ZDENĚK KASNER

NLP Researcher and Teacher

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher and Teacher
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University

📅 since 09/2019   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

Research in natural language generation; teaching courses related to programming, machine learning, and language models.

Researcher & Software Developer
Robot Perception Group, CIIRC CTU in Prague

📅 01/2019 – 09/2019   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

Natural language understanding for an automated production line and a collaborative robotic workspace.

Software Developer
AI Center, FEE CTU in Prague

📅 07/2016 – 08/2017   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

Implementing a search engine with intermodal routing for public transport.

Software Developer
CESNET

📅 04/2015 – 07/2016   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

Developing a module for device classification in a high-throughput system for network traffic analysis (NEMEA).

EDUCATION

PhD in Computational Linguistics
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University

📅 10/2019 – 09/2024   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

- **thesis:** Domain Adaptation for Natural Language Generation
- **advisor:** Ondřej Dušek

Master in Artificial Intelligence
Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague

📅 07/2016 – 06/2019   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

- **thesis:** Incorporating Language Models into Non-autoregressive Neural Machine Translation
- dean award & minor degree in Computer Vision

Bachelor in Computer Science
Faculty of Information Technology, CTU in Prague

📅 09/2013 – 06/2016   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

- **thesis:** Flow-Based Classification of Devices in Computer Networks
- graduated with honors

INTERNATIONAL EXP.

PhD Internship
Mila – Quebec AI Institute

📅 02/2023 – 05/2023   ⚲ Montréal, Canada

Research on collaborative LLM agents, advised by Siva Reddy.

PhD Internship
Heriot-Watt University

📅 10/2021 – 12/2021   ⚲ Edinburgh, UK

Research on data-to-text generation from knowledge graphs, advised by Ioannis Konstas.

Research Internship
KDDI Research, Inc.

📅 06/2018 – 09/2018   ⚲ Saitama, Japan

Developing an augmented reality annotation system.

Erasmus+
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

📅 09/2017 – 02/2018   ⚲ Leuven, Belgium

Courses from Master of AI.

VOLUNTEERING

BEST Prague
Board of European Students of Technology

📅 10/2014 – 05/2019   ⚲ Prague, Czechia

Communication and cooperation with students of European universities of technology, organizing events (courses, engineering competitions).

CERTIFICATES

- **Certificate of Proficiency in English (C2)** – Cambridge Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International

LANGUAGES

Czech   ●●●●●
English   ●●●●●
French   ●●●○○
Dutch   ●○○○○

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Kasner, Z.**, & Dušek, O. (2024). Beyond Traditional Benchmarks: Analyzing Behaviors of Open LLMs on Data-to-Text Generation [To appear]. *Proceedings of the ACL 2024 (Volume 1: Long Papers).*

- **Kasner, Z.**, Plátek, O., Schmidtová, P., Balloccu, S., & Dušek, O. (2024). factgenie: A framework for span-based evaluation of generated texts [To appear]. *Proceedings of the 17th International Natural Language Generation Conference (System Demonstrations).*

- Lu, X. H., **Kasner, Z.**, & Reddy, S. (2024). WebLINX: Real-world Website Navigation with Multi-Turn Dialogue [To appear]. *Proceedings of the ICML 2024.*

- **Kasner, Z.**, Garanina, E., Plátek, O., & Dušek, O. (2023). TabGenie: A Toolkit for Table-to-Text Generation. *Proceedings of the ACL (Volume 3: System Demonstrations)*, 444–455.

- **Kasner, Z.**, Konstas, I., & Dušek, O. (2023). Mind the Labels: Describing Relations in Knowledge Graphs With Pretrained Models. *Proceedings of the EACL 2023*, 2390–2407.

- **Kasner, Z.**, & Dušek, O. (2022). Neural Pipeline for Zero-Shot Data-to-Text Generation. *Proceedings of the ACL 2022 (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, 3914–3932.

- Huidrom, R., Dušek, O., **Kasner, Z.**, Ferreira, T. C., & Belz, A. (2022). Two reproductions of a human-assessed comparative evaluation of a semantic error detection system. *Proceedings of the INLG 2022 (Generation Challenges)*, 52–61.

- **Kasner, Z.**, Mille, S., & Dušek, O. (2021). Text-in-Context: Token-Level Error Detection for Table-to-Text Generation. *Proceedings of the INLG 2021*, 259–265.

- **Kasner, Z.**, & Dušek, O. (2020a). Data-to-Text Generation with Iterative Text Editing. *Proceedings of the INLG 2020*, 60–67.

- **Kasner, Z.**, & Dušek, O. (2020b). Train Hard, Finetune Easy: Multilingual Denoising for RDF-to-text Generation. *Proceedings of the INLG 2020 (WebNLG+ Workshop)*, 171–176.

- Dušek, O., & **Kasner, Z.** (2020). Evaluating Semantic Accuracy of Data-to-Text Generation with Natural Language Inference. *Proceedings of the INLG 2020*, 131–137.

TEACHING

Large Language Models

📅 Summer 23/24   📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia

Helping to prepare lectures and assignments.

Introduction to Machine Learning with Python

📅 Winter 23/24, 24/25   📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia

Teaching labs, aiding students online.

Introduction to Linux

📅 Summer 21/22   📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia

Teaching labs (inverted class: no lectures).

Programming I & Introduction to Algorithms

📅 Winter 20/21   📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia

Teaching labs, preparing and evaluating assignments.

last modified: October 22, 2024

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- 💬 **Natural Language Generation**
  - Data-to-text Generation
  - Evaluation
- ⚗ **Miscellaneous**
  - Low-Resource NLP
  - Model interpretability
  - Reasoning

ORGANIZER

- **PracticalD2T Workshop** @ INLG 2024
  Co-organizer
- **PracticalD2T Workshop** @ INLG 2023
  Main organizer
- **SIGDIAL & INLG 2023**
  Local organizer

AWARDS

- **Honorable mention** – CU Grant Agency award (2023)
- **Outstanding reviewer** at EACL 2021
- **Best short paper** at INLG 2020 (Dušek and Kasner, 2020)

REFEREES

Ondřej Dušek (Charles University)
👤 PhD Advisor
✉ odusek@ufal.mff.cuni.cz

Siva Reddy (Mila - Quebec AI Institute)
👤 PhD Internship Supervisor
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Ioannis Konstas (Heriot-Watt University)
👤 PhD Internship Supervisor
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