# Silin Gao

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#### EDUCATION

# École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), School of Computer & Communication Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Computer and Communication Sciences

Lausanne, Switzerland Sep 2021 - Present

Tsinghua University, Department of Computer Science and Technology

Research Assistant (RA) in Artificial Intelligence

Beijing, China Sep 2020 - Jun 2021

Tsinghua University, Department of Electronic Engineering

Beijing, China

Bachelors of Engineering (BE) in Electronic Information Science and Technology

Aug 2016 - Jun 2020

• GPA: 3.88/4.0 Rankings: 8/262

#### Research Experience

#### Bridging Unstructured Textual Data with Structured Knowledge in NLP Applications

Sep 2021 - Present

Advisor: Antoine Bosselut, Natural Language Processing (NLP) Lab, EPFL

Lausanne, Switzerland

- Developing more reliable structured knowledge bases for the NLP applications where systems lack access to well-organized knowledge related to their processed unstructured textual data.
- Developing better knowledge linking techniques for NLP systems to more effectively leverage structured knowledge.
- Applying developed data resources and techniques to real-world NLP application scenarios.

# Semi-Structured Knowledge Management for End-to-End Task-Oriented Dialog Modeling

Sep 2020 - Feb 2022

Advisor: Minlie Huang, Conversational Artificial Intelligence (CoAI) Lab, Tsinghua University

Beijing, China

- Defined a task of modeling task-oriented dialog with management of semi-structured knowledge, and developed a modified version of MultiWOZ dataset (Mod-MultiWOZ) facing the defined task.
- Proposed several end-to-end task-oriented dialog systems to address the defined task, which use an extended belief tracking to manage semi-structured knowledge and achieve strong performances on the Mod-MultiWOZ dataset.
- Published two academic papers as 1st author, which are accepted to ACL 2021 findings and TASLP, respectively.

## Paraphrase Augmented Task-Oriented Dialog Generation

Jun 2019 - Jul 2020

Advisor: Zhou Yu, Department of Computer Science, University of California, Davis

Davis, California, USA

- Proposed a method of excavating potential dialog function of user utterances in task-oriented dialog modeling, which is used to construct dialog paraphrases for data augmentation.
- Proposed a new framework of paraphrase augmented task-oriented dialog generation, which improves the task completion ability of state-of-the-art dialog models TSCP and DAMD on CamRest676 and MultiWOZ datasets, respectively.
- Published an academic paper as 1st author, which is accepted to ACL 2020.

#### Mixed-Feature Trans-dimensional Random Field Language Models for Speech Recognition

Mar 2019 - May 2020

Advisor: Zhijian Ou, Speech Processing and Machine Intelligence (SPMI) Lab, Tsinghua University

Beijing, China

- Proposed mixed-feature trans-dimensional random field language models (Mixed TRF LMs), which integrate both discrete n-gram features and neural-network-based features in a single-step model construction.
- Applied dynamic noise-contrastive estimation (dynamic NCE) to train Mixed TRF LMs and proved its outperformance in n-best list rescoring tasks on both PTB and Google one-billion-word datasets.
- Published an academic paper as 1st author, which is accepted for oral presentation at ICASSP 2020.

## Publications

#### ComFact: A Benchmark for Linking Contextual Commonsense Knowledge

[Paper]

Authors: Silin Gao, Jena D. Hwang, Saya Kanno, Hiromi Wakaki, Yuki Mitsufuji, Antoine Bosselut

[Code]

Findings of the 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2022)

# End-to-End Task-Oriented Dialog Modeling with Semi-Structured Knowledge Management

[Paper]

Authors: Silin Gao, Ryuichi Takanobu, Antoine Bosselut, Minlie Huang

[Code]

IEEE/ACM Transactions on Audio, Speech, and Language Processing (TASLP)

## HyKnow: End-to-End Task-Oriented Dialog Modeling with Hybrid Knowledge Management

[Paper]

Authors: Silin Gao, Ryuichi Takanobu, Wei Peng, Qun Liu, Minlie Huang

[Code]

Findings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL-IJCNLP 2021)

#### Paraphrase Augmented Task-Oriented Dialog Generation

[Paper]

Authors: Silin Gao, Yichi Zhang, Zhijian Ou, Zhou Yu

[Code]

Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2020)

Integrating Discrete and Neural Features Via Mixed-Feature Trans-Dimensional Random Field Language Models

Authors: Silin Gao, Zhijian Ou, Wei Yang, Huifang Xu

[Paper] [Code]

Proceedings of the 2020 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP 2020)

## Honors and Awards

Outstanding Thesis in 2020 Diploma Projects

Tsinghua University

Top 2 thesis in Image and Signal Research Institution at Electronic Engineering Department.

Jul 2020

2019 Academic Excellence Award

Tsinghua University

Top 5% on GPA in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Nov 2019

2018 Academic Excellence Award

Tsinghua University

Top 5% on GPA in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Nov 2018

2017 Academic Excellence Award

Tsinghua University

Top 15% on GPA in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Nov 2017

2016 Freshmen Scholarship

Tsinghua University

Top 3 of  $35{,}169$  students in Tianjin on College Entrance Exam.

Aug 2016

# TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Programming:** C/C++, Python, MATLAB, SQL, Verilog, HTML, Shell

ML/AI: TensorFlow, PyTorch, Scikit-Learn

Languages: Chinese (Native), English (Fluent)

# Relevant Coursework

Computer Science: Machine Learning, Data and Algorithm (data structures and algorithms), Database Concepts, Computer Program Design (C/C++), Media and Cognition (artificial intelligence), Advanced Matlab Programming and Its Application, Operating System, Fundamental of Digital Logic and Processor (computer architecture and assembly language)

Mathematics: Probability and Stochastic Processes, Linear Algebra, Discrete Mathematics, Calculus

**Others:** Cognitive Psychology