WASI UDDIN AHMAD

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Developing computational algorithms that (1) reduce the need for large-scale annotated data to train NLP models from scratch; (2) adapt to new domains and languages with fewer labeled examples.

Learning universal language representations utilizing data from multiple sources, designing new learning objective to bridge the gap between different learning signals, developing flexible model architecture to enable cross-domain and cross-language transfer is the fundamental objective of my research.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in **Computer Science** *09.2017 - Present*
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
CGPA: 3.78 on a scale of 4.00
Advisor: Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

Master of **Computer Science** *08.2015 - 08.2017*
University of Virginia (UVA)
CGPA: 4.00 on a scale of 4.00
Advisor: Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

B.Sc. in **Computer Science and Engineering** *01.2008 - 02.2013*
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)
CGPA: 3.81 on a scale of 4.00
Position: Ranked 8^{th} in a class of 142 students

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). Cross-lingual Dependency Parsing with Unlabeled Auxiliary Languages. In Proceedings of the 23rd Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL).
2. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2019). Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion. In Proceedings of the 42nd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 385-394). ACM.
3. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Hovy, E., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). On Difficulties of Cross-Lingual Transfer with Order Differences: A Case Study on Dependency Parsing. In Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers) (pp. 2440-2452).
4. Duong, D., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Eskin, E., Chang, K. W., & Li, J. J. (2019). Word and sentence embedding tools to measure semantic similarity of Gene Ontology terms by their definitions. Journal of Computational Biology, 26(1), 38-52.
5. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Intent-aware query obfuscation for privacy protection in personalized web search. In The 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 285-294). ACM.

6. Yu, P., **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Wang, H. (2018). Hide-n-Seek: An Intent-aware Privacy Protection Plugin for Personalized Web Search. In The 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 1333-1336). ACM.
7. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Multi-task learning for document ranking and query suggestion. In Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).
8. **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Chang, K. W. (2018). A Corpus to Learn Refer-to-as Relations for Nominals. In Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC).
9. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Rahman, M. M., & Wang, H. (2016). Topic model based privacy protection in personalized Web search. In Proceedings of the 39th International ACM SIGIR conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 1025-1028). ACM.

PREPRINTS

1. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Bai, X., Peng, N., & Chang, K. W. (2018). Learning Robust, Transferable Sentence Representations for Text Classification. arXiv preprint arXiv:1810.00681.

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

• **Cross-lingual Representation Learning** *2018 - Present*

Our objective is to learn contextualized representations of sentences from resource-rich languages and transfer to low-resource languages. In this project, the research questions we address: what and how information can be transferred across languages and can be refined for a new language given a few labeled examples.

• **Information Extraction from Privacy Policies** *2019 - Present*

Navigating and digesting information from narrative policy descriptions in security and privacy policy documents is challenging for the end users. Hence, we aim to develop techniques to accurately extract information from privacy policy documents and precisely present them to the users.

• **Open Keyphrase Generation for Contextual Targeting** *2019 - Present*

Developing and experimenting with novel keyphrase generation techniques from web documents to improve page-to-segment relevance models to facilitate contextual targeting.

• **Multilingual Source Code Summarization** *2019 - Present*

In this project, we investigate how language-specific and common source code properties can be modeled and incorporated into a sequence-to-sequence model to facilitate natural language generation.

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

Yahoo Research, Sunnyvale, CA *06.2019 - 09.2019*
Research Intern, Ad Quality Science

Microsoft AI & Research, Redmond, WA *06.2018 - 09.2018*
Research Intern, Business Applications Group

Walmart Labs, Reston, VA *06.2016 - 08.2016*
Research Intern, Wireless Fraud Prevention

REVE Systems, Dhaka, Bangladesh *02.2013 - 10.2013*
Software Development Engineer, Android

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Los Angeles
Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Computer Science II. Instructor: David Smallberg. *01.2019 - 06.2019*
- Introduction to Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *01.2018 - 03.2018*

University of Virginia
Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Advanced Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *01.2017 - 05.2017*
- Natural Language Processing. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *08.2016 - 12.2016*
- Advanced Software Development. Instructor: Tom Horton. *08.2015 - 05.2016*
- Capstone Practicum I & II. Instructor: Aaron Bloomfield. *08.2015 - 05.2016*

Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology
Lecturer, Department of Computer Science *11.2013 - 08.2015*

TALKS

- Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion, SIGIR 2019
- Multi-Task Learning, Machine Learning Seminar, UCLA, November 2017

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Program Committee/Reviewer

- AAAI 2020, NAACL 2019, NLPCC-English 2018, MASC-SLL 2017
- Secondary Reviewer: EMNLP 2018

Internal Service, Department of Computer science, University of Virginia

- Student Volunteer in the Mentee-Mentor Program for new graduate students. 16'.
- Student Ambassador for assisting prospective students. 16'.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- SIGIR Student Travel Grant *2016, 2019*
- ICLR Travel Award 2018
- Graduate Division Fellowships, UCLA *2017*
- William L Ballard Jr Endowed Graduate Fellowship, UVA *2017*
- Graduate Division Fellowships, UVA *2015 - 2016*
- Dean's List Award, BUET *2008-09 to 2010-11*
- University Merit Scholarship, BUET *2007-08 to 2010-11*

REFERENCES

Dr. Kai-Wei Chang
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Department of Computer Science
University of California, Los Angeles
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