





Dipankar Srirag

PhD Candidate, UNSW Sydney

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Education




Present Jun 2025	University of New South Wales Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering • Advisor(s) : Dr. Aditya Joshi, Dr. Padmanesan Narasimhan, Dr. Salil Kanhere. • Academic Award : UNSW TFS Scholarship. • Funded by NHMRC Ideas Grant.	Sydney, Australia
Sep 2024 Sep 2022	University of New South Wales M.S., Information Technology, WAM : 81.3.  • Advisor : Dr. Aditya Joshi. • Academic Award : Award of Excellence.  • Thesis : Training Dialect Adapters for Decoder Models Using Natural Conversations. 	Sydney, Australia
Aug 2022 Jul 2018	Manipal Institute of Technology B.Tech., Information Technology, GPA : 8.38.  • Minor : Data Analytics • Relevant Courses : Data Structures and Algorithms, Probability Theory, Linear Algebra, Vector Calculus, Machine Learning.	Manipal, India

Experience

May 2025 May 2024	University of New South Wales Researcher/Research Officer • Built the BESSTIE benchmark, a novel dataset spanning sentiment and sarcasm classification across 3 English dialects. This work is funded by Google Research Scholar grant. • Designed and implemented scalable annotation pipelines to collect and validate 12,600 samples from Reddit and Google Places, covering diverse dialects for NLP evaluation. • Evaluated two open-weight LLMs (Gemma, Llama) for dialect robustness using sarcasm explanation generation, with statistically significant improvements using a pragmatic reasoning-based prompting strategy. • Audited GPT-based models for translation of school communication across 22 languages, using performance metrics such as BLEU, chrF, and ROUGE. • Mentored undergraduate students through the NSW Taste of Research program, guiding through literature reviews, controlled experimentation, and research writing. • Presented work at the UNSW AI Symposium 2024, showcasing practical contributions of dialect-aware LLM evaluations.	Sydney, Australia
Jun 2022 Jan 2022	Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Analyst Intern • Automated invoice processing with 100% accuracy using BluePrism bots, improving operational efficiency for client-facing systems. • Trained in enterprise-grade automation tools such as Automation Anywhere and UiPath, delivering proof-of-concepts for internal testing.	Bengaluru, India

Publications and Submissions

S=Submission, C=Conference, W=Workshop

- [S.1] **Nek Minit : Harnessing Pragmatic Metacognitive Prompting for Explainable Sarcasm Detection of Australian and Indian English.** 
Ishmanbur Singh*, Dipankar Srirag*, Aditya Joshi.
[Under Review]
- [C.2] **BESSTIE : A Benchmark for Sentiment and Sarcasm Classification for Varieties of English.** 
Dipankar Srirag, Aditya Joshi, Jordan Painter, Diptesh Kanojia.
Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics : ACL 2025. [ACL'25]
- [C.1] **Predicting the Target Word of Game-playing Conversations using a Low-Rank Dialect Adapter for Decoder Models.** 
Dipankar Srirag, Aditya Joshi, Jacob Eisenstein.
2025 Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics. [NAACL'25]

[W.1]

Evaluating Dialect Robustness of Language Models via Conversation Understanding.🔗
Dipankar Srirag, Nihar Ranjan Sahoo, Aditya Joshi.
Second Workshop on Scaling Up Multilingual & Multi-Cultural Evaluation, COLING 2025.

[SUMEVAL'25]

Teaching

Neural Networks and Deep Learning, UNSW SydneyCasual AcademicMay 2024 - Present

- Delivered tutorials and practical labs for 50+ graduate students in Neural Networks and Deep Learning, covering transformer models and training techniques.
- Provided project mentorship and evaluation, achieving 97% broad agreement in student feedback surveys.

Presentations

NAACL 2025, Albuquerque, USAMain ConferenceMay 2025

Presented our paper titled, “Predicting the Target Word of Game-playing Conversations using a Low-Rank Dialect Adapter for Decoder Models.”🔗

SUMEval Workshop at COLING 2025, Abu Dhabi, UAESymposiumJan 2025

Presented our paper titled, “Evaluating Dialect Robustness of Language Models via Conversation Understanding.”

AI Symposium 2025 at UNSW, Sydney, AustraliaSymposiumNov 2024

Presented “BESSTIE : A Benchmark for Sentiment and Sarcasm Classification for Varieties of English”, to an audience of academia and industry attendees.

Projects

Comparative Analysis of Static vs. Context-aware Embeddings for Abstractive Summarisation🔗Sep 2023

Implemented a transformer model with encoder-decoder architecture and static embeddings, for abstractive dialogue summarisation. Highlighted the effectiveness of context-aware embeddings in dialogue summarisation, by fine-tuning BART-base, and FLAN-T5 models.

Academic Service

Program Committee MemberC3NLP Workshop 2025, Queer in AI Workshop 2025.

Peer ReviewerARR May 2025, The Web Conference (WWW) 2025.

References

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