

Aneesha Sampath

Ann Arbor, MI | saneesha@umich.edu | +1 (240) 593-7830 | [LinkedIn](#) | [Personal Website](#) | [Github](#) | [Scholar](#)

SUMMARY

I am a third-year Ph.D. candidate specializing in speech and language processing, with a focus on developing efficient and scalable methods for speech emotion recognition. In the long term, my goal is to advance conversational AI systems that are not only efficient but also capable of socially and emotionally intelligent interactions.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D. Candidate in Artificial Intelligence Expected 2028
M.S. in Computer Science May 2025
Research: Computational Human AI Lab (Prof. Emily Mower Provost)

Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA
B.S. in Artificial Intelligence May 2023
Concentration: Language Technologies
Minor: Drama
Research: MultiComp Lab (Prof. Louis-Philippe Morency)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate Research Assistant August 2023 – Present

- CHAI Lab (Computational Human AI) with Prof. Emily Mower Provost
- Analyzing social intelligence in multi-agent collaboration
- Developing efficient training pipelines for emotion recognition

Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA
Undergraduate Research Assistant August 2021 – May 2023

- MultiComp Lab (Multimodal Machine Learning) with Prof. Louis-Philippe Morency
- Conceptualized and implemented method for recovering an annotator rating distribution from an aggregated label in emotion recognition.

Microsoft Core Search & AI Mountain View, CA
Applied Research Intern May 2022 – August 2022

- Developed two new pipelines for Bing's search result title generation (mining-based and deep learning-based) and increased title quantity by 3%; increased title quality in 60% of new titles
- Designed a new dataset for Bing title generation with generative models and evaluated on two baseline models

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Redmond, WA
Software Engineer Intern May 2021 – August 2021

- Designed and implemented (end-to-end) querying language to integrate an internal monitoring tool into Jupyter Notebooks. Feature reduced context switching and manual querying for all teams using the services.

Google New York, NY
Software Engineer Intern May 2020 – August 2020

- Conceptualized and implemented full-stack web application from scratch as part of a team of three interns.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Computer Science and Engineering Graduate Student Organization Ann Arbor, MI
Admissions Committee Student Representative May 2024 – Present

- Represent the student voice on admissions-related initiatives and organize admissions events
- Work with AI faculty admissions committee to train current PhD students to give feedback on AI applications

PUBLICATIONS

- P1. "What You Feel Is Not What They See: On Predicting Self-Reported Emotion from Third-Party Observer Labels", El-Tawil, Y.*, **Sampath, A.***, Provost, EM., in *ICASSP 2026-2026 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*. IEEE, 2026.
- P2. "SEER: The Span-based Emotion Evidence Retrieval Benchmark", **Sampath, A.**, Aran, O., Provost, EM., Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: IJCNLP-AAACL 2025.
- P3. "Efficient Finetuning for Dimensional Speech Emotion Recognition in the Age of Transformers", **Sampath, A.***, Tavernor, J.*, Provost, EM., in *ICASSP 2025-2025 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*. IEEE, 2025.
- P4. "Beyond Binary: Multiclass Paraphasia Detection with Generative Pretrained Transformers and End-to-End Models." Perez, M., **Sampath, A.**, Niu, M., Provost EM., in Interspeech 2024.
- P5. "SeedBERT: Recovering Annotator Rating Distributions from an Aggregated Label", **Sampath, A.**, Lin, V., Morency, LP., AAAI-UDM Workshop, 2023.