

# 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

Jun 2024 - Present

Research Associate

Advisors: [Yova Kementchedjieva](#) and [Alham Fikri Aji](#)

➤ Exploring how to efficiently retrofit visual modality knowledge into pre-trained LLMs without explicit vision encoder.

#### 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**. Checkout 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: [Zeera 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.

### Anomaly Detection in ECG Signals

- Industry collaboration to develop neural models for detecting anomalies in processed ECG signals from IoT devices with a human-in-the-loop approach to semi-automate the process while ensuring the safety of human lives.
- Applied distributed computing algorithms for speed improvements during inference and load balancing by 60%.

## Skills

---

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

## Academic Service

---

<b>Volunteer</b>	EACL 2023, ACL 2024
<b>Reviewer</b>	EACL 2024, ACL Rolling Review, ICLR 2024

## 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.