Ashima Suvarna

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🌐 https://asuvarna31.github.io/

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Post-training of LLMs for reasoning and safety

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	Sept 2024 - Present
Ph.D. in Computer Science	*Advisor - Prof. Saadia Gabriel*

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)	Sept 2021 - Sept 2023
Masters in Science - Computer Science; Deepmind Scholar	*GPA: 3.8/4.0*

Delhi Technological University (Formerly DCE)	Aug 2016 - June 2020
Bachelor of Technology - Computer Engineering	*GPA : 8.9/10*

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ashima Suvarna**, Christina Chance, Karolina Naranjo, Hamid Palangi, Sophie Hao, Thomas Hartvigsen, Saadia Gabriel. *ModelCitizens: Representing Community Voices in Online Safety.* [Paper] **Preprint**

2. Etash Guha, Ryan Marten, Sederick Keh, ... **Ashima Suvarna**,... Alexandros G. Dimakis, Ludwig Schmidt. *OpenThoughts: Data Recipes for Reasoning Models.* [Paper]||[Code] 🔥**Trending on HF datasets, Preprint**

3. Salman Rahman, Sheriff Issaka, **Ashima Suvarna**, ... Yejin Choi, Julian Michael, Liwei Jiang, Saadia Gabriel. *AI Debate Aids Assessment of Controversial Claims.* [Paper] **Preprint**

4. **Ashima Suvarna***, Xiao Liu*, Tanmay Parekh, Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng. *QUDSELECT: Selective Decoding for Questions Under Discussion Parsing.* [Paper]||[Code] **EMNLP 2024**

5. 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**

6. **Ashima Suvarna**, Harshita Khandelwal, Nanyun Peng. *PhonologyBench: Evaluating Phonological Skills of Large Language Models.* [Paper]||[Tweet]|Code **KnowledgeableLMs Workshop@ACL 2024**

7. 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**

8. Zefan Cai*, Po-Nien Kung*, **Ashima Suvarna**, ..., Nanyun Peng. *Improving Event Definition Following For Zero-Shot Event Detection.* [Paper] **ACL 2024**

WORK EXPERIENCE

PLUSLAB, UCLA	Los Angeles, California
Research Associate (Advisor: Prof. Nanyun Peng)	*Jun 2023 - July 2024*
Walmart Inc.	Sunnyvale, California
Data Scientist Intern (Mentors: Zongjun Tan, Utkarsh Porwal)	*Jun 2022 - Sep 2022*
Dimagi Inc.	New Delhi, India
Technical Project Analyst	*June 2020 - August 2021*
University of New Brunswick	Fredericton, Canada
Mitacs Research Intern (Advisor: Prof. Paul Cook)	*June 2019 - August 2019*

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- **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-CURRICULARS

- 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

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to NLP (UCLA CS 162)	*Spring 2025*

SERVICE

Reviewer: ACL SRW 2024, NAACL SRW 2024, ICLR Tiny Papers 2024, NeurIPS D&B 2024
Program Committee: SoCal NLP Symposium 2023
Volunteer: Enactus DTU 2016-2018, Mentorship Office-Hours