Jay Gala

Research Associate @ MBZUAI

Website | Email | GitHub | Google Scholar | Semantic Scholar | LinkedIn

Education

Dwarkadas J. Sanghvi College of Engineering (University of Mumbai) Aug 2017 - Jul 2021
Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) in Computer Engineering Overall GPA: **9.86/10**
Applied Math, Discrete Math, Algorithms, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing.

Publications

Complete List at Google Scholar and Semantic Scholar (∗ = equal contribution)

[10] **MMTEB: Massive Multilingual Text Embedding Benchmark** [Paper | Code]
Kenneth Enevoldsen, Isaac Chung, Imene Kerboua, Márton Kardos, Ashwin Mathur, David Stap, Jay Gala, et al.
International Conference on Learning Representations **[ICLR 2025]**

[9] **SHADES: Towards a Multilingual Assessment of Stereotypes in Large Language Models** [Paper]
Margaret Mitchell, . . . , Jay Gala, . . . , Zeerak Talat
North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics **[NAACL 2025]**

[8] **Leverage Class-Specific Accuracy to Guide Data Generation for Improving Image Classification** [Paper]
Jay Gala, Pengtao Xie
International Conference on Machine Learning **[ICML 2024]**

[7] **Critical Learning Periods: Leveraging Early Training Dynamics for Efficient Data Pruning in MT** [Paper]
Everlyn Chimoto, Jay Gala, Orevaoghene Ahia, Julia Kreutzer, Bruce Bassett, Sara Hooker
Findings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics **[Findings - ACL 2024]**

[6] **An Empirical Study of In-context Learning in LLMs for Machine Translation** [Paper | Code]
Pranjal Chitale*, Jay Gala*, Raj Dabre
Findings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics **[Findings - ACL 2024]**

[5] **RomanSetu: Efficiently unlocking multilingual capabilities of LLMs via Romanization** [Paper]
Jaavid Aktar Husain, Raj Dabre, Aswanth Kumar, Jay Gala, Thanmay Jayakumar, Ratish Puduppully, Anoop Kunchukuttan
The Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (🏆 **Senior Area Chair Award**) **[ACL 2024]**

[4] **CVQA - Culturally-diverse Multilingual Visual Question Answering Benchmark** [Paper | Website]
David Romero, . . . , Jay Gala, . . . , Alham Fikri Aji
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems Datasets & Benchmark track **[NeurIPS 2024]**

[3] **Airavata: Introducing Hindi Instruction-tuned LLM** [Paper | Code]
Jay Gala, Thanmay Jayakumar, . . . , Mitesh Khapra, Raj Dabre, Rudra Murthy, Anoop Kunchukuttan
ArXiv Preprint (Technical Report) **[arXiv 2024]**

[2] **IndicTrans2: Towards High-Quality and Accessible MT Models for Indian Languages** [Paper | Code]
Jay Gala*, Pranjal Chitale*, . . . , Mitesh Khapra, Raj Dabre, Anoop Kunchukuttan
Transactions on Machine Learning Research **[TMLR 2023]**

[1] **A Federated Approach for Hate Speech Detection** [Paper | Code]
Jay Gala*, Deep Gandhi*, Jash Mehta*, Zeerak Talat
European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics **[EACL 2023]**

Experience

MBZUAI May 2024 - Present
Research Associate Advisors: Yova Kementchedjhieva and Alham Fikri Aji

- Currently exploring how to efficiently retrofit visual modality knowledge into pre-trained LLMs without an explicit vision encoder.
- Investigated the role of language decoders in VLMs like LLaVA (Liu et al. 2024) using the task of object parts recognition. Through attention-knockout to limit context and logit lens analysis, we show that CLIP image representations encode rich information about object parts effectively extractable via the language decoder.
- In cases of limited contextualization of object parts from CLIP, LLaVA's language decoder compensates by refining image features, recontextualizing parts, and recovering most of their identifiability (*Preprint to be released soon*)

AI4Bharat (IIT Madras) Aug 2022 - Apr 2024
AI Resident Advisors: Mitesh Khapra, Anoop Kunchukuttan and Raj Dabre

- Mined 5M high-quality bitext pairs from the web (ebooks, lecture transcripts, etc) using LaBSE and margin score.
- Developed SOTA IndicTrans2 translation models and created a challenging IN22 benchmark for 22 Indian languages. Notably, these models are used by the **Supreme Court of India** to translate legal proceedings and **Wikimedia Foundation** to translate Wikipedia content (Coverage).

