Ivan Montero

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Education

University of Washington *Seattle, WA*
M.Sc. Computer Science *Sept. 2021 - June 2022*
- Advisor: Noah A. Smith

University of Washington *Seattle, WA*
B.Sc. Computer Science *Sept. 2017 - June 2021*
- GPA: 3.9
- Undergrad research advisors: Noah A. Smith, Nikolaos Pappas

Papers

Ivan Montero, Nikolaos Pappas, Noah A. Smith, "Sentence Bottleneck Autoencoders from Transformer Language Models", Under Review, 2021.

Ivan Montero, Shayne Longpre, Ni Lao, Andrew J. Frank, Christopher DuBois, "Pivot Through English: Reliably Answering Multilingual Questions without Document Retrieval", Under Review, 2020. URL `https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.14094`

Florian Mai, Nikolaos Pappas, **Ivan Montero**, Noah A. Smith, James Henderson, "Plug and Play Autoencoders for Conditional Text Generation", In *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Langauge Processing* (EMNLP), 2020. URL `https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2020.emnlp-main.491`

Professional Experience

June 2021 - Sept. 2021	**Research Intern**, Apple Open-Domain Question Answering improvements through document-level representation learning.
Sept. 2020 - Dec. 2020	**Software Engineering Intern**, Facebook Image Understanding Improvements to Photo Search on the Visual Search Relevance team.
June 2020 - Sept. 2020	**Software Engineering Intern**, Google Embedding Retrieval Optimizations on the Machine Learning Google Research team.
March 2020 - June 2020	**Research Intern**, Apple Pivot Through English: Reliably Answering Multilingual Questions without Document Retrieval
June 2019 - Sept. 2020	**Teaching Assistant**, University of Washington Machine Learning (Autumn 2019, Winter 2020)
June 2019 - Sept. 2019	**Software Engineering Intern**, Google Street View Billboard Detection And Physical Metric Inference on the Ads team.
June 2018 - Sept. 2018	**Engineering Practicum Intern**, Google Image Clustering Pipeline design/implementation on Image Understanding Google Research.

Teaching Experience

Winter 2020	**Machine Learning**, Teaching Assistant
Autumn 2019	**Machine Learning**, Teaching Assistant
Spring 2019	**Software Design and Implementation**, Teaching Assistant

Research Experience

University of Washington – Noah's ARK *Seattle, WA*

Advisor: Noah Smith, Mentor: Nikolaos Pappas *Aug. 2019 - Present*

- **Sentence Bottleneck Autoencoders from Transformer Language Models** (2021)
  We explore the construction of a sentence-level autoencoder from a pretrained, frozen transformer language model. We demonstrate that the sentence representations discovered by our model achieve better quality than previous methods that extract representations from pretrained transformers on text similarity tasks, style transfer (an example of controlled generation), and single-sentence classification tasks.
- **Sequence Generation with Learnable Continuous Outputs** (2020)
  We propose a sequence generation model with learnable target continuous outputs which leverages a word autoencoder and a new loss to avoid trivial solutions. Our evaluation on machine translation will show whether our model is more effective and faster than the softmax and continuous output baselines.
- **Plug and Play Autoencoders for Conditional Text Generation** (2020)
  Explore a sequence-to-sequence framework that learns the continuous mapping between latent representations of sequence autoencoders. Our pre-training of autoencoders reduces transfer learning for other NLP tasks to simply learning a continuous translation.

Apple – Siri Web Answers *Seattle, WA*

Advisor: Chris DuBois, Mentors: Shayne Longpre (2020), Ni Lao (2021) *Aug. 2019 - Present*

- **Unsupervised Representation Learning for Web-Scale Document Retrieval** (2021)
  Open-Domain Question Answering improvements through document-level representation learning.
- **Pivot Through English: Reliably Answering Multilingual Questions without Document Retrieval** (2020)
  Perform research experiments on the most effective, unified manner to reliably transfer knowledge from English question answering systems to lower resource languages by leveraging multilingual paraphrase detection.

Seattle Children's Research Institute *Seattle, WA*

Advisor: Peter J. Myler, Mentors: Aakash Sur *Sept. 2018 - May 2020*

- **Recognizing Base J from Single Molecule Real Time (SMRT) Sequencing**
  Explore machine learning and signal processing methods to construct a genome-wide mapping of modified bases in infectious organisms from polymerase pauses during sequencing. Presented at the UW's 22nd Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2019 **Microsoft Endowed Scholarship**, Microsoft

2018 **Washington State Opportunity Scholarship**, WSOS

2017 **Paul G. Allen School Direct Admission**, University of Washington
Edward Jones Maple Valley Scholarship, Edward Jones
Public School Employee Union Scholarship, Tahoma School District