Venkata S Govindarajan

HE/HIM/HIS

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS,
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

📞 (512)568-8775
✉ gvenkata1994@gmail.com
⊙ venkatasg
in gvenkatas

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Computational Linguistics at UT Austin researching intergroup bias in online communication. I have 5+ years of experience in data science, machine learning, and modern NLP including large language models. I'm interested in roles at the intersection of **engineering, data science, and machine learning**, with a *start date in June 2024*.

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin	2019–2024
Ph.D. Computational Linguistics	GPA: 3.92/4
University of Rochester	2017–2019
M.S. Computational Linguistics	GPA: 3.75/4
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

Built a framework using hierarchical linear modeling 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.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

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

Govindarajan, **V. S.**, K. Atwell, B. Sinno, M. Alikhani, D. Beaver, and J. J. Li (May 2023). "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. Dubrovnik, Croatia: Association for Computational Linguistics, pp. 2488–2498.

Govindarajan, V. S., B. Chen, R. Warholic, K. Erk, and J. J. Li (Nov. 2020). "Help! Need Advice on Identifying Advice". In: *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. Online: Association for Computational Linguistics, pp. 5295–5306.

Govindarajan, V., B. V. Durme, and A. S. White (2019). "Decomposing Generalization: Models of Generic , Habitual, and Episodic Statements". In: *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)* 7, pp. 501–517.

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 **over 10,000 downloads**.

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Machine Learning • Statistical Speech and Language Processing • Natural Language Processing

---

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