

# Venkata S Govindarajan

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

✉ [venkat@venkatasg.net](mailto:venkat@venkatasg.net)  
🌐 [venkatasg.net](https://venkatasg.net)  
🐙 [venkatasg](https://github.com/venkatasg)

---

## 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
Thesis: Decomposing Generalization   Advisor: Prof. Aaron Steven White	
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	2012–2017
<i>Dual Degree(B.Tech &amp; M.Tech) Biological Engineering</i>	GPA:8.68/10
Thesis: Direction Maps in the Whisker Barrel Cortex   Advisor: Prof. Srinivasa Chakravarthy	

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational Semantics & Pragmatics, Natural Language Processing

---

## 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 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

### *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, MATLAB, LISP, C, C++

**Tools & Frameworks** pyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Huggingface Transformers, SciPy, Pandas, nltk, Docker, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Jupyter, Unix, SwiftUI, CoreML

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

---

## APPS

**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.

Primary Reviewer at [SIGDIAL 2022](#).

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

---

## AWARDS

NASSLI Student Grant	Summer 2022
COLA Supplemental Graduate School Fellowship	Spring 2020
Silver medal at International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM)	Fall 2016
Indian Biological Engineering Competition (iBEC) grant for INR 1,000,000	Fall 2016
National BIRAC-IdeaThon on Antimicrobial Resistance Finalist	Fall 2016
Second runner up in 3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge	Spring 2015