

Venkata S Govindarajan

HE/HIM/HIS


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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Computational Linguistics at UT Austin studying intergroup bias in online communication. 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

The 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 Summer 2023

Data Scientist Intern

Amazon Summer 2021

Alexa Applied Scientist Intern

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. Mahowald, D. Beaver & J. J. Li. 2023. Probing Intergroup Bias. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*. Toronto, Canada: Association for Computational Linguistics.

Govindarajan, V. S., K. Atwell, B. Sinno, M. Alikhani, D. Beaver & J. J. Li. 2023a. [How people talk about each other: Modeling Generalized Intergroup Bias and Emotion](#). In *Proceedings of the 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2488–2498. Dubrovnik, 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. 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.

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. Presented at *The 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL)*. Dubrovnik, Croatia. May 2 2023.

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 (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
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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, 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)

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.

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 [*SEM 2023](#), [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.