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# Usneek Singh

#### Education

Jul 2019- Jun Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, Pilani campus, India.

2023 Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science, CGPA: 9.68/10

**Relevant Coursework** - Deep Learning, Probability and Statistics, Data Structures & Algorithms, Linear Algebra, Information Retrieval, Object Oriented Programming, Programming Languages, Compiler Construction - Ranked in the **top 1%** among 1100 students in the academic batch of 2023.

#### Research Interests

Al4Code, Natural Language Processing, Neurosymbolic Al, Deep Learning, Software Engineering

### Research Experience

Sep 2023- LLM Fine-tuning for Excel Copilot Agent.

Present PROSE, Microsoft Research, Bengaluru – Advisor: Dr José Cambronero, Dr Aditya Kanade, Dr Sumit Gulwani

- Developed **natural language validation** strategies to obtain high-quality synthetic data for fine-tuning.
- Managed end-to-end pipeline for fine-tuning LLMs on NL to spreadsheet formula task in Excel Copilot.
- Conducted research on **Structured data** representation to optimize code generation using language models.
- Designing a low-latency system for formula auto-completion in Excel based on a **neuro-symbolic approach** to extract relevant context from spreadsheets.

Jan 2023 - Jul Comparative Analysis of Transformers for Modeling Tabular Data.

2023 Al Labs, American Express, India – Advisor: Dr Piyush Arora

- Trained 4 Transformer architectures on credit fraud prediction problem, achieving a best F1 score of 0.89.
- Adapted these techniques to **industry** data, enhancing performance by **3%** over the base LightGBM approach.
- Conducted detailed experiments to study the impact of Upsampling and dimensionality on model performance.

Aug 2022- Dec Text and Multimodal Relation Extraction.

2022 ADAPT Lab, BITS Pilani – Advisor: Prof Poonam Goyal

- Designed a sequence-to-sequence model to perform relation extraction in out-of-domain textual content.
- Adapted a hybrid transformer architecture for extracting relations from correlated image and text sources.
- Devised an approach to efficiently extract relations when multiple images are interconnected with textual data.

Jun 2022- Aug Retrieval Augmented Long Document Question Answering.

2022 UKP Lab, TU Darmstadt, Germany - Advisor: Prof Iryna Gurevych

- Devised a retriever-reader approach for long document question-answering task on QASPER dataset.
- Improved the SoTA baseline by 5 F1 points, integrating a Cross Encoder as the Retriever and T5 as the Reader.
- Conducted a comprehensive analysis of language model behaviour, focusing on the impact of relevant information presence in input data.

Jan 2022- Jun Efficient Image Super-Resolution for Mobile Devices.

2022 Visual Computing Lab, BITS Pilani – Advisor: Prof Pratik Narang

- Devised four-stage super-resolution network incorporating multiception convolution layers in distillation block.
- Implemented a pixel attention layer post-upsampling, and employed smooth L1 loss for training.
- Refined the RFDN model, achieving a 28% reduction in parameters while preserving accuracy on DIV-2K.

Aug 2021- Dec Multilingual Chatbot for Indian Languages.

2021 Web Intelligence and Social Computing Lab, BITS Pilani – Advisor: Prof Yashvardhan Sharma

- Developed a multilingual chatbot leveraging **MuRIL BERT** for fixed response Q/A in 17 Indian languages.
- Enhanced the chatbot to include context-based question-answering by fine-tuning it with the **SQuAD** dataset.
- Conducted benchmarking of multilingual language models for fixed response accuracy, utilizing top-k evaluation.

Jun 2021- Dec Digital restoration of ancient Indian murals through image Inpainting.

2021 Council of Industrial and Scientific Research (CSIR-CEERI), India – Advisor: Dr Dhiraj Sangwan

- Developed an automatic damage detection method for images, using a **U-net** with optimized training time.
- Innovated a **novel data augmentation** strategy, effectively addressing dataset scarcity in mural restoration.
- Implemented an **inpainting** technique with **partial convolution** for selective restoration of damaged regions.

