

# Ashima Suvarna

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🌐 <https://asuvarna31.github.io/>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research focuses on data curation, evaluation, and post-training methods that enable language models to reason robustly across open-ended tasks. I am interested in safety, reasoning, multi-agent systems and coding agents.

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)</b> <i>Ph.D. in Computer Science</i>	Sept 2024 - Present <i>Advisor - Prof. Saadia Gabriel</i>
<b>University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)</b> <i>Masters in Science - Computer Science; Deepmind Scholar</i>	Sept 2021 - Sept 2023 <i>Advisor - Prof. Nanyun Peng</i>
<b>Delhi Technological University (Formerly DCE)</b> <i>Bachelor of Technology - Computer Engineering</i>	Aug 2016 - June 2020

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Ashima Suvarna**, Kendrick Phan, Mehrab Beikzadeh, Hritik Bansal, Saadia Gabriel.  
*SuperNova: Eliciting General Reasoning in LLMs via Reinforcement Learning on Natural Instructions* **In Review**
- Ashima Suvarna**, Christina Chance, Karolina Naranjo, Hamid Palangi, Sophie Hao, Thomas Hartvigsen, Saadia Gabriel. *ModelCitizens: Representing Community Voices in Online Safety*. [Paper] **EMNLP 2025**
- Hritik Bansal\*, **Ashima Suvarna\***, Gantavya Bhatt\*, Nanyun Peng, Kai-Wei Chang, Aditya Grover.  
*Comparing Bad Apples to Good Oranges: Aligning Large Language Models via Joint Preference Optimization*.  
[Website][Paper][Code] **ACL Findings 2025**
- Etash Guha, Ryan Marten, Sederick Keh, ... **Ashima Suvarna**,... Alexandros G. Dimakis, Ludwig Schmidt.  
*OpenThoughts: Data Recipes for Reasoning Models*. [Paper][Code] **Oral, FoRLM@NeurIPS 2025**
- Salman Rahman, Sherif Issaka, **Ashima Suvarna**, ... Yejin Choi, Julian Michael, Liwei Jiang, Saadia Gabriel. *AI Debate Aids Assessment of Controversial Claims*. [Paper] **NeurIPS 2025**
- Ashima Suvarna\***, Xiao Liu\*, Tanmay Parekh, Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng.  
*QUSELECT: Selective Decoding for Questions Under Discussion Parsing*. [Paper][Code] **EMNLP 2024**
- Ashima Suvarna**, Harshita Khandelwal, Nanyun Peng. *PhonologyBench: Evaluating Phonological Skills of Large Language Models*. [Paper][Tweet][Code] **KnowledgeableLMs Workshop@ACL 2024**
- Yixin Wan, Arjun Subramonian, Anaelia Ovalle, Zongyu Lin, **Ashima Suvarna**, ..., Kai-Wei Chang.  
*Survey of Bias In Text-to-Image Generation: Definition, Evaluation, and Mitigation*. [Paper][Tweet] **Preprint**
- Zefan Cai\*, Po-Nien Kung\*, **Ashima Suvarna**, ..., Nanyun Peng.  
*Improving Event Definition Following For Zero-Shot Event Detection*. [Paper] **ACL 2024**

## COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

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<b>OpenThoughts-Agent Project</b> <i>An open-source effort to curate the best datasets for training agents. Released <b>OpenThinker-Agent-v1</b> the best model of its size on Terminal-Bench 2.0.</i>	Blog
<b>OpenThoughts Project</b> <i>An open-source effort to curate the best open reasoning datasets. Released <b>OpenThinker3-7B</b>, a SOTA open-reasoning model trained using only supervised fine-tuning.</i>	Blog
<b>Evalchemy: A framework for gold standard language model evaluations</b> <i>A unified and easy-to-use toolkit for evaluating post-trained language models on math and coding benchmarks. Developed as part of DataComp community and built on LM-Eval-Harness.</i>	Github

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **PLUSLAB, UCLA**

*Research Associate (Advisor: Prof. Nanyun Peng)*

Los Angeles, California

*Jun 2023 - July 2024*

### **Walmart Inc.**

*Data Scientist Intern (Mentors: Zongjun Tan, Utkarsh Porwal )*

Sunnyvale, California

*Jun 2022 - Sep 2022*

### **Dimagi Inc.**

*Technical Project Analyst*

New Delhi, India

*June 2020 - August 2021*

### **University of New Brunswick**

*Mitacs Research Intern (Advisor: Prof. Paul Cook)*

Fredericton, Canada

*June 2019 - August 2019*

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- **UCLA Graduate Fellowship** to support graduate research; awarded to selected students in Fall 2024.
- **Deepmind Scholarship** to fully fund Masters at UCLA CS; awarded to 2 MS students in Fall 2021.
- **Mitacs Globalink Research Scholarship** to conduct research and visit Canada for Summer 2019.
- General Secretary of **Enactus DTU** in 2018; won the **KPMG Grant** to rehabilitate acid-attack survivors.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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- Organized the **UCLA NLP Seminar Series** [Website] where premier AI/ML researchers present cutting-edge research via talks, 1:1 research discussions and social meetups.
- Created **SheFrames** [Website] a crowd-sourced art project to celebrate women in STEM through comic-style illustrations of submitted stories and anecdotes.

## TEACHING

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Teaching Assistant, Introduction to NLP (UCLA CS 162)

*Spring 2025*

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Robotics (UCLA CS 188)

*Winter 2026*

## SERVICE

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**Reviewer:** ACL SRW 2024, NAACL SRW 2024, ICLR Tiny Papers 2024, NeurIPS D&B 2024, EMNLP 2025

**Program Committee:** SoCal NLP Symposium 2023

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