

# Venkata S Govindarajan

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

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## PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a 4th year PhD candidate in Computational Linguistics at UT Austin studying interpersonal biases in language use online. Previously, I have studied how individuals perform pragmatic acts like giving advice online, worked on unsupervised methods for detecting data drift in NLU models, and surveyed the diversity of generalizations in English.

I have 5+ years of experience with large-scale data analysis and modeling, supervised and unsupervised machine learning methods, and modern NLP including large language models.

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## EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin	2019–2024
<i>PhD Computational Linguistics</i>	GPA:3.9/4
University of Rochester	2017–2019
<i>MS Computational Linguistics</i>	GPA:3.75/4
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	2012–2017
<i>Dual Degree(B.Tech &amp; M.Tech) Biological Engineering</i>	GPA:8.68/10

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon – Alexa Applied Scientist Intern	Summer 2021
<i>Natural Language Processing &amp; Understanding</i>	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.	

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## SELECT 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.
- Govindarajan, V. S.,** B. Chen, R. Warholc, 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.

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.

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## SKILLS

**Programming Languages** Python, Swift, Javascript, R, MATLAB, LISP, C, C++

**Tools & Frameworks** pyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Transformers, scikit-learn, statsmodels, SciPy, Pandas, nltk, SQL, Docker,  $\LaTeX$ , Jupyter, Unix, SwiftUI, CoreML

**Languages** English (native), Tamil (native), Hindi (intermediate)

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## RELEVANT GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Machine Learning • Statistical Speech and Language Processing • Logical Foundations of AI • Natural Language Processing • Neural Networks and Linguistic Structure

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## 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.

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## 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

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-organizer of Texas [South by Semantics Workshop](#) 2022 & 2023 with [Samuel Cantor](#).

Primary Reviewer at [SIGDIAL 2022](#).

Texas Linguistics Society(TLS) Conference [2022](#) & [2021](#) Organizing Committee.