

Yapei Chang

📍 College Park, MD ✉ yapeic@umd.edu 🔗 <https://lilakk.github.io/> 🌐 lilakk

Technical Skills

Python, PyTorch, distributed training, SFT, RL, AWS, Golang, Java, JavaScript, C

Education

University of Maryland, College Park

Jan 2025 – Present

PhD in Computer Science

- Advised by [Prof. Mohit Iyyer](#) 🔗

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Sep 2022 