Jialu Li

jialuli@cs.unc.edu
(607) 262 2654

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
1st year Ph.D., Computer Science, *Advisor: Professor Mohit Bansal*

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
M.Eng., Computer Science, December 2019

Shanghai JiaoTong University, Shanghai, China
Major: B.S., Computer Science, June 2018
Minor: B.E., Finance, June 2018

RESEARCH INTEREST

Multimodal NLP

PUBLICATION

Exploring the Role of Argument Structure in Online Debate Persuasion.
EMNLP 2020
Jialu Li, Esin Durmus and Claire Cardie

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Research Assistant **February 2019 - Present**
Advisor: Professor Claire T. Cardie

- Explored the relationship between argument structure and persuasion in online debates
- Applied BERT for sentence representation, generated argument structure on Debate.org and proposed three sets of argument features; employed LSTM for persuasion prediction with 77.38% accuracy and showed that personal experience and 'Claim-Reason-Rephrase' structure are powerful in making convincing arguments

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Research Project **February 2019 - May 2019**
Advisor: Professor Claire T. Cardie

- Explored the methods to tackle two sources of gender bias among state-of-the-art coreference resolvers
- Implemented different approaches of debiasing word embedding and anonymizing data; applied them on CNN and bi-directional LSTM with scoring architecture using attention mechanism; observed a bias performance trade-off when using debiased resources and approaches

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Research Group Leader for 2 projects **September 2019 - Present**
Advisor: Professor Claire T. Cardie

- Annotated argument type in online debates for future study; our proposed annotation scheme considers both debate strategies and extra-propositional meaning and has competitive Krippendorffs alpha with existing work
- Explored what linguistic features or user features are important to predict whether users will change their stance during the debates; Find that users' opinion on big issues and the talking points between two sides are most predictive of persuasion

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Research Project **September 2019 - December 2019**
Advisor: Professor Christopher De Sa

- Built a daily long-short portfolio of various stocks with both twitter text data and general market data in 2014-2016 of 85 stocks
- Predicted exact return rate of various stocks based on bi-directional LSTM with attention over twitts from different users; Built long-short portfolio with stocks that have a daily return rate of 0.095%

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Natural Language Processing (CS 4740 / CS 5740)
Graduate Teaching Assistant **August 2019 - December 2019**
Instructor: Professor Claire T. Cardie

HONORS AND AWARDS

Academic Excellence Scholarship (Third-Class) for 2016-2017 academic year
Academic Excellence Scholarship (Third-Class) for 2015-2016 academic year
Academic Excellence Scholarship (Second-Class) for 2014-2015 academic year

SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, C++, LATEX
Machine Learning Frameworks: Pytorch