

Jiyang Zhang

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JiyangZhang

Research Interest

Building Large Language Models that help software developers write and maintain their code (ML4SE).

Education

- 2019–2025 **Ph.D.**, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, United States
Major in Computer Software Engineering, advised by Milos Gligoric, co-advised by Jessy Li.
- 2015–2019 **B.S.**, Beihang University, Beijing, China
Major in Automation Science and Engineering
- 2017 **Exchange Student**, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
Major in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Publications

- [1] **Jiyang Zhang**, Pengyu Nie, Junyi Jessy Li, and Milos Gligoric. Multilingual code co-evolution using large language models. In *International Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering (FSE)*, 2023.
- [2] Yu Liu, **Jiyang Zhang**, Pengyu Nie, Milos Gligoric, and Owolabi Legunsen. More precise regression test selection via reasoning about semantics-modifying changes. In *International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis (ISSTA)*, 2023.
- [3] **Jiyang Zhang**, Chandra Maddila, Ram Baire, Christian Bird, Ujjwal Raizada, Apoorva Agrawal, Yamini Jhawar, Kim Herzig, and Arie van Deursen. Using large-scale heterogeneous graph representation learning for code review recommendations at microsoft. In *International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE Software Engineering in Practice Track)*, 2023.
- [4] **Jiyang Zhang**, Sheena Panthaplackel, Pengyu Nie, Junyi Jessy Li, and Milos Gligoric. Coditt5: Pretraining for source code and natural language editing. In *International Conference on Automated Software Engineering (ASE)*, 2022.
- [5] **Jiyang Zhang**, Marko Ristin, Schanely Phillip, Hans Wernher van de Venn, and Milos Gligoric. Python-by-contract dataset. In *International Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering (FSE Demonstrations Track)*, 2022.
- [6] Pengyu Nie, **Jiyang Zhang**, Junyi Jessy Li, Raymond Mooney, and Milos Gligoric. Impact of evaluation methodologies on code summarization. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 4936–4960, 2022.

- [7] **Jiyang Zhang**, Yu Liu, Milos Gligoric, Owolabi Legunsen, and August Shi. Comparing and combining analysis-based and learning-based regression test selection. In *International Conference on Automation of Software Test (AST)*, pages 17–28, 2022.
- [8] **Jiyang Zhang**, Sheena Panthaplackel, Pengyu Nie, Junyi Jessie Li, Raymond J. Mooney, and Milos Gligoric. Leveraging class hierarchy for code comprehension. In *Workshop on Computer Assisted Programming (CAP)*, 2020.
- [9] Yifan Nie, **Jiyang Zhang**, and Jian-Yun Nie. Integrated learning of features and ranking function in information retrieval. In *International Conference on Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR)*, pages 67–74, 2019.

Industry Experience

- Summer 2023 **Research Intern**, Salesforce Research, Palo Alto, United States
 Worked with the CodeGen team to develop retrieval-augmented code generation Large Language Models
- Conducted an empirical study to identify the most effective code snippets within the codebase that enhance the performance of Large Language Models (LLMs) in predicting the next line of code;
 - Integrated Jaccard-retrieved code snippets with SOTA Large Language Models (LLMs), resulting in a 30% improvement in accuracy.
- Summer 2021 **Research Intern**, Microsoft Research, Redmond, United States
 Collaborated with researchers from MSR *Developer Experience Lab* to design a machine learning-based code reviewer recommendation system
- Designed and implemented a novel code reviewer recommendation model built on graph convolutional neural (GCN) network;
 - Trained and evaluated the model on the company's historical data, and conducted a user study to show the effectiveness of the neural recommendation system;
 - Published a paper at a top Software Engineering conference, ICSE, featuring the results of the internship.
- Summer 2019 **Machine Learning Engineer**, INFIMIND, Beijing, China
 Developed ML-based advertisement generation system
- Collected advertisement text data from websites;
 - Trained the RNN-based model to generate advertisement for the products based on their descriptions and attributes.

Awards

- 2023 NSF Student Travel Award for 2023 MAPs workshop
- 2023 ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award for [2] at ISSTA 2023
- 2022 NSF Student Travel Award for 2022 International Conference on Software Engineering

Mentoring

- Undergrad Sing-Rong Chiu, Fall 2023
- Undergrad Nandita Jayanthi, Spring and Fall 2023

Committee Service

- ReSAISE'23 PC Member, International Workshop on Reliable and Secure AI for Software Engineering

- ISSTA'23 Artifact Evaluation PC Member, International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis
- DL4C'23 PC Member, Deep Learning for Code Workshop
- MSR'23 Junior PC Member, International Conference on Mining Software Repositories

Professional Activities

- 2020–Present Co-organizer, NLP+Programming Reading Group at UT Austin
- EMNLP 2023 Conference Submission Reviewer, Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing
- 2023 Spring Co-organizer, Joint UT-Cornell Software Engineering Seminar

Presentations

- Mar 1, 2024 **Empowering Software Maintenance with Large Language Models**, at ECE Outstanding Student Lecture Series, UT Austin, Austin, United States
- Dec 7, 2023 **Multilingual Code Co-Evolution Using Large Language Models**, at FSE 2023, San Francisco, California, United States
- Oct 26, 2022 **Towards Applying Machine Learning to Software Engineering**, at Microsoft Data&AI Team, Online
- Oct 11, 2022 **CoditT5: Pretraining for Source Code and Natural Language Editing**, at ASE 2022, Rochester, Michigan, United States
- Oct 7, 2022 **Pretraining for Source Code and Natural Language Editing**, at Carper AI, Online

Teaching Experience

- Summer 2022 **Teaching Assistant**, EE 382V Machine Programming, The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 2022 **Teaching Assistant**, LIN 373N Machine Learning Toolbox Text Analysis, The University of Texas at Austin
- Spring 2020, Summer 2020 **Teaching Assistant**, EE 360C Algorithms, The University of Texas at Austin

Open Source Contributions

- 2023 **Codeditor**, present a large language model designed for code co-evolution - <https://github.com/EngineeringSoftware/codeditor>
- 2022 **CoditT5**, publish a large language model pretrained with a novel objective to explicitly model edits in code and natural language on Hugging Face - <https://huggingface.co/JiyangZhang/CoditT5>
- 2021 **seutil**, contribute to a Python library of utility functions for natural language processing and software engineering research - <https://github.com/pengyunie/seutil>