#### **Publications**

2025 Asking language models how to represent data for fine-tuning.

**U. Singh**, A. Singha, A. Awasthi, S. Gulwani, A. Kanade, V. Le, M. Singh, G. Verbruggen Under review (ARR) | PDF

2025 An Empirical Study of Validating Synthetic Data for Formula Generation.

**U. Singh**, J. Cambronero, S. Gulwani, A. Kanade, A. Khatry, V. Le, M. Singh, G. Verbruggen NAACL Findings | PDF

2024 Comparative Analysis of Transformers for Modeling Tabular Data: A Casestudy using Industry Scale Dataset.

**U. Singh**, P. Arora, S. Ganesan, M. Kumar, S. Kulkarni, and S. R. Joshi CODS-COMAD  $\mid$  PDF

2023 Multilingual Chatbot for Indian Languages.

 $\textbf{U. Singh}, \, \text{N. Vora}, \, \text{P. Lohia}, \, \text{Y. Sharma}, \, \text{A. Bhatia}, \, \text{and} \, \, \text{K. Tiwari} \, \, \text{ICCCNT} \mid \, \text{PDF}$ 

2023 Ancient Indian Murals Digital Restoration through Image InPainting.

**U. Singh**, S. Maiti, A. Saini, and Dhiraj IEEE SPIN | PDF

2022 MFDN: Multiception Feature Distillation Network.

S. Sameen\*, **U. Singh\***, and P. Narang TENCON | PDF

#### **Awards**

- 2023 **ACM Student Grant**, Received a travel grant worth Rs. 30,000 from ACM to attend the CODS-COMAD conference in Bengaluru, India.
- 2022 **DAAD-WISE Scholarship**, Received a scholarship worth Rs. 3,00,000 from DAAD, Bonn for a research internship in Germany. This prestigious award is granted to the top 100 students across India..
- NTSE Scholarship, Selected among the top 750 students out of 2 lakh applicants in India in the national science examination. Awarded a scholarship worth Rs. 2,00,000 by the Govt. of India.

## Teaching Experience

Aug 2022- Dec Computer Programming, Teaching and Lab Assistant.

2022 Instructed 100 students in weekly 2-hour labs, focusing on fundamental concepts in C programming.

Jan 2022- May Data Structures & Algorithms, Teaching and Lab Assistant.

2022 Facilitated weekly 3-hour programming labs for 80 students. Developed lab exercises with contemporary topics and industry-relevant questions to aid in placement preparation.

# Leadership and Volunteer Work

Aug 2019- Jun Nirmaan Organisation, Project Leader.

2022 Led a team of 20 teaching volunteers in Baas village, India. Devised a comprehensive plan to enhance spoken and written English skills, benefiting over 100 Nirmaan beneficiaries.

Aug 2020- Dec Student Faculty Council, BITS Pilani, Student Representative.

Served as a student representative in the Department of Computer Science faculty meetings, playing a key role in incorporating student feedback into course design and curriculum development.

#### Academic Projects

Feb 2022- May Creation of custom compiler [Code].

2022 Course Project: Compiler Construction, Advisor: Prof Vandana Aggarwal

- Collaboratively designed and developed a custom language compiler in C within a team of five members.
- Implemented all phases of the compiler, from parsing to assembly code generation from scratch.

Mar 2022- May Sentiment Analysis of Blogger's Opinion [Code].

2022 Course Project: Information Retrieval, Advisor: Prof Poonam Goyal

- Developed a sentiment analysis model using a BiLSTM, augmented with attention layers for improved accuracy.
- Crafted an embedding strategy that integrates Glove embedding, TF-IDF scores, & WordNet sentiment scores.

Sep 2021- Nov Person Identification using Forehead images [Code].

2021 Course Project: Deep Learning, Advisor: Prof Kamlesh Tiwari

- Curated a dedicated forehead image dataset by extracting cropped images from 100 individuals.
- Compared performance on baseline models- SIFT, SURF, FaceNet and ResNet50. Best accuracy 89%.