- Developed efficient Indic-Indic (non-English) translation models by repurposing components from independently pretrained English-centric translation models. Distilled IndicTrans2 translation models with a **~5x reduction in model size** and **~36% reduced inference time**. Check out the blog for more details.
- Study various aspects influencing ICL abilities of LLMs like BLOOM (Scao et al., 2022) and Llama 2 (Touvron et al., 2023) for MT task to ascertain if ICL is example-driven or instruction-driven.

Cohere For AI Research Collaboration Jun 2023 - Feb 2024
Independent Researcher (Remote) Advisors: Sara Hooker, Julia Kreutzer and Bruce Bassett

- Worked on understanding the effective ways of data pruning for MT by leveraging Checkpoints Across Time (**CAT**).
- Experimental results demonstrate superior performance using perplexity from early model checkpoints compared to sentence embedding models for high-resource pairs (En-De, En-Fr) and vice-versa for low-resource pairs (En-Sw).

MBZUAI Research Collaboration Sep 2021 - Dec 2022
Independent Researcher (Remote) Advisor: Zeerak Talat

- Proposed cross-dataset generalization for hate speech detection using Federated Learning extending Fortuna et al. (2021).
- Experiments show around 10% improvement in F1-score with relatively less data compared to centralized training.

University of California San Diego Jun 2021 - Jun 2022
Research Intern (Remote) Advisor: Pengtao Xie

- Implementation of Learning from Mistakes for Neural Architecture Search (Garg et al., 2021) in PyTorch [Code].
- Proposed an efficient multi-level optimization algorithm as an extension to Garg et al. (2021) for improving NAS by conducting performance-aware data generation using class-wise evaluation during the architecture search.
- Model-agnostic framework that can be coupled with any gradient-based (differentiable) search approaches.

Tata Consultancy Services Dec 2019 - Feb 2020
Machine Learning Intern

- Developed models using VAEs and K-means clustering for customer behavior analysis to prevent customer churn.
- Prepared a custom dataset by developing surveys to handle open-ended and closed-ended questions.
- Extracted feedback responses from handwritten survey forms using OCR, achieving 12% CER and 18% WER.

Projects

Ocubot - Image-based Dialog [Report | Code]

- Bachelor's project which focused on improving performance on the multimodal task of Visual Dialog.
- Adversarial analysis of existing systems to identify modality biases towards historical context and salient visual features.
- Reduced modality biases by improving visual context with dense captions and attention over these captions.
- Achieved competitive performance to the baseline with around 70% training data (85K images out of 120K images).

Pothole Detection and Depth Estimation [Report | Code]

- Developed an autonomous surveillance system for road safety to identify potholes using YOLOv4 and estimate the depth and dimensions of the pothole using triangular similarity.
- Collected and released a dataset of 1.2K pothole images annotated as per the YOLO labeling format.

Skills

Languages	Python, C, Java, JavaScript, SQL, HTML5, LaTeX
Libraries	PyTorch, Keras, Fairseq, Transformers, Scikit-learn, NumPy, Pandas, OpenCV, SpaCy, NLTK, Flask, FastAPI
Others	Git, Jupyter, Docker, Raspberry Pi, LaTeX

Academic Service

Volunteer	EACL 2023, ACL 2024
Reviewer	EACL 2024, ACL Rolling Review, ICLR 2025, TMLR

Co-Curricular Activities

- Gave a talk on in-context learning capabilities of LLMs for MT at the SNLP Reading Group, Microsoft Research India.
- **Presented Tutorial on Developing SOTA MNMT Systems for Related Languages at AACL-IJCNLP 2023.**
- **Teaching Assistant** for Summer Machine Learning Course, UMLSC 2021, supported by **Google Research India**.
- Founding member of SimPPL, a non-profit research collective mentoring aspiring researchers from Indian educational institutes. Develop Parrot, a tool for auditing online disinformation on social media, in partnership with The Sunday Times and Ippen Digital.