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KAI ZHAO

research interests

Algorithms and theory in Natural Language Processing: Structured Prediction, Deep Learning, Online Learning, Syntactic/Semantic Parsing, Machine Translation, and Textual Entailment.

experience

Research Scientist, *Google Inc.*, New York, NY. Jun.2017–present.

Focused on query understanding.

Research Assistant, *Oregon State University*, Corvallis, OR. Sep.2015–Jun.2017.

Research Assistant, *City University of New York*, New York, NY. Aug.2012–Sep.2015.

Studied Structured Prediction problems in Natural Language Processing, including:

- deep learning for structured prediction in textual entailment; [3]
- incremental semantic parsing; [6]
- incremental parsing with best-first search strategy; [8]
- discriminative training for statistical machine translation; [7]
- parallelizing online learning for large-scale NLP tasks. [12]

Research Intern, *Google Inc.*, New York, NY. Summer 2015.

Structured Data Team

Mentor: Hao Zhang, Cong Yu and Flip Korn

Investigated inducing entity similarities from web table corpus with alignment models.

Research Intern, *Microsoft Research*, Redmond, WA. Summer 2014.

Machine Translation Group

Mentor: Hany Hassan and Michael Auli

Explored learning translation rules from monolingual continuous representations. [5]

Research Intern, *IBM T.J. Watson Research Center*, Yorktown Heights, NY. Summer 2013.

Multilingual Natural Language Processing Group

Mentor: Abe Ittycheriah and Haitao Mi

Adapted large-scale discriminative training to syntax based machine translation system. [7]

education

Ph.D., *Oregon State University*, Corvallis, OR. 2015–2017.

Ph.D. Student, *Graduate Center, City University of New York*, New York, NY. 2010–2015.

Mentor: Liang Huang

Major: Computer Science

Thesis: [Structured Learning with Latent Variables: Theory and Algorithms](#)

Committee: Prasad Tadepalli, Alan Fern, Debashis Mondal, Luke Zettlemoyer (UW)

B.Eng., *University of Science and Technology of China*, Hefei, China. 2006–2010.

Graduated with Honors

Major: Computer Science

publications

1. Kai Zhao, Dapeng Li and Liang Huang. “[Joint Syntactic and Discourse Parsing with Recurrent Neural Models.](#)” *Proceedings of EMNLP*, 2017.
2. Mingbo Ma, Kai Zhao, Liang Huang, Bing Xiang and Bowen Zhou. “[Jointly Trained Sequential Labeling and Classification by Sparse Attention Neural Networks.](#)” *Proceedings of Interspeech*, 2017.
3. Kai Zhao, Liang Huang, and Mingbo Ma. “[Textual Entailment with Structured Attentions and Composition.](#)” *Proceedings of COLING*, 2016. (code)
4. Feifei Zhai, Liang Huang, and Kai Zhao. “[Search-Aware Tuning for Hierarchical Phrase-based Decoding.](#)” *Proceedings of EMNLP*, 2015.
5. Kai Zhao, Hany Hassan, and Michael Auli. “[Learning Translation Models from Monolingual Continuous Representations.](#)” *Proceedings of NAACL*, 2015.
6. Kai Zhao and Liang Huang. “[Type-driven Incremental Semantic Parsing with Polymorphism.](#)” *Proceedings of NAACL*, 2015. (code)
7. Kai Zhao, Liang Huang, Haitao Mi, and Abe Ittycheriah. “[Hierarchical MT Training using Max-Violation Perceptron.](#)” *Proceedings of ACL*, 2014.
8. Kai Zhao, James Cross, and Liang Huang. “[Optimal Incremental Parsing via Best-First Dynamic Programming.](#)” *Proceedings of EMNLP*, 2013.
9. Heng Yu, Liang Huang, Haitao Mi, and Kai Zhao. “[Max-Violation Perceptron and Forced Decoding for Scalable MT Training.](#)” *Proceedings of EMNLP*, 2013.
10. Hao Zhang, Liang Huang, Kai Zhao, and Ryan McDonald. “[Online Learning for Inexact Hypergraph Search.](#)” *Proceedings of EMNLP*, 2013.
11. Yoav Goldberg, Kai Zhao, and Liang Huang. “[Efficient Implementation of Beam-Search Incremental Parsers.](#)” *Proceedings of ACL*, 2013.
12. Kai Zhao and Liang Huang. “[Minibatch and Parallelization for Online Large Margin Structured Learning.](#)” *Proceedings of NAACL*, 2013.

tutorial

Liang Huang, Kai Zhao, and Lemao Liu. “[Scalable Large-Margin Structured Learning: Theory and Algorithms.](#)” *ACL*, 2014.