

Priya Sharma

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Cambridge, MA

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Admissions Committee
Department of Computer Science
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Members of the Admissions Committee,

Introduction & Motivation

My fascination with natural language processing began during my undergraduate years at IIT Delhi, where I built a cross-lingual named entity recognition system for low-resource Indic languages. The challenge of enabling machines to understand the rich linguistic diversity of South Asia — where over 1,200 languages are spoken yet fewer than thirty have meaningful NLP support — shaped my research philosophy: technology must bridge linguistic divides, not widen them.

This conviction led me to pursue deeper questions about how large language models represent and transfer knowledge across languages. I am drawn to the tension between the remarkable zero-shot capabilities of modern LLMs and their uneven performance on non-English tasks, particularly for morphologically complex languages like Tamil and Telugu.

Research Experience

At the Language Technologies Research Centre at IIIT Hyderabad, under the supervision of Dr. Ramesh Krishnan, I investigated cross-lingual transfer learning for semantic parsing. We developed a novel data augmentation technique — Anchor-Token Perturbation — that improves zero-shot transfer to target languages by selectively masking syntactically

Research Interests

- Natural Language Processing
- Cross-lingual Transfer
- Large Language Models
- Multilingual NLP
- Information Extraction
- Low-resource Languages

Education

B.Tech, Computer Science

IIT Delhi, 2020–2024

GPA: 9.2 / 10

Minor, Linguistics

IIT Delhi, 2022–2024

Selected Publications

Anchor-Token Perturbation for Cross-lingual Semantic Parsing.
EMNLP 2024.

IndicTrans2: Toward High-Quality MT for All Indian Languages.
arXiv preprint, 2024.

Technical Skills

Python, PyTorch, HuggingFace,
JAX, NumPy, $\LaTeX$, Git

Sincerely,

Priya Sharma