Venkata S Govindarajan

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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
Committee: Jessy Li, David Beaver, Kyle Mahowald & Malihe Alikhani

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

Govindarajan, V. S., D. Beaver, K. Mahowald & J. J. Li. 2023. Counterfactual Probing for the Influence of Affect and Specificity on Intergroup Bias. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*, 12853–12862. 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. 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. 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. 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.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The New York Times — Summer 2023

Data Scientist Intern

Built a framework for offline evaluation of novel user and article features to inform model building in algorithmic recommendations. Predicted that potential features like EASE would boost engagement up-to 2% while diversifying recommendations.

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.

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, Julia, LISP

Tools & Frameworks: pyTorch, Transformers, Tensorflow, Keras, scikit-learn, statsmodels, SciPy, Pandas, SwiftUI, CoreML, BigQuery, lme4

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

Organizing Committee

South by Semantics Workshop 2022 – 2023 with Samuel Cantor.
Texas Linguistics Society(TLS) Conference 2022 & 2021.

Reviewer

EMNLP 2023, ACL 2023, *SEM 2023, SIGDIAL 2023, SIGDIAL 2022

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