

# SHANMUKHA RAMAKRISHNA VEDANTAM

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## CURRENT WORK

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*Research Scientist, Feb 2019 - Present*  
**Facebook AI Research (FAIR), NY**

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## RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

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*Research Internship, Summer 2018*

**Microsoft Research Cambridge, United Kingdom**

- Generative Models for Concept Learning
- Supervisor: Nate Kushman, Matthew Johnson, and Sebastian Nowozin, Microsoft Research

*Research Internship, Summer 2017*

**Facebook AI Research (FAIR), Menlo Park, CA**

- Supervisor: Devi Parikh, Facebook AI Research/Georgia Tech

*Research Internship, Winter 2017*

**Machine Perception Group, Google Research, Mountain View, CA**

- Grounded latent variable generative models for images and semantics.
- Supervisor: Kevin Murphy, Google Research

*Research Internship, Summer 2016*

**Machine Perception Group, Google Research, Mountain View, CA**

- Worked on a system to explain class discrimination conditioned on an image, using natural language
- Given an image, a target category and a distractor, explain why the image contains the target
- Supervisor: Gal Chechik and Samy Bengio, Google Research and Google Brain

*Research Internship, Summer 2014*

**Center for Visual Computing, Ecole Centrale de Paris/ INRIA - Saclay, France**

- Worked on Loopy Part Models for Face Detection
- Supervisor: Prof. Iasonas Kokkinos, Ecole Centrale de Paris

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## EDUCATION

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- **Georgia Institute of Technology, United States** 2017-2018  
Ph.D, Computer Science  
Advisor: Prof. Devi Parikh  
Thesis: Interpretation, Grounding and Imagination for Machine Intelligence
- **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, United States** 2013-2016  
M.S., Computer Engineering  
Advisor: Prof. Devi Parikh  
Specialization: Computer Vision and Machine Learning
- **International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad, India** 2009-2013  
Bachelor of Technology, Electronics and Communication Engg.  
Advisor: Prof. K. Madhava Krishna  
Specialization: Vision for Robotics

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## HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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1. Outstanding reviewer award at ICLR 2021
2. Outstanding reviewer award at ICCV 2019
3. Awarded the Google PhD Fellowship in Machine Perception, Speech Technology and Computer Vision  
[One out of 5 awardees selected across North America, Europe and the Middle East](#) 2018

4. Awarded the ICLR travel award for attending the International Conference on Learning Representations 2018
5. Finalist for the Adobe Research Fellowship 2018
6. Outstanding reviewer award at CVPR  
[Awarded to 130 reviewers in the CVPR reviewer pool](#) 2017
7. Awarded travel grant of USD 1000 for CVPR, 2017 under Google's Archimedes program 2017
8. Finalist for the Adobe Research Fellowship 2016
9. Best Discussion Participant Award, Advanced Computer Vision Course, Virginia Tech Spring, 2014
10. Mentioned in Dean's List for excellence in academics at IIIT Hyderabad  
Monsoon, 2009 & 2011, Spring 2012
11. Winner of Judges award and Peer award at Siemens CTT Intern Tech Challenge 2012
12. 3rd in global aerospace competition CANSAT organized by NASA, AAS and AIAA 2011
13. Top 20 rank in Regional Mathematics Olympiad Organized by National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM) from Gujarat State (qualified for Indian National Mathematics Olympiad) 2008
14. Finalist for the Bal Shree honor, conferred by the President of India for outstanding creativity in Science 2008
15. Awarded Chacha Nehru Scholarship for Artistic and Innovative Excellence from National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) 2008
16. Attained All India Rank 134 in National Science Olympiad 2006
17. All India Rank 13 in Indian National Cartography Association (INCA) Map Quiz 2006

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#### JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. **Adopting Abstract Images for Semantic Scene Understanding:** C. Lawrence Zitnick, Ramakrishna Vedantam, and Devi Parikh. *Special Issue on the best papers at the 2013 IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*  
*IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (PAMI)*, 2016
2. **Grad-CAM: Why did you say that? Visual Explanations from Deep Networks via Gradient-based Localization:** Ramprasaath R. Selvaraju, Michael Cogswell, Abhishek Das, Ramakrishna Vedantam, Devi Parikh, Dhruv Batra. *International Journal of Computer Vision (IJCV)*, 2020

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#### CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

