

Divij Handa

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RESEARCH INTEREST

LLM reasoning, Multi-Agent Systems, Inference-Time Scaling, RL for LLMs, Benchmarking/Evaluation

EDUCATION

- **Arizona State University** Aug 2023 - Present (Expected May 2027)
Ph.D. in Computer Science, Advisor: Dr. Chitta Baral Tempe, United States
- **Arizona State University** Aug 2021 - May 2023
M.S. in Computer Science Tempe, United States
- **University School of Information, Communication and Technology** Aug 2016 - May 2020
B.Tech in Computer Science Delhi, India

EXPERIENCE

- **Adobe** May 2026 – Aug 2026
Research Scientist Intern College Park, Maryland
 - Building a Multi-Agent system to create an interactive webpage for any document uploaded by a user
 - Developing an optimization pipeline that can improve any multi-agent system autonomously by updating its context, topology, harness, cost, and latency
- **Etsy** May 2025 – Aug 2025
AI Research Intern Brooklyn, New York
 - Designed an agentic framework for e-commerce search query rewriting using a genetic algorithm.
 - Built a multi-agent simulation for offline semantic evaluation and demonstrated 3.28% improvement over other test-time baselines.
 - Scaled data collection and analysis via BigQuery on large query logs.
- **Arizona State University** Jan 2024 – Present
Research Assistant Tempe, Arizona
 - Built an LLM-based translation system from decompiler outputs → high-level source code for reverse engineering.
 - Fine-tuned using SFT + RL (GRPO) with a Graph Edit Distance reward to improve structural fidelity and control-flow similarity on held-out repos, achieving 2.75× improvement.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 1] **Divij Handa**, Mihir Parmar, Aswin RRV, Md Nayem Uddin, Hamid Palangi, Chitta Baral. **GuidedSampling: Steering LLMs Towards Diverse Candidate Solutions at Inference-Time**. [ICLR 2026] [GitHub]
- 2] **Divij Handa***, Pavel Dolin*, Shrinidhi Kumbhar*, Tran Cao Son, Chitta Baral. **ActionReasoningBench: Reasoning about Actions with and without Ramification Constraints**. [ICLR 2025]
- 3] **Divij Handa**, Zehua Zhang, Amir Saeidi, Shrinidhi Kumbhar, Md Nayem Uddin, Aswin RRV, Chitta Baral. **When “Competency” in Reasoning Opens the Door to Vulnerability: Jailbreaking LLMs via Novel Complex Ciphers**. [Reliable ML from Unreliable Data Workshop @ NeurIPS 2025]
- 4] Aswin RRV, Jacob Dineen, **Divij Handa**, Md Nayem Uddin, Mihir Parmar, Chitta Baral, Ben Zhou. **ThinkTuning: Instilling Cognitive Reflections without Distillation**. [EMNLP 2025]
- 5] Md Nayem Uddin, Amir Saeidi, **Divij Handa**, Agastya Seth, Tran Cao Son, Eduardo Blanco, Steven Corman, Chitta Baral. **UnSeenTimeQA: Time-Sensitive Question-Answering Beyond LLMs’ Memorization**. [ACL 2025]
- 6] Shrinidhi Kumbhar, Venkatesh Mishra, Kevin Coutinho, **Divij Handa**, Ashif Iquebal, Chitta Baral. **Hypothesis Generation for Materials Discovery and Design Using Goal-Driven and Constraint-Guided LLM Agents**. [NAACL 2025]

PREPRINTS

- 1] **Divij Handa**, Mihir Parmar, Aswin RRV, Rajeev Goel, Zehua Zhang, Chitta Baral. **Curriculum Round-Robin Reinforcement Learning for Training Multi-Agent LLM Systems**. [Under Review]
- 2] Aswin RRV, Jacob Dineen, **Divij Handa**, Mihir Parmar, Ben Zhou, Chitta Baral, Swaroop Mishra. **Mid-Training With Diverse Self-Generated Data Improves Reinforcement Learning in Language Models**. [Under Review]
- 3] Shrinidhi Kumbhar, Santosh Mashetty, **Divij Handa**, Kevin Coutinho, Siddharth Sambhaji Ghule, Vishnu Datta Yanamandala, Lenore Dai, Chitta Baral. **CogTRL: Training LLMs for Scientific Discovery using Cognitive Traces via Reinforcement Learning**. [Under Review]
- 4] Zehua Zhang, Ati Priya Bajaj, **Divij Handa**, Siyu Liu, Arvind S Raj, Souradip Nath, Hongkai Chen, Chitta Baral, Ruoyu Wang. **Build-Bench: Benchmarking LLM Agents on Compiling Real-World Open-Source Software**. [Under Review]