

Venkata S Govindarajan

HE/HIM/HIS
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am a PhD candidate in Computational Linguistics at UT Austin, with a focus on Computational Pragmatics. My dissertation will focus on interpersonal biases in language use, where I plan to probe deep neural nets to validate psychological hypotheses of how stereotypes persist in language use, and understand how interpersonal biases manifest in language generated by LLMs.

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin	2019–2024
<i>PhD Computational Linguistics</i>	GPA:3.92/4
Advisors: Prof.Jessy Li & Prof.David Beaver	
University of Rochester	2017–2019
<i>MS Computational Linguistics</i>	GPA:3.75/4
Advisor: Prof.Aaron Steven White	
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	2012–2017
<i>Dual Degree(B.Tech & M.Tech) Biological Engineering</i>	GPA:8.68/10

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon – Alexa Applied Scientist Intern	Summer 2021
<i>Natural Language Processing & Understanding</i>	VIRTUAL
Implemented an unsupervised method for detecting data drift in NLU models, and validated the approach on simulated and real-world drift. Received return internship offer for summer 2022.	

PAPERS

Govindarajan, V. S., K. Atwell, B. Sinno, M. Alikhani, D. I. Beaver & J. J. Li. 2022. [Dimensions of Interpersonal Dynamics in Text: Group Membership and Fine-grained Interpersonal Emotion](#). *arXiv preprint*.

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. T. 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*.
- White, A. S., E. Stengel-Eskin, S. Vashishtha, **V. S. Govindarajan**, et al. 2020. [The Universal Compositional Semantics Dataset and Decomp Toolkit](#). In *Proceedings of The 12th Language Resources and Evaluation Conference*, 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* 7. 501–517.

TALKS

- Govindarajan, V. S.,** B. T. Chen, R. Warholc, K. Erk & J. J. Li. 2020b. [Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice](#). Presented at *The 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*. 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*. Virtual. July 5-10 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Instructor

Language and Computers	Summer 2022
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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, MATLAB, LISP, C, C++

Tools & Frameworks pyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Transformers, SciPy, Pandas, nltk, SQL, Docker, L^AT_EX, Jupyter, Unix, 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.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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

Primary Reviewer at [SIGDIAL 2022](#).

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

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