Venkata S Govindarajan

HE/HIM/HIS
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS,
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

📞 (512)568-8775
✉ gvenkata1994@gmail.com
🌐 venkatasg.net
⌨ venkatasg
in gvenkatas

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Computational Linguistics at UT Austin studying interpersonal bias in language use online. Previously, I have studied how individuals perform pragmatic acts like giving advice, worked on unsupervised methods for detecting data drift in NLU models, and surveyed the diversity of generalizations available across predicates and arguments in English.

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin — 2019–2024
Ph.D. Computational Linguistics — GPA:3.92/4
Advisors: Prof.Jessy Li & Prof.David Beaver

University of Rochester — 2017–2019
M.S. Computational Linguistics — GPA:3.75/4
Advisor: Prof.Aaron Steven White

Indian Institute of Technology Madras — 2012–2017
B.Tech & M.Tech Biological Engineering — GPA:8.68/10

WORK EXPERIENCE

The New York Times — Data Scientist Intern — Summer 2023
Data Science — VIRTUAL

Amazon — Alexa Applied Scientist Intern — Summer 2021
Natural Language Processing & Understanding — VIRTUAL
Implemented an unsupervised method for detecting data drift in NLU models, and validated the approach on simulated and customer data. Received return internship offer for summer 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

Govindarajan, V. S., K. Atwell, B. Sinno, M. Alikhani, D. I. Beaver & J. J. Li. 2023a. How people talk about each other: Modeling Generalized Intergroup Bias and Emotion To appear in *Proceedings of the 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)*. Croatia: Association for Computational Linguistics.

Kovatchev, V., T. Chatterjee, **V. S. Govindarajan**, J. Chen, et al. 2022. longhorns at DADC 2022: How many linguists does it take to fool a Question Answering model? A systematic approach to adversarial attacks. In *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Dynamic Adversarial Data Collection*, 41–52. Seattle, WA: Association for Computational Linguistics.

Govindarajan, V. S., B. Chen, R. Warholic, K. Erk & J. J. Li. 2020a. Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice. In *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 5295–5306. Online: Association for Computational Linguistics.

White, A. S., E. Stengel-Eskin, S. Vashishtha, **V. S. Govindarajan**, et al. 2020. The Universal Decompositional Semantics Dataset and Decomp Toolkit. In *Proceedings of The 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC)*, 5698–5707. Marseille, France: European Language Resources Association.

Govindarajan, V., B. V. Durme & A. S. White. 2019. Decomposing Generalization: Models of Generic , Habitual, and Episodic Statements. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)* 7. 501–517.

TALKS

Govindarajan, **V. S.**, K. Atwell, B. Sinno, M. Alikhani, D. I. Beaver & J. J. Li. 2023b. How people talk about each other: Modeling Generalized Intergroup Bias and Emotion. To be presented at *The 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)*. Dubrovnik, Croatia. May 1-6 2023.

Govindarajan, **V. S.**, B. T. Chen, R. Warholic, K. Erk & J. J. Li. 2020b. Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice. Presented at *The 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. Virtual. Nov 16-20 2020.

Govindarajan, V., B. V. Durme & A. S. White. 2020. Decomposing Generalization: Models of Generic , Habitual, and Episodic Statements. Presented at *The 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. Virtual. July 5-10 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Instructor

Language and Computers	Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant

Machine Learning Toolbox for Text Analysis	Spring 2021
Analyzing Linguistic Data and Programming for Linguists	Spring 2020
Introduction to Computational Linguistics	Fall 2019
Introduction to Computational Linguistics	Fall 2018
Data Structures and Algorithms for Biology	Fall 2016

SKILLS

Programming Languages Python, Swift, Javascript, R, SQL, MATLAB, LISP, C, C++
Tools & Frameworks pyTorch, Transformers, Tensorflow, Keras, scikit-learn, statsmodels, SciPy, Pandas, SwiftUI, CoreML
Languages English (native), Tamil (native), Hindi (intermediate)

PERSONAL PROJECTS

DeTeXt: I built an open source app for iOS, iPadOS and macOS that predicts the best LaTeX commands corresponding to hand-drawn symbols using deep neural networks. Built using SwiftUI, Combine, PencilKit and CoreML, the app has 4000+ installs.

AWARDS

NASSLI Student Grant (800 USD)	Summer 2022
COLA Supplemental Graduate School Fellowship (5000 USD)	Spring 2020
Silver medal at International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM)	Fall 2016
Indian Biological Engineering Competition (iBEC) grant (15,000 USD)	Fall 2016

National BIRAC-IdeaThon on Antimicrobial Resistance Finalist   Fall 2016
Second runner up in 3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge   Spring 2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Primary Reviewer at ACL 2023, SIGDIAL 2022.
Co-organizer of Texas South by Semantics Workshop 2022 & 2023 with Samuel Cantor.
Texas Linguistics Society(TLS) Conference 2022 & 2021 Organizing Committee.