

# Ziming Li, Ph.D.

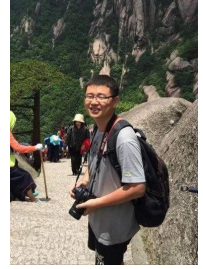
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📌 My research interest is developing advanced dialogue systems, including both open-domain and task-oriented dialogue systems. I'm also interested in the fields of information retrieval and optimizing interactive systems by learning from users.



## Education and Experience

- 07/2021 – present    📌 **Applied Scientist, Amazon Alexa AI, Seattle, USA**
- 03/2021 – 05/2021    📌 **Post-doc, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Evangelos Kanoulas  
Research Topic: Dialogue systems and Learning through interaction
- 09/2016 – 02/2021    📌 **PhD Candidate, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Maarten de Rijke  
Co-Supervisor: Dr. Julia Kiseleva  
Research Topic: Information Retrieval, Dialogue systems and Inverse Reinforcement Learning
- 09/2013 – 07/2016    📌 **M.Sc. Computer Science, Xiamen University, China**  
Supervisor: Dr. Xiangrong Liu  
Research Topic: Membrane Computing, Bioinformatics  
Thesis Title: Research on Some Mathematical Problems Based on Time-free P Systems (9.2/10, Outstanding Master Thesis Title)
- 09/2009 – 07/2013    📌 **B.Sc. Computer Science, Xiamen University, China**  
Thesis Title: Parameterization of Triangular Meshes (graded 8.9/10, Outstanding Bachelor Thesis Title)

## Internships

- 05/2019 – 08/2019    📌 Deep Learning Group, Microsoft Research, Redmond
- 05/2020 – 08/2020    📌 Amazon Alexa, Seattle (virtual internship)

## Research Publications

- 1    Li, Z., Kiseleva, J. & de Rijke, M. (2021). Improving response quality with backward reasoning in open-domain dialogue systems. *SIGIR 2021*.
- 2    Li, Z., Park, D., Kiseleva, J., Kim, Y.-B. & Lee, S. (2021). A data-driven approach to estimate user satisfaction in multi-turn dialogues. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2103.01287*.
- 3    Li, Z., Kiseleva, J., Agarwal, A., de Rijke, M. & White, R. W. (2020). Optimizing interactive systems via data-driven objectives. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.12999*.
- 4    Li, Z., Kiseleva, J. & de Rijke, M. (2020). Rethinking supervised learning and reinforcement learning in task-oriented dialogue systems. *Findings of EMNLP 2020*.
- 5    Li, Z., Lee, S., Peng, B., Li, J., Kiseleva, J., de Rijke, M., ... Gao, J. (2020). Guided dialogue policy learning without adversarial learning in the loop. *Findings of EMNLP 2020*.

- 6 Li, Z., Kiseleva, J., Agarwal, A. & de Rijke, M. (2019). Learning data-driven objectives to optimize interactive systems. *LIRE workshop, NeurIPS 2019*.
- 7 Li, Z., Kiseleva, J. & de Rijke, M. (2019). Dialogue generation: From imitation learning to inverse reinforcement learning. *AAAI 2019*.
- 8 Li, Z. & de Rijke, M. (2017). The impact of linkage methods in hierarchical clustering for active learning to rank. *SIGIR 2017*, 941–944.
- 9 Li, Z., Kiseleva, J., de Rijke, M. & Grotov, A. (2017). Towards learning reward functions from user interactions. *ICTIR 2017*, 289–292.
- 10 Liu, X., Li, Z., Liu, J., Liu, L. & Zeng, X. (2015). Implementation of arithmetic operations with time-free spiking neural p systems. *IEEE transactions on nanobioscience*, 14(6), 617–624.
- 11 Liu, X., Li, Z., Suo, J., Liu, J. & Min, X. (2015). A uniform solution to integer factorization using time-free spiking neural p system. *Neural Computing and Applications*, 26(5), 1241–1247.
- 12 Liu, X., Suo, J., Li, Z., Zou, Q., Liu, J. & Ju, Y. (2015). Reusable logic gates based on dna strand branch migration. *Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience*, 12(8), 1624–1629.
- 13 Liu, X., Li, Z., Suo, J., Ju, Y., Liu, J. & Zeng, X. (2014). Solving multidimensional 0-1 knapsack problem with time-free tissue p systems. *Journal of Applied Mathematics*.

## Awards and Achievements

- 2014    🏆 National Scholarship for outstanding Postgraduate students, China
- 2015    🏆 National Scholarship for outstanding Postgraduate students, China

## Teaching Experience

- TAing    🏆 Information Retrieval I (2018), University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Supervision    🏆 Two Master theses (2018), University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Title: *Cyclists' Route Choice in Amsterdam: Finding Factors of Influence and Predicting Cyclists' Route Choice*, with Chris Olberts
  - Title: *How to measure a neighborhood: Exploring geo-spatial data enrichment and neighborhood embeddings for housing price prediction*, with Guus Bobeldijk
- Two Master theses (2019), University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Title: *Text Classification for Ground Lease Documents*, with Rouel de Romas
  - Title: *Predicting salary using Job posting data*, with Roma Bakhyshev

## Academic Activities

- Reviewing    🏆 Reviewer for CIKM'21, AAAI'21, TOIS, IPM and Information Retrieval Journal  
                     Sub-reviewer for ECIR'18, SIGIR'18, CIKM'18, NAACL'19 and SIGIR'19
- Summer School    🏆 European Summer School in Information Retrieval 2017, Barcelona, Spain

## **Skills**

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Tools & Technologies    📌 Numpy, PyTorch, Tensorflow  
Coding    📌 Python, C, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## **Languages**

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Native    📌 Chinese  
Professional working proficiency    📌 English