Dipankar **Srirag**

PhD Candidate, UNSW Sydney

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Education

Present – Jun 2025 | **University of New South Wales** | **Sydney, Australia**

Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering

- Advisor(s) : Dr. Aditya Joshi, Dr. Padmanesan Narasimhan.
- Academic Award : UNSW TFS Scholarship.
- Funded by NHMRC Ideas Grant.

Sep 2024 – Sep 2022 | **University of New South Wales** | **Sydney, Australia**

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.

Aug 2022 – Jul 2018 | **Manipal Institute of Technology** | **Manipal, India**

B.Tech., Information Technology, GPA : 8.38 (transcript).

- Minor : Data Analytics
- Relevant Courses : Data Structures and Algorithms, Probability Theory, Linear Algebra, Vector Calculus, Machine Learning.

Experience

May 2025 – May 2024 | **University of New South Wales** | **Sydney, Australia**

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.

Jun 2022 – Jan 2022 | **Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu** | **Bengaluru, India**

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.

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 Sydney *Casual Academic* May 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, USA *Main Conference* May 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, UAE *Workshop* Jan 2025
Presented our paper titled, "Evaluating Dialect Robustness of Language Models via Conversation Understanding."

AI Symposium 2025 at UNSW, Sydney, Australia *Symposium* Nov 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.

Pytorch | Transformers | HPC

Academic Service

Program Committee Member C3NLP Workshop at NAACL 2025.
Peer Reviewer The Web Conference (WWW) 2025.

References

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