Om B. Bhatt

CONTACT INFORMATION	University of California, Irvine Irvine, CA 92617	*E-mail:* om.bhatt@uci.edu *Website:* ombbhatt.github.io

RESEARCH
INTERESTS

Computational Cognitive Science, NeuroAI, Mechanistic Interpretability, Reasoning in LLMs

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia

M.S., Computer Science (Specialization: Machine Learning) **May 2025**
Relevant Coursework: AI for Cognitive Science, Computational Neuroscience, Sensation & Perception, Human & Machine Learning

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois

B.S., Computer Science and Philosophy **May 2023**
Relevant Coursework: Deep Learning for Computer Vision, Ethical Theories, Social Philosophy, Adv. Symbolic Logic

ACADEMIC
EXPERIENCE

Relational Cognition Lab, UC Irvine

Research Technician & Lab Manager **July 2025 - present**

- PI: Dr. Anna Leshinskaya, Dept. of Cognitive Sciences
- Working on multiple research projects centered around probing and characterizing internal representations of concepts in LLMs. Primarily focused on **preference alignment** for concepts of **morality** and **utility**.
- Handling administrative responsibilities such as requests for lab purchases, reimbursements, assisting in onboarding for new members, and lab event planning.

Language, Intelligence, & Thought Lab, Georgia Tech

Part-time Graduate Member **Aug 2024 - May 2025**

- PI: Dr. Anna (Anya) Ivanova, School of Psychology
- Led a project to check for human-like response bias behavior in fixed-response (binary and multiple-choice) questions in LLMs, and proposed a log-probability manipulation technique that reduces measured bias and improves accuracy. *Work ongoing.*

College of Computing, Georgia Tech

Graduate Teaching Assistant **Jan 2024 - May 2025**

- Instructor: Dr. Sashank Varma, School of Interactive Computing
- Assisted in facilitating *Human and Machine Learning* (CS7651) in Spring 2024 and Spring 2025, and *Intro to Cognitive Science* (CS3790) in Fall 2024.
- Handled assignment grading, preparing quiz questions, holding weekly office hours for assignment help, and providing resources to students for final projects.

ALLVM Group, UIUC

Undergraduate Research Assistant **Jul 2021 - Dec 2021**

- PI: Dr. Vikram Adve, Mentor: Sean Bartell
- Worked on testing a compiler-level tool that introduced novel code-size reduction techniques. Wrote shell scripts to extract LLVM bitcode from popular code libraries to serve as test candidates and reported size reduction effects.

PUBLICATIONS	Bhatt, O., & Ivanova, A. (2025). Estimating and Correcting Yes-No Bias in Language Models. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 47.
PAPERS IN PREPARATION	Bhatt, O., & Ivanova, A. Log-probability based Response Bias Correction in Language Models.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Synchrony Financial, Champaign, Illinois

Software Engineer Intern **Jan 2022 - Nov 2022**

- Developed a prototype for a credit card spending controls API for a Buy-Now-Pay-Later feature using Java Spring.
- Developed a user-login pipeline that consolidated 10+ internal credential validation processes into one service using the Hyperledger Fabric framework (hosted on AWS EC2).

SKILLS

- Languages: Primary - Python. Others - Java, Go
- Libraries/Frameworks/Services: PyTorch, NumPy, Pandas, TransformerLens, Flask, Node.js, AWS (EC2, Lambda), Docker, Firebase, SQL