

VSDS Mahesh Akavarapu

📍 Dept. of CSE, IITK, Kanpur, U.P., India ✉ maheshak@cse.iitk.ac.in 🔗 mahesh-ak.github.io
in mahesh-akavarapu 🌐 mahesh-ak

Research Interests

Computational Linguistics / Natural Language Processing, Historical Linguistics

Specifically: Computational Historical Linguistics, Low Resource NLP, Multilingual and Multimodal LLMs

Education

PhD **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, Computer Science July 2019 – Sept 2024

- GPA: 3.84/4.00 (9.6/10.0)
- Advisor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya

BT **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**, Computer Science, Physics July 2014 – May 2019
(Second Major)

- GPA: 3.72/4.00 (9.3/10.0)

Awards / Honors

Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (2019-24): Grant of INR 200,000 per year (approx. USD 12,000 in total) from Ministry of Education, Government of India

Academic Excellence Award from IIT Kanpur (2015): Awarded to Top 10% students of the batch

Experience

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Research Fellow Kanpur, India
• Under Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (Advisor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya) Aug 2019 – July 2024
4 years 11 months

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Student Researcher, Intern Kanpur, India
• High Performance Computing in CUDA (Advisor: Prof. Mahendra K. Verma) May 2018 – July 2018
2 months

Publications

A Likelihood Ratio Test of Genetic Relationship among Languages June 2024

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya
Proc. of **NAACL 2024**, Mexico City, Mexico

Automated Cognate Detection as a Supervised Link Prediction Task with Cognate Transformer Mar 2024

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya

Proc. of **EACL 2024**, St. Julian's, Malta

Cognate Transformer for Automated Phonological Reconstruction and Cognate Reflex Prediction

Dec 2023

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya

Proc. of **EMNLP 2023**, Singapore

Creation of a Digital Rig Vedic Index (Anukramani) for Computational Linguistic Tasks

Jan 2023

V.S.D.S.Mahesh Akavarapu, Arnab Bhattacharya

Proc. of **World Sanskrit Conference 2023**, Canberra, Australia

Invited Talks

- Evolutionary Biology-Inspired Language Models in Historical Linguistics, University of Tübingen (Online), Apr. 2024
- Tutorial on LLMs: Finetuning and Prompting, with Arnab Bhattacharya and Shubham K. Nigam, NIT Warangal (Online), Mar. 2024
- Tutorial on Legal Named Entity Recognition, with Shubham K. Nigam, NIT Trichy (Online), Dec. 2022

Teaching Assitance

- (CS 689) *Computational Linguistics for Indian Languages*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Spring 2024, Fall 2022)
- (CS 63) *Theory of Computation*, Instructor: Dr. Raghunath Tewari (Fall 2023, Fall 2022)
- (CS 315) *Principles of Database Systems*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Spring 2023, Spring 2021)
- (CS 657) *Information Retrieval*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Spring 2022)
- (CS 771) *Introduction to Machine Learning*, Instructor: Dr. Nisheeth Srivastava (Fall 2021)
- (CS 685) *Data Mining*, Instructor: Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya (Fall 2020)
- (ESC 101) *Fundamentals of Computing*, Instructor: Dr. Nisheeth Srivastava (Spring 2020), Dr. Piyush Rai (Fall 2019)

Technologies

Languages: Python, C/C++, HTML, Shell Scripting etc.

Libraries: PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace, Pandas etc.

Personal Details

Full Name: Akavarapu, Venkata Satya Durga Sai Mahesh

Gender: Male **Age:** 28 **Nationality:** Indian