

Li “Harry” Zhang

zharry.com
zharry@umich.edu
(734)834-7882

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Natural Language Processing, Deep Learning, Meaning Representation, Natural Language Understanding, Semantics, Computational Sociolinguistics

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA Aug 2019 – Present
Ph.D. Computer Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Sept 2015 – Dec 2018
B.S.E. Computer Science, *summa cum laude* GPA: 3.82/4.00

PUBLICATIONS

[1] **L. Zhang**, S. R. Wilson and R. Mihalcea. *Multi-Label Transfer Learning for Semantic Similarity*. In *SEM 2019 and presented at NAACL 2019.
[2] **L. Zhang**, S. R. Wilson and R. Mihalcea. *Direct Network Transfer: Transfer Learning of Sentence Embeddings for Semantic Similarity*. In arXiv and presented at IC2S2 2018.
[3] C. Finegan-Dollak, J. K. Kummerfeld, **L. Zhang**, K. R. D. Ramanathan, S. Sadasivam, R. Zhang and D. Radev. *Improving Text-to-SQL Evaluation Methodology*. In ACL 2018.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Transfer Learning in Semantic Similarity Oct 2017 – May 2018

Explore transfer learning methods using sentence embeddings in semantic similarity

Adviser: Prof. Rada Mihalcea

- Proposed a new transfer learning method for semantic similarity tasks, achieving state-of-the-art performance on various datasets using various neural networks architectures.
- Compared and analyzed performances of popular transfer learning methods on a collection of mainstream LSTM-based models and semantic similarity datasets.
- Interpreted qualitatively the source of improvement in the domain of human activities.

Multi-label Learning in Semantic Similarity Mar 2017 – Sept 2018

Explore multi-task learning using sentence embeddings in semantic similarity

Adviser: Prof. Rada Mihalcea

- Proposed a modification of LSTM architecture for semantic similarity datasets with multiple relations, achieving state-of-the-art in various dimensions.
- Compared with multi-task learning and single-task learning baselines.

Active Interpretation of Disparate Alternatives Jan 2017 – Feb 2019

Use multi-modal news reports to generate hypotheses about real life events

Adviser: Prof. Rada Mihalcea and Prof. Jia Deng

- Produced knowledge elements using the text from multiple account of the events regarding the Ukrainian-Russian relations.
- Performed keyword extraction and named entity recognition to extract knowledge elements and assign saliency to them.

Natural Language to SQL in Academic Advising

Sept 2015 – Apr 2017

Part of the IBM Sapphire project to build a dialogue system for academic advising

Adviser: Prof. Dragomir Radev

- Published in ACL 2018 [3].
- Implemented a named entity recognizer specifically on the academic advising ontology to automatically expand training data by permutating entities.
- Designed over 50 semantically distinct and meaningful advising questions as well as their corresponding SQL queries to be used as training data.
- Contributed in building the Advising dataset parallel to the ATIS and GeoQuery datasets that contains more than 300 entries in the academic advising domain.
- Presented in 2016 Michigan Research Community poster symposium.

Text Clustering Based on Humor in Cartoons

Jan 2016 – Apr 2016

Dataset from caption submissions for the cartoon section of New Yorker magazine

Adviser: Prof. Dragomir Radev

- Restarted and oversaw the project with under-documented codebase.
- Rewrote Perl scripts in Python using state-of-the-art machine learning APIs.
- Experimented with text embeddings such as word2vec and Skip-Thought to compare performances in multiple clustering algorithms such as the Louvain algorithm.

ACL Anthology Network

Sept 2016 – Dec 2016

A power taxonomy of papers from top NLP conferences

Adviser: Prof. Dragomir Radev

- Implemented distance metrics between papers classified into the same category.
- Fixed display issues on the front end and did QA on the database.
- Presented in 2016 University of Michigan NLP workshop.

Paper Reviewing

- Reviewed a manuscript of the Computer Speech and Language journal. Jun 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant — Natural Language Processing

Sept 2018 – Dec 2018

EECS 595: The graduate level NLP course

University of Michigan

- Held weekly office hours and answered questions online for 135 students.
- Helped design course contents by adding deep learning related materials.

Teaching Assistant — Programming and Data Structures

Sept 2016 – Apr 2017

EECS 280: An introductory programming course

University of Michigan

- Led weekly lab sessions with more than 30 students to review course materials and guide them through hands-on coding challenges.
- Held weekly office hours and answered questions online for over 1,000 students.
- Helped design course contents, projects and exams.

Tutor — Elementary Chemistry

Sept 2016 – Dec 2016

Science Learning Center

University of Michigan

- Hosted weekly walk-in tutoring for an introductory chemistry course.
- Compiled review materials to help students prepare for exams.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE	Text Splitting and Phrasing <i>IBM Research</i> • In progress.	Apr 2019 – Jun 2019 San Jose, CA
	Collaborative Filtering Based Recommender System <i>Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.</i> <u>Worked in GS App Store, the firm's software management and delivery platform</u> • Developed a highly scalable recommender system using collaborative filtering to suggest personalized app recommendations for each user. • Designed features such as “frequently installed together”, “users who installed this also installed”, “trending apps” and “top apps by business unit”. • Implemented end-to-end interfaces using C#, JavaScript, AngularJS and Elasticsearch.	May 2017 – Aug 2017 Jersey City, NJ
COURSES	Natural Language Processing(A+), Directed Research (A+), Information Retrieval(A), Machine Learning(A), Artificial Intelligence (A), Computer Security(A), Multivariate Calculus(A+), Probability and Statistics (A-), Matrix Algebra (A-)	
HONORS	Merit-Based Scholarship of \$2,000, UM Engineering Class of 1935	2017 – 2018
	James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan	2017
	University Honors of all semesters, University of Michigan	2015 – 2018
	Dean's Honor List of all semesters, UM College of Engineering	2015 – 2018
SKILLS	Programming Skills Python, C++, SQL, Elasticsearch, MATLAB, C#, JavaScript...	
	Language Skills Chinese (native), English (fully proficient), French (conversational)	
TEST SCORES	GRE (May 2017): Verbal 162 91%, Quantitative 170 97%, Analytical Writing 4.5 82% SAT (Dec 2015): Reading 750, Writing 790, Math 800 TOEFL (Dec 2013): Reading 28, Listening 29, Speaking 29, Writing 28	
ACTIVITIES	Artificial Intelligence Labs Member, Language and Information Technologies Research Group Oct 2017 – Present Member, Computational Linguistics & Information Retrieval Lab Oct 2015 – May 2017	
	Billiards and Pool 1 st Place out of 12, 9-Ball Scotch Doubles, 1 st Midwest Invitational Feb 2018 7 th Place out of 32, 9-Ball Scotch Doubles, 14 th UM Team Pool Championship Nov 2017 Captain, Michigan Billiards Team Sept 2017 – Present Membership Chair, Michigan Billiards Club Sept 2016 – Present	
	E-Sport Top 32 out of 828 teams, TESPA Hearthstone Collegiate Championship Apr 2018 #29 out of approx. 5 million in Ranked Play, Hearthstone, North America Mar 2018 Member, Michigan Hearthstone Team Sept 2016 – Present	