

# XIAOCHANG LI

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## EDUCATION BACKGROUND

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### East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

09/2018-Present

- Graduate student in Data Science and Engineering GPA: 87.6/100, ranking(2/47)
- Member of ECNU-BAIDU Joint Laboratory on Computational Education
- Core courses: Machine Learning: 95, Advanced Database System: 97, Data Mining: 89, Algorithm of Data Science and Engineering: 85, Mathematical basis of Data Science and Engineering: 89, etc.

### Zhejiang University of Technology, Zhejiang, China

09/2014-07/2018

- B.S. in Computer Science GPA: 86.6/100, ranking(7/85), major GPA: 87.09/100
- Core courses: Design and Analysis of Algorithm: 92, Computer Architecture: 93, Principle and Application of Database System: 96, Data Structure: 89, Software Engineering: 95, etc.

### Stanford University

03/2020-09/2020

- Research assistant of Prof. Zhengyuan Zhou from Stanford University

### Zhejiang University of Technology, Zhejiang, China

09/2015-07/2017

- Minor in Law GPA: 85.6/100

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Identifying and correcting Chinese spelling errors

07/2020-Present, Shanghai

*Leading researcher, with Pigai.org (A leading company in grammatical correction), advisor: Prof. Xuesong Lu*

- Developed first Chinese Spelling error correction system for Pigai.org through conducting mask language model of BERT on erroneous and correct characters.
- Conducted data argumentation by replacing correct characters in sentences with confused ones, and filtered good sentences by language model.
- Working on integral gradients, and contrastive learning to enhance interpretability of identification of erroneous characters.
- Planning to solve more types of grammatical error correction with reinforcement learning in the future. (e.g. disorder, missing words)

### Boosting policy gradient's convergence with federated learning

03/2020-09/2020, Stanford University

*Research assistant, remote modality, advisor: Prof. Zhengyuan Zhou*

- Proposed and implemented federated policy gradient and empirically proved the convergence of the model on Linear-Quadratic Regulator (LQR) problem.
- Evaluated federated policy gradient's convergence on more difficult cartpole problems under different parameter setting, and achieved promising results compared with the vanilla one.
- Federated policy gradient could save even 70% time expense compared with the vanilla one under some circumstances on cartpole problem.

### Discovering traveling companions with autoencoders

06/2019-05/2020, Shanghai

*Leading researcher, advisor: Prof. Xuesong Lu*

- Injected positional encoding into point representation to signal temporal information of trajectory points, which has been proved effective in the ablation study.
- Leveraged sort-tile-recursive algorithms to roughly discover neighbor trajectories, and designed similarity loss to force trajectories' representations to learn from neighbor ones.

- Applied attention mechanism to assign different weights to trajectory points to generate better representation of trajectories to alleviate the sparsity and noisy of trajectories.
- Initiated a Mean-Attn Autoencoder and discovered more traveling companions with less time and achieved state-of-the-art performance compared with traditional and deep learning algorithms.

### **Generating Chinese articles for primary students automatically**

01/2019-10/2019, Shanghai

Leading researcher, with Baidu, advisor: Prof. Xuesong Lu

- Crawled twenty thousands Chinese articles of primary students according to their topics.
- Modified and trained MeanSum unsupervisedly to generate articles within the same topic, and volunteered to train GPT-2 to generate fluent articles without topic regulations.
- Baidu apoted these two solutions, and saved lots of money on generating articles for primary students.

### **Generative relation extraction with a multi-word span copy mechanism**

08/2020-Present, Shanghai

Assistant researcher, with Ph.D. candidate Jiarun Cao (University of Manchester)

- Solved low accuracy of word-by-word copy mechanism in seq2seq framework by BIO tagging strategy, and co-designed a multi-span copy mechanism.
- Evaluated and improved pretrained Unilm to extract relations with the help of multi-word span copy mechanism.
- Achieved better accuracy, precision, and recall on NYT 24 & 29 datasets compared to baseline methods.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Xiaochang Li**, Bei Chen, Xuesong Lu, Discovering Traveling Companions using Autoencoders, Journal of East China Normal University (Natural Science), 2020

## **SCHOLARSHIP & HONORS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of China Post-Graduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling at national level (13%) 09/2018
- Honorary graduate of Zhejiang University of Technology (5%) 07/2018
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of Service Outsourcing Contest of ZJUT (15%) 09/2016
- First-Class Scholarship for Excellent Student of ZJUT (2%) 09/2017
- Second-Class Scholarship for Excellent Student of ZJUT (8%) 09/2016 & 2015
- Zhejiang Provincial Government Scholarship (5%) 09/2016 & 2015

## **LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

- Captain of basketball team of school of Data Science and Engineering at ECNU 09/2019-12/2019
  - Led team to win the first third prize of ECNU graduate basketball competitions.
- Senior staff of alumni association of school of Computer Science and Technology at ZJUT 09/2014-09/2015
- Senior staff of sports department of Computer Science and Technology at ZJUT 09/2014-09/2016
  - Organized ZJUT yearly cricket competitions for the whole school for two years.

## **SKILLS**

- **Professional skills:**
  - Proficient in Pytorch, Python, and C++.
  - Familiar with Tensorflow, Keras, and JAVA.
  - Skilled in LATEX, proficient in using github.
- **Language level:**
  - GRE: Verbal Reasoning: 160, Quantitative Reasoning: 168, Analytical Writing: 3.5.
  - TOEFL: Reading: 26, Listening: 29, Speaking: 23, Writing: 25, Overall: 103.