HONGLI ZHAN

Personal Website | honglizhan@utexas.edu | Hongli Zhan | honglizhan

Education

The University of Texas at Austin — Austin, TX
Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics (Minor in Computer Science) — *2021 – Present*
Advisor: Professor Junyi Jessy Li

Shanghai Jiao Tong University — Shanghai, China
B.A. in English Linguistics (Second Major in Law) — *2017 – 2021*

Refereed Publications

** denotes equal contributions*

[1] Tiberiu Sosea*, **Hongli Zhan***, Junyi Jessy Li, and Cornelia Caragea. Unsupervised extractive summarization of emotion triggers. In *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)* **(ACL 2023)**, pages 9550–9569, Toronto, Canada, July 2023. Association for Computational Linguistics.

[2] **Hongli Zhan***, Tiberiu Sosea*, Cornelia Caragea, and Junyi Jessy Li. Why do you feel this way? Summarizing triggers of emotions in social media posts. In *Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* **(EMNLP 2022)**, pages 9436–9453, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 2022. Association for Computational Linguistics.

Teaching Experience

Guest Lecturer — Spring, 2023
LIN 306 Intro to the Study of Language — *The University of Texas at Austin*
Instructor: Seyeon Park
Lecture: Introduced the field of Computational Linguistics and recent developments in NLP, as well as an overview of my research.

Guest Lecturer — Fall, 2022
LIN 373N Machine Learning Toolbox for Text Analysis — *The University of Texas at Austin*
Instructor: Junyi Jessy Li
Lecture (Demo): Using the Hugging Face Transformers library to conduct sentiment analysis with BERT as well as machine translation with BART.

Graduate Teaching Assistant — Fall, 2022
LIN 373N Machine Learning Toolbox for Text Analysis — *The University of Texas at Austin*
Supervisor: Professor Junyi Jessy Li

Graduate Teaching Assistant — Fall, 2021
LIN 350 Computational Semantics — *The University of Texas at Austin*
Supervisor: Professor Katrin Erk

Employment

Graduate Research Assistant — Fall, 2021 – Present
Supervisor: Professor Junyi Jessy Li — *The University of Texas at Austin*

Professional Service

Emergency Reviewer EMNLP 2023
Reviewed 3 papers for EMNLP 2023

Organizer Spring, 2023 – Present
Natural Language Learning Reading Group *The University of Texas at Austin*

Volunteer July 9th – July 14th, 2023
ACL 2023 *Toronto, Canada*

Honors & Awards

Professional Development Award for Attending EMNLP 2022 Fall, 2022
The University of Texas at Austin, 1,200 USD

COLA Supplemental Graduate School Fellowship Spring, 2022
The University of Texas at Austin, 5,000 USD

Outstanding Graduate 2021
Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award 2021
School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Presentations

Unsupervised Extractive Summarization of Emotion Triggers
ACL 2023: Toronto, Canada (presented on July 11th, 2023)

Why Do You Feel This Way? Summarizing Triggers of Emotions in Social Media Posts
EMNLP 2022: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (presented on Dec 9th, 2022)

Invited Talks

Westlake High School Austin, TX
What is Computational Linguistics? *Feb 22, 2023*

Open Source Contributions

CovidET https://github.com/honglizhan/CovidET

*CovidET (**E**motions and their **T**riggers during **Covid**-19) is a dataset of ~1,900 English Reddit posts related to COVID-19, which contains manual annotations of perceived emotions and abstractive summaries of their triggers described in the post.*

CovidET-EXT https://github.com/tsosea2/CovidET-EXT

*CovidET-EXT is a dataset that augments Zhan et al. (2022)'s abstractive dataset CovidET (in the context of the COVID-19 crisis) with extractive triggers. The result is a dataset of 1,883 Reddit posts about the COVID-19 pandemic, manually annotated with 7 fine-grained emotions (from CovidET) and their corresponding **extractive** triggers.*

Programming Skills

- **Systems**: Windows, Linux/Unix
- **Programming Languages**: Python, R; MATLAB
- **Machine Learning Tools**: PyTorch, NumPy, Pandas, Huggingface Transformers, Scikit-learn, NLTK, SciPy, Git
- **Research Methodologies**: Crowdsourcing, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Computational Linguistics

Language Skills

English: Near-Native

- TOEFL: 112 (Reading 30, Listening 30, Writing 27, Speaking 25)
- GRE: 329 + 5.0 (Verbal 162, Quantitative 167, Analytical Writing 5.0)
- Test for English Majors Band 8 (TEM-8): Good
- Test for English Majors Band 4 (TEM-4): Excellent (90/100)

Chinese Mandarin: Native
Japanese: Upper-Intermediate
Italian: Intermediate

Last updated: August 9, 2023