1. **CURI: A Benchmark for Productive Concept Learning Under Uncertainty:** Ramakrishna Vedantam, Arthur Szlam, Maximilian Nickel, Ari Morcos, Brenden Lake. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2021 (**Short Oral**) [[Top 21%](#)]
2. **Learning Optimal Representations with the Decodable Information Bottleneck:** Yann Dubois, Douwe Keila, David J. Schwab, Ramakrishna Vedantam. *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2020 (**Spotlight**) [[Top 4%](#)]
3. **IR-VIC: Unsupervised Discovery of Sub-goals for Transfer in RL:** Nirbhay Modhe, Prithvijit Chattopadhyay, Mohit Sharma, Abhishek Das, Devi Parikh, Dhruv Batra, Ramakrishna Vedantam. *International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*, 2020 [[Top 12.6%](#)]
4. **Probabilistic Neural-Symbolic Models for Interpretable Visual Question Answering:** Ramakrishna Vedantam, Karan Desai, Stefan Lee, Marcus Rohrbach, Dhruv Batra, Devi Parikh. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2019 (**Long Oral**) [[Top 4.2%](#)]

5. **Generative Models of Visually Grounded Imagination:** Ramakrishna Vedantam, Ian Fischer, Jonathan Huang, Kevin Murphy. *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2018* [Top 10%]
6. **Grad-CAM: Why did you say that? Visual Explanations from Deep Networks via Gradient-based Localization:** Ramprasaath R. Selvaraju, Michael Cogswell, Abhishek Das, Ramakrishna Vedantam, Devi Parikh, Dhruv Batra. *International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2017*  
Also presented at *NIPS Workshop on Interpretable Machine Learning in Complex Systems, 2016*
7. **Sound-Word2Vec: Learning Word Representations Grounded in Sounds:** Ashwin K. Vijayakumar, Ramakrishna Vedantam, Devi Parikh. *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2017*
8. **Counting Everyday Objects in Everyday Scenes:** Prithvijit Chattopadhyay\*, Ramakrishna Vedantam\*, Ramprasaath R. Selvaraju, Dhruv Batra, Devi Parikh. *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2017 (Spotlight)* [Top 8.2%]
9. **Context-aware Captions from Context-agnostic Supervision:** Ramakrishna Vedantam, Samy Bengio, Kevin Murphy, Devi Parikh, Gal Chechik. *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2017 (Spotlight)* [Top 8.2%]  
Also presented as an Oral at the *Bay Area Machine Learning Symposium (BayLearn), 2017*.
10. **Visual Word2Vec (vis-w2v): Learning Visually Grounded Word Embeddings using Abstract Scenes:** Satwik Kottur\*, Ramakrishna Vedantam\*, José Moura, and Devi Parikh. *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2016*
11. **Learning Common Sense through Visual Abstraction:** Ramakrishna Vedantam\*, Xiao Lin\*, Tanmay Batra, C. Lawrence Zitnick, and Devi Parikh. *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2015*  
Also presented as an oral at *1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Object Understanding for Interaction*, colocated with *ICCV, 2015*
12. **CIDeR: Consensus-based Image Description Evaluation:** Ramakrishna Vedantam, C. Lawrence Zitnick, and Devi Parikh. *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2015*

\* Equal Contribution

WORKSHOPS AND ARXIV MANUSCRIPTS

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- **CURI: A Benchmark for Productive Concept Learning Under Uncertainty:** Ramakrishna Vedantam, Arthur Szlam, Maximilian Nickel, Ari Morcos, Brenden Lake. *arXiv:2010.02855*
- **Unsupervised Discovery of Decision States through Intrinsic Control:** Nirbhay Modhe, Mohit Sharma, Prithvijit Chattopadhyay, Abhishek Das, Devi Parikh, Dhruv Batra, Ramakrishna Vedantam. *ICLR Workshop on Task Agnostic Reinforcement Learning, 2019*
- **Microsoft COCO Captions: Data Collection and Evaluation Server:** Xinlei Chen, Hao Fang, Tsung-Yi Lin, Ramakrishna Vedantam, Saurabh Gupta, Piotr Dollar, C. Lawrence Zitnick. *arXiv:1504.00325*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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- **Conference:** Reviewer for ICVGIP 2014 and 2018, ICCV 2015-2019, CVPR 2016-2020, ECCV 2016-2020, ACCV 2016, ICVGIP 2016, BMVC 2017, NeurIPS 2017-2020, ICLR 2018-2021, ICML 2018-2019, UAI 2018-2021
- **Journals:** Reviewer for International Journal of Computer Vision (IJCV), IEEE Transactions on Image Processing, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI), Neural Computation, Computer Speech and Language

