slides]

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Deepmind Scholarship** to fully fund Masters at UCLA CS; awarded to 2 students in Fall 2021 in the MS cohort.
- **Mitacs Globalink Research Scholarship** to conduct research and visit a Canadian University for Summer 2019.
- General Secretary of **Enactus DTU** in 2018; won the **KPMG Grant** to rehabilitate acid-attack survivors in Delhi.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Natural Language Generation, Fairness, Transparency and Robustness in Natural Language Processing, Automated Reasoning Theory and Applications, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning Foundations, Big Data Analytics, Discrete Structure, Algorithm Design and Analysis, Theory of Computation.