

Yash Kumar Lal

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(443)-207-3261

Education

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| Stony Brook, NY | Stony Brook University | August 2020 – |
| • PhD in Computer Science. Advisor: Niranjana Balasubramanian. Research Area: Planning | | |
| Baltimore, MD | Johns Hopkins University | August 2018 – May 2020 |
| • M.S.E. in Computer Science. Thesis: Low resource problems in NLP. Advisor: Philipp Koehn. | | |
| Manipal, India | Manipal Institute of Technology | Aug 2014 – June 2018 |
| • B.Tech. in Computer Science Engineering. | | |

Employment

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| Research Intern | Google Research | Sep 2023 – Nov 2023 |
| • Project Title: Automated Adversarial Discovery for Safety Classifiers | | |
| • Mentors: Ananth Balashankar, Ahmad Beirami, Preethi Lahoti | | |
| Research Intern | Allen Institute for AI | May 2023 – Aug 2023 |
| • Project Title: Customizing Open-Domain Procedures | | |
| • Introduced a new dataset for the task as well as proposed team-of-agents framework over LLMs to tackle it | | |
| • Mentor: Niket Tandon | | |
| Research Intern | Salesforce Inc. | May 2022 – Aug 2022 |
| • Project Title: Leveraging Knowledge Graphs for Pre-Training Question Decomposers | | |
| • Designed a strategy to extract synthetic data from KBs analogous to multi-hop reasoning steps | | |
| • Mentors: Semih Yavuz, Ye Liu, Yingbo Zhou | | |

Technical Experience

Selected Publications

- **Benchmarking LLM Understanding of Causal and Temporal Dependencies in Plans.** EMNLP 2024.
- **Edit-Based Agents for Open-Domain Procedure Customization.** Findings of ACL, 2024.
- **Socialite-Llama: An Instruction-Tuned Model for Social Scientific Tasks.** EACL 2024.
- **Systematic Evaluation of GPT-3 for Zero-Shot Personality Estimation.** WASSA@ACL 2023.
- **Evaluating Paraphrastic Robustness in Textual Entailment Models.** ACL 2023.
- **Using Commonsense Knowledge to Answer Why-Questions.** EMNLP 2022.
- **TellMeWhy: A Dataset for Answering Why-Questions in Narratives.** Findings of ACL-IJCNLP, 2021.
- **IrEne: Interpretable Energy Prediction for Transformers.** ACL-IJCNLP, 2021.
- **Temporal Reasoning in Natural Language Inference.** Findings of EMNLP, 2020.
- **De-Mixing Sentiment from Code-Mixed Text.** ACL Student Research Workshop, 2019.
- **Identifying Clickbait: A Multi-Strategy Approach Using Neural Networks.** SIGIR, 2018.

Selected Projects

- **Ping** - A smart platform for language independent communication between businesses and their customers. Uses AI to present messages to users, in their preferred language. (Swift 3, Python, Redis, Travis CI, AWS)
- **hello friend** - SMS service utilising natural language processing to bring essential smartphone features to simple feature phones. (Python, Heroku)

Service and Awards

- **Runner-Up, Best Long Paper**, Fourth Workshop on Trustworthy NLP, NAACL 2024
- **Chair**: NAACL 2022 Reproducibility Track
- **Workshop Organizer**: Narrative Understanding, 2024; Commonsense Representation and Reasoning, 2022
- **Reviewer**: ECIR '19, '21; WMT '19; TALLIP '20; EMNLP '21-'23; ACL Rolling Review Nov '21 - present
- **Program Committee**: ACL SRW '20-'21; AACL SRW '20; NAACL '21; NAACL SRW '21, ACL '23
- **Winner, Acceleprise Award** at AngelHack Global Demo Day '17, San Francisco; AngelHack Hyderabad '17