## ADVISING

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- Yann Dubois (AI Resident), Facebook AI Research, Fall 2019 - Spring 2020
- Siddharth Ancha (Summer Intern), Facebook AI Research, Summer 2019
- Ananya Raval (MS Student), Georgia Institute of Technology, Fall 2017
- Satwik Kottur (Intern), Carnegie Mellon University (co-advised with Devi Parikh) Summer 2015
- Prithvijit Chattopadhyay (Intern), Delhi Technical University (co-advised with Devi Parikh) Summer 2015

## OPEN SOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS

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- Developer on the coco-caption project which implements commonly used image captioning metrics such as CIDEr, METEOR, BLEU, and ROUGE-L.
- Developer of the CIDEr project which implements the two versions of CIDEr (CIDEr and CIDEr-D) from our CVPR'15 paper on Consensus Based Image Description Evaluation.

## TALKS

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### **CURI: A Benchmark For Productive Concept Learning Under Uncertainty**

- AAAI Symposium on Conceptual Abstraction and Analogy in Natural and Artificial Intelligence. (November, 2020)

### **Concept Abstraction and Genrealization for Machine Learning**

- ConCats Seminar, New York University (October, 2020)

### **Connecting Vision and Language via. Interpretation, Grounding, and Imagination**

- Courant Institute, New York University (May, 2019)
- University of Oxford (July, 2018)
- Google DeepMind, London (May, 2018)
- Microsoft Research, Cambridge (May, 2018)
- Facebook AI Research, Menlo Park (April, 2018)
- University of California, Berkeley (April, 2018)
- Google, Mountain View (May, 2018)
- Allen Institute for AI Research (AI2), Seattle (May, 2018)
- Toyota Technological Institute (TTI), Chicago (April, 2018)
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore (December, 2017)
- International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad (December, 2017)

## OTHER PROJECTS

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- **Loopy Part Models for Face Detection** *INRIA-Saclay*  
Summer 2014  
Advisor: Iasonas Kokkinos and Dhruv Batra  
Augmented the Deformable Parts Model (DPM) based face detector and landmark estimator with loopy part models. Utilized dual decomposition and an augmented lagrangian technique called ADMM (Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers) to solve the resulting inference problem efficiently, often achieving zero primal dual gap. Applied the model to get results comparable to the state of the art for detection and landmark localization
- **Understanding and Predicting Importance** *Virginia Tech*  
Spring 2014  
Advisor: Devi Parikh  
Formulated importance prediction in abstract images as a structured prediction problem, where importance is defined as the likelihood of an object in an image being mentioned in a description. Incorporated task related insights into feature and model (structure) selection. Predicted importance of objects at upto 86 % accuracy on the Abstract-50S dataset
- **CanSat 2011** *IIIT Hyderabad*  
Summer 2010  
Advisor: K.S. Rajan

Designed, fabricated and launched into the lower space an autonomous micro-satellite carrying a large raw hen's egg intact - from *launch* to *landing*. Ground station set up to monitor the mini-satellite. Involved in CanSat testing, circuitry and sensor integration teams

#### COURSEWORK

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- **Graduate Coursework:** Computer Vision Systems, Advanced Computer Vision, Introduction to Machine Learning, Probabilistic Graphical Models, Independent Study - Deep Learning, Numerical Analysis and Software, Data Analytics-2, Convex Optimization, Deep Learning for Perception, Bayesian Statistics, Mathematical Foundations of Machine Learning, Computability and Algorithms
- **Selected Undergraduate Coursework:** Mobile Robotics, Artificial Neural Networks, Speech Signal Processing, Medical Image Processing, Engineering Systems, Data Structures, Operating Systems and Algorithms

#### SKILLS

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- **Programming Languages:** Python, C++, Lua, Matlab
- **Libraries:** PyTorch, Tensorflow, Caffe, NLTK (Natural Language ToolKit)
- **Human Computation:** Amazon Mechanical Turk

#### EXTRA CURRICULAR

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- Volunteered in organizing Mid-Atlantic Computer Vision (MACV) workshop at Virginia Tech
- Regular participation in Computer Vision and Machine Learning Reading Group at Virginia Tech
- Hosted all the Talks at Felicity - 2011, annual college fest of IIIT Hyderabad
- Coordinator and Founder- Entrepreneurship Cell at IIIT Hyderabad
- Class Representative for ECE Undergraduate batch
- Member, Students Parliament (Monsoon 2012 and Spring 2013)
- Campus Ambassador for Teach for India at IIIT (2011 to 2012)
- Trained in Carnatic Classical music for 7 years

#### REFERENCES

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Available upon request.