

HANSI ZENG

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[Homepage](#) \diamond [Github](#)

EDUCATION

Nankai University, China Major in Mathematics, (Major) GPA 85/100	Bachelor 09/2014-06/2018
University of Wisconsin Madison Major in Mathematics, GPA 3.7/4.0	Master 09/2017-06/2019
University of Utah Major in Computer Science, GPA 3.9/4.0	Master 09/2019-06/2021
University of Massachusetts Amherst Major in Computer Science	PhD 09/2021-

RESEARCH TOPICS

Dense Retrieval, Neural Ranking, Recommender System, Natural Language Processing.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Utah, School of Computing, utahIR Lab 09/2019-Present
Research Assistant, advised by Prof. Qingyao Ai

- Build a toolbox for the **e-commerce product search** containing several state-of-art neural network based models.
- Write a short conference paper for review-based recommendation where the main technique we use is **transformer-like** model.
- Write a full conference paper based on the previous work. In this work, we use text **relevance matching model** originated from IR community for better user and item modeling. Also, other techniques like **zero-attention**, **multi-task learning** are added for boosting model performance.

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Manning College of Information & Computer Sciences 09/2021-Present
Research Assistant, advised by Prof. Hamed Zamani

- Build novel negative sampling strategies for optimizing the dense retrieval model.
- Transfer knowledge from complex but more powerful neural re-ranking models for guiding the simple dense retrieval model training.
- Reduce GPU and memory resources needed when training and using dense retrieval model.

PUBLICATIONS

- 🏆 **Hansi Zeng**, Hamed Zamani, Vishwa Vinay,. Curriculum Learning for Dense Retrieval Distillation. In *Proceedings of the 45th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval* (SIGIR'22). [\[paper\]](#) [\[poster\]](#) [\[code\]](#) **Best Short Paper Award**
- **Hansi Zeng**, Zhichao Xu, Qingyao Ai. A Zero Attentative Relevance Matching Network for Review Modeling in Recommender System. In *Proceedings of the 41st European Conference on Information Retrieval* (ECIR'21), oral presentation, Lucca, Italy, March 28-April 1, 2021.

- **Hansi Zeng**, Qingyao Ai. A Hierarchical Self-attentive Convolution Network for Review Modeling in Recommendation Systems. arXiv preprint arXiv:2011.13436.
- Zhichao Xu, **Hansi Zeng**, Qingyao Ai. Understanding the Effectiveness of Reviews in E-commerce Top-N Recommendation. In Proceedings of the 7th ACM International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR'21), Virtual, July 11, 2021.

PROJECTS

Toolbox for E-commerce Product Search [github repo](#) 09/2019-12/2020
Independent Study, advised by Professor Qingyao Ai, School of Computing, University of Utah

- Build a toolbox for e-commerce product search followed by several software design patterns like **abstract factory pattern** to keep the code simplicity, extensibility and readability.
- The toolbox implements several state-of-art models by **TensorFlow** with thorough hyperparameter tuning and performance comparison.
- The main techniques used in the models are **doc2vec**, **attention network**, **knowledge graph embedding**.

Toolbox for Text Semantic Matching [github repo](#) 04/2020-Present
Extracurricular Activity

- Implement several state-of-art text semantic matching models like **RE2**, **CAFE**, **ESIM** using **Pytorch** with performance comparison.
- Organize the the toolbox for easy training, hyperparameter tuning and model extension.

Toolbox for Review-Based Recommendation System [github repo](#) 05/2020-Present
Extracurricular Activity

- Implement several state-of-art for review-based recommendation systems like **NARRE**, **DeepCoNN** using **Pytorch** with hyperparameter tuning and performance comparison.
- Organize the the toolbox for easy training, hyperparameter tuning and model extension.
- Severed as strong baselines for our new proposed model on research.

Comparative Study of Reinforcement Learning-based and Traditional Motion Planning Algorithms [presentation](#) 09/2020-12/2020
Course project, advised by Alan Kuntz, School of Computing and the Robotics Center, University of Utah

- Design the simulation environment based on **racecarGymEnv** from the pybullet to compare the performance between traditional motion planning algorithms and reinforcement learning algorithms.
- Implement **RRT**(Rapidly-exploring random tree), **DQN**, **Reinforce**, **PPO**, and compare their training time, inference time, time to reach the goal in different enviroment settings.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- Teaching Assistant of ECE 3530 Engineering Probability and Statistics Fall 2020, UoU

SKILLS

Computer Languages Python/Java/R/C++/JavaScript/MATLAB/Linux/Unix/**TensorFlow/Pytorch**
GRE Verbal:153, Quantitative:168, Analytical Writing: 3.0

AWARDS

Second-class Scholarship, Nankai University 2015-2016
 University Student Table Tennis Team Competition in Tianjin(ranked 3rd of 21 universities) 2016