

Ercong Nie

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Research Interest

- **Multilingual NLP:** multilinguality of LLMs [2], [11], cross-lingual transfer [10], [14], [18], historical language processing [16].
- **Efficient NLP Methods:** prompt-based learning [13], [15], [17], low-resource learning [9], parameter-efficient finetuning [6], [12].
- **Human-Centric NLP:** human-inspired NLP [19], computational neurolinguistics [8], mechanistic interpretability [3], [5].

Education

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| 2022 – now | ■ Ph.D. University of Munich (LMU) at Center for Information and Language Processing (CIS), supervised by PD. Dr. Helmut Schmid and Prof. Hinrich Schütze. |
| 2020 – 2022 | ■ M.Sc. University of Munich (LMU) Computational Linguistics and Informatics
Thesis title: <i>Zero-Shot Learning on Low-Resource Languages by Cross-Lingual Retrieval</i> . |
| 2015 – 2019 | ■ B.A. Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) German Linguistics and Finance
Thesis title: <i>A Corpus-based Study of Metaphors in the Football Language</i> . |
| 2018 | ■ Exchange semester, University of Heidelberg (RKU) German Linguistics
Courses: <i>Language Typology, Psycholinguistics, Second Language Acquisition, etc.</i> |

Experience





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| 2022 – now | ■ Doctoral Researcher, Munich Center for Machine Learning (MCML)
Conducted advanced NLP research within the framework of MCML. |
| 2024 | ■ Visiting Researcher, University of Copenhagen
Research stay at Pioneer Centre for Artificial Intelligence & CopeNLU lab led by Prof. Isabelle Augenstein. |
| 2024 – now | ■ Research Intern, Huawei Munich Research Center
Technological analysis and insights into AI computing, LLM interpretability, AI search engine, etc. |
| 2023 – now | ■ Project Participant, Humboldt University of Berlin (HUB)
Participating in the Sonderforschungsbereich project (SFB 1412) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), using natural language processing technology to assist in the study of emergence and transfer of register patterns in historical German texts. |
| 2021 – now | ■ Teaching Assistant, University of Munich (LMU)
Leading tutorials and exercises of Bachelor and Master courses covering a wide range of NLP-related topics, such as statistical methods, finite state technologies, deep learning foundations, human-centric NLP, etc. |
| 2021 – 2022 | ■ Working Student, Infineon Technologies AG
Worked at the <i>Supply Chain Innovation Team</i> , developed a document retrieval system based on sentence transformers and knowledge graph. |
| 2021 | ■ Research Assistant, University of Munich (LMU)
Assisted in the DFG project <i>ReMLAV: Relational Machine Learning for Argument Validation</i> , worked on the construction of a claim detection dataset. |

Selected Publications

* Equal contribution, † Corresponding author.

- ACL 2025  **Bmike-53: Investigating cross-lingual knowledge editing with in-context learning** [4]
Ercong Nie*, Bo Shao*, Zifeng Ding, Mingyang Wang, Helmut Schmid, Hinrich Schütze
- (Findings) ACL 2025  **Large Language Models as Neurolinguistic Subjects: Identifying Internal Representations for Form and Meaning** [3]
Linyang He, Ercong Nie, Helmut Schmid, Hinrich Schütze, Nima Mesgarani, Jonathan Brennan.
- (Findings) ACL 2024  **GNNavi: Navigating the Information Flow in Large Language Models by Graph Neural Network** [12]
Shuzhou Yuan, Ercong Nie, Michael Färber, Helmut Schmid, and Hinrich Schütze
- (Findings) ACL 2023  **Cross-Lingual Retrieval Augmented Prompt for Low-Resource Languages** [18]
Ercong Nie*, Sheng Liang*, Helmut Schmid, and Hinrich Schütze
- (Findings) EMNLP 2023  **Unleashing the Multilingual Encoder Potential: Boosting Zero-Shot Performance via Probability Calibration** [17]
Ercong Nie, Helmut Schmid, and Hinrich Schütze
- EACL 2024  **ToPro: Token-Level Prompt Decomposition for Cross-Lingual Sequence Labeling Tasks** [10]
Bolei Ma*, Ercong Nie*, Shuzhou Yuan, Helmut Schmid, Färber Michael, and Frauke Kreuter, Hinrich Schütze
- ECML-PKDD 2024  **A Unified Data Augmentation Framework for Low-Resource Multi-Domain Dialogue Generation** [9]
Yongkang Liu*, Ercong Nie*, Shi Feng, Zheng Hua, Zifeng Ding, and Daling Wang, Yifei Zhang, Hinrich Schütze

Academic Activities

- Conference PC Member  ARR 2024&2025 (ACL, EMNLP, NAACL, EACL), COLING 2025&2024, IJCNN 2025, LAW 2025, ALP 2025, SemEval 2024, BabyLM 2023, etc.
- Journal Reviewer  ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (ACM TIST), Royal Society Open Science (RSOS), ACM Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing (ACM TALLIP).
- Talks  **Dec. 2024.** Invited talk on the probing of large language models at the Technical University of Dresden.
Jun. 2024. Invited talk on the semi-automatic annotation of historical German at the Humboldt University of Berlin.
- Community Members  **Committee member of NICE**, an NLP Academic Exchange Platform.
Member of AI Grid, a German AI community connecting young AI scientists funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.
Junior member of MCML (Munich Center for Machine Learning), one of six German national AI Competence Centers.
Member of NLP/CL communities such as ACL, GSCL (German Society for Computational Linguistics and Language Technology)

Skills

Natural Languages	Chinese Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), German (Fluent)
Programming Languages	Python (Proficient), Bash (Good), C++ (Basic), R (Basic)
Deep Learning	PyTorch, HuggingFace, Numpy, Scikit-learn, Keras,...
Tools	LaTeX, HTML, Linux, Jupyter Notebook, Git, VSCode, PyCharm, Slurm,...

Honors and Grants

2024	BMBF Software Campus Doctoral Research Grant (115,000 EUR). German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany.
	OpenAI Researcher Access Program (5,000 USD). OpenAI, USA.
	DDSA Research Visit Grant (15,000 DKK). Danish Data Science Academy (DDSA), Denmark.
2022	LMU-CSC Scholarship for Doctoral Study. University of Munich (LMU) and China Scholarship Council (CSC), Germany & China.
2019	Outstanding Graduate. Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), China.

Teaching

Tutoring












SS 23, 24, 25	Human-centric Natural Language Processing Seminar (Master)
WS 23, 24	Statistical Methods in the Language Processing (Bachelor)
WS 22, 23, 24	Foundations of Advanced Natural Language Processing (Master)
WS 21	Finite State Technologies (Master)










Student Supervision

WS 24/25	MA Thesis: AI Assisted Semantic Search on Domain Specific Unstructured Data (co-supervision with Infineon)
	MA Thesis: Multilingual Knowledge Incorporation for Large Language Models
SS 24	MA Thesis: Enhancing Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) for Domain-Specific Content (co-supervision with Bosch)
	Course Project: KDD CUP 24: Meta Comprehensive Retrieval-Augmented Generation Benchmark
WS 23/24	MA Thesis: Enhancing Reasoning and Safety: Integrating Classical Rule-Based AI with Large Language Models
	Course Project: SemEval'24 Task 1: Measuring the Semantic Textual Relatedness
	Course Project: SemEval'24 Task 8: Machine-Generated Text Detection
SS 23	MA Thesis: Prompt-based finetuning of multilingual models for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer
	MA Thesis: Extend the cross-lingual retrieval-augmented prompting method to new tasks and settings
	Course Project: BabyLM Challenge: Sample-efficient pretraining on a developmentally plausible corpus

Publication List

* Equal contribution, † Corresponding author.

- 1 L. Hagström, **E. Nie**, R. Halifa, H. Schmid, R. Johansson, and A. Junge, “Language model re-rankers are steered by lexical similarities,” *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.17036*, Feb. 2025.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2502.17036>.
- 2 L. He, **E. Nie**, S. S. Dindar, A. Firoozi, A. Florea, V. Nguyen, C. Puffay, R. Shimizu, H. Ye, J. Brennan, *et al.*, “Xcomps: A multilingual benchmark of conceptual minimal pairs,” *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.19737*, Feb. 2025.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2502.19737>.
- 3 L. He, **E. Nie**, H. Schmid, H. Schütze, N. Mesgarani, and J. Brennan, “Large language models as neurolinguistic subjects: Identifying internal representations for form and meaning,” in *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2025*, Vienna, Austria: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jul. 2025.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2411.07533>.
- 4 **E. Nie***, B. Shao*, Z. Ding, M. Wang, H. Schmid, and H. Schütze, “Bmike-53: Investigating cross-lingual knowledge editing with in-context learning,” in *Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, Vienna, Austria: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jul. 2025.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2406.17764>.
- 5 M. Wang, H. Adel, L. Lange, Y. Liu, **E. Nie**, J. Strötgen, and H. Schütze, “Lost in multilinguality: Dissecting cross-lingual factual inconsistency in transformer language models,” in *Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, Vienna, Austria: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jul. 2025.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2504.04264>.
- 6 S. Yuan*, **E. Nie***, B. Ma, and M. Färber, “Why lift so heavy? slimming large language models by cutting off the layers,” in *2025 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN)*, IEEE, Jun. 2025.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2402.11700.pdf>.
- 7 H. Chen, J. Büssing, D. Rügamer, and **E. Nie†**, “Team mgtd4adl at semeval-2024 task 8: Leveraging (sentence) transformer models with contrastive learning for identifying machine-generated text,” in *Proceedings of the 18th International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation (SemEval-2024)*, Mexico City, Mexico: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jun. 2024, pp. 1722–1729.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.semeval-1.245.pdf>.
- 8 L. He, P. Chen, **E. Nie**, Y. Li, and J. R. Brennan, “Decoding probing: Revealing internal linguistic structures in neural language models using minimal pairs,” in *Proceedings of the 2024 Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation*, Torino, Italy: ELRA Language Resources Association and International Committee on Computational Linguistics, May 2024.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.lrec-main.402.pdf>.
- 9 Y. Liu*, **E. Nie***, S. Feng, Z. Hua, Z. Ding, D. Wang, Y. Zhang, and H. Schütze, “A unified data augmentation framework for low-resource multi-domain dialogue generation,” in *European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases*, A. Bifet, J. Davis, T. Krilavičius, M. Kull, E. Ntoutsi, and I. Žliobaitė, Eds., Vilnius, Lithuania: Springer, Sep. 2024.  URL: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-70344-7_10.
- 10 B. Ma*, **E. Nie***, S. Yuan, H. Schmid, F. Michael, F. Kreuter, and H. Schütze, “Topro: Token-level prompt decomposition for cross-lingual sequence labeling tasks,” in *Proceedings of the 18th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, Malta, Malta: Association for Computational Linguistics, Mar. 2024.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.eacl-long.164v2.pdf>.
- 11 **E. Nie**, S. Yuan, B. Ma, H. Schmid, M. Färber, F. Kreuter, and H. Schütze, “Decomposed prompting: Unveiling multilingual linguistic structure knowledge in english-centric large language models,” *under review*, Mar. 2024.  URL: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2402.18397.pdf>.

- 12 S. Yuan, **E. Nie**, M. Färber, H. Schmid, and H. Schütze, “Gnnavi: Navigating the information flow in large language models by graph neural network,” in *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2024*, Bangkok, Thailand: Association for Computational Linguistics, Aug. 2024.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2024.findings-acl.237.pdf>.
- 13 X. Li, **E. Nie**, and S. Liang, “Crosslingual retrieval augmented in-context learning for bangla,” in *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Bangla Language Processing*, Singapore, Singapore: Association for Computational Linguistics, Dec. 2023.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.banglalp-1.15.pdf>.
- 14 X. Li, **E. Nie**, and S. Liang, “From classification to generation: Insights into crosslingual retrieval augmented icl,” in *NeurIPS 2023 Workshop on Instruction Tuning and Instruction Following*, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States, Dec. 2023.  URL: <https://openreview.net/pdf?id=KLPLCXo4aD>.
- 15 B. Ma, **E. Nie***, H. Schmid, and H. Schuetze, “Is prompt-based finetuning always better than vanilla finetuning? insights from cross-lingual language understanding,” in *Proceedings of the 19th Conference on Natural Language Processing (KONVENS 2023)*, M. Georges, A. Herygers, A. Friedrich, and B. Roth, Eds., Ingolstadt, Germany: Association for Computational Linguistics, Sep. 2023, pp. 1–16.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.konvens-main.1>.
- 16 **E. Nie**, H. Schmid, and H. Schütze, “Cross-lingual constituency parsing for middle high german: A delexicalized approach,” in *Proceedings of the Ancient Language Processing Workshop*, Varna, Bulgaria: INCOMA Ltd., Shoumen, Bulgaria, Sep. 2023.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.alp-1.8/>.
- 17 **E. Nie**, H. Schmid, and H. Schütze, “Unleashing the multilingual encoder potential: Boosting zero-shot performance via probability calibration,” in *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2023*, Singapore, Singapore: Association for Computational Linguistics, Dec. 2023.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.findings-emnlp.1056/>.
- 18 **E. Nie***, S. Liang*, H. Schmid, and H. Schütze, “Cross-lingual retrieval augmented prompt for low-resource languages,” in *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*, Toronto, Canada: Association for Computational Linguistics, Jul. 2023, pp. 8320–8340.  DOI: [10.18653/v1/2023.findings-acl.528](https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2023.findings-acl.528).
- 19 Z. Zhang*, H. Yang*, B. Ma*, D. Rügamer, and **E. Nie†**, “Baby’s cothought: Leveraging large language models for enhanced reasoning in compact models,” in *Proceedings of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics*, Singapore, Singapore: Association for Computational Linguistics, Dec. 2023.  URL: <https://aclanthology.org/2023.conll-babylm.13/>.
- 20 I. Ziegler, B. Ma, **E. Nie**, B. Bischl, D. Rügamer, B. Schubert, and E. Dorigatti, “What cleaves? is proteasomal cleavage prediction reaching a ceiling?” In *NeurIPS 2022 Workshop on Learning Meaningful Representations of Life*, online, Dec. 2022.  URL: <https://openreview.net/forum?id=bUyk2atqXqt>.