Yifan Wang

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EDUCATION

Saarland University Saarbrücken, Germany

- *Ph.D.* in RTG Neuroexplicit Models of Language, Vision, and Action 2023.11-Now
- Co-supervised by Professor Dr. Vera Demberg and Professor Dr. Isabel Valera
- **Research interests:** Fairness, Interpretability, Controllable Text Generation etc.
- **Thesis:** On Social Biases and Stereotypes in NLP Models

Saarland University Saarbrücken, Germany

- *M.Sc.* in Language Science and Technology | **GPA: 1.1/1.0** 2021.10-2023.11
- **Master Thesis:** Mitigating Stereotypical Bias in Generative Language Models via Prefix-Tuning (Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Vera Demberg & Dongqi Pu)
- **Relevant Coursework:** Computational Linguistics, Statistics with R, Neural Network: Implementation and Application, Machine Translation, Pre-trained LMs in Computational Semantics, Learning from Explanations, Cross-lingual Learning, etc.

Shanghai Jiaotong University Shanghai, China

- *B.A.* in Germanistics | **GPA: 89/100** 2016.9-2020.6
- **Bachelor Thesis:** Comparison of the Perspectives of the German and Chinese Media on COVID-19 on the Basis of a Quantitative Analysis of the Corpus (Supervisor: Prof. Likun Fan)
- **Relevant Coursework:** Introduction to Linguistics, German Lexicology, Calculus, Linear Algebra, Discrete Mathematics, C++, Natural Language Processing, Data Mining, Data Structure and Algorithms, etc.

Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg Heidelberg, Germany

- *Exchange student* in Germanistics in the Cultural Comparison 2018.10-2019.3

PUBLICATIONS

- **Yifan Wang** and Vera Demberg.” RSA-Control: A Pragmatics-Grounded Lightweight Controllable Text Generation Framework.” In *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2024).*
- Dongqi Liu, **Yifan Wang**, Jia Loy and Vera Demberg.” SciNews: From Scholarly Complexities to Public Narratives--A Dataset for Scientific News Report Generation.” In *Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC-COLING), 2024.*
- Dongqi Pu, **Yifan Wang,** and Vera Demberg.” Incorporating Distributions of Discourse Structure for Long Document Abstractive Summarization.” In *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2023).*

- **Yifan Wang** and Vera Demberg.” A Parameter-Efficient Multi-Objective Approach to Mitigate Stereotypical Bias in Language Models.” In *Proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Gender Bias in Natural Language Processing (GeBNLP 2024).*
- **Yifan Wang**, Sukrut Rao, Ji-Ung Lee, Mayank Jobanputra and Vera Demberg.” B-cos LM: Efficiently Transforming Pre-trained Language Models for Improved Explainability.” *Preprint, 2025.*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Saarland University Saarbrücken, Germany

Research Assistant 2022.11-present

- Incorporated discourse structure to automatic summarization and faithfulness, achieved improved performance over SOTA across diverse summarization datasets; Evaluated ChatGPT in controllable summarization and style transfer; Constructed news generation benchmark.
- Implemented benchmark methods, performed model evaluation and analysis experiments in projects.
- Conducted large-scale literature reviews in various fields including automatic summarization, faithfulness evaluation, controllable text generation, style transfer and parameter-efficient fine-tuning.

Saarland University, Software Project Saarbrücken, Germany

Student Researcher 2022.4-2022.10

- Collected the first public Cantonese monolingual dataset at the scale of one million sentences.
- Trained a transformer-based unsupervised Mandarin-Cantonese machine translation system.
- Exploited the similarity and divergence between dialects by information sharing on the word embedding level. Studied the effect of different model architectures on the performance in the unsupervised machine translation setting.

Shanghai Jiaotong University, Student Research Project Shanghai, China

Research Assistant 2018.4-2018.7

- Studied the sequence of German grammatical structure acquisition of adult Chinese native speakers. Demonstrated the development of second language follows Pienemann’s Processability Theory.
- Invited participants and conducted experiments.

SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, C++, familiar with NLP tools including Huggingface Transformers, PyTorch, NLTK, SpaCy, etc.
Languages: Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), German (Intermediate).
Tools: LaTex, HTML, Markdown, Linux, Git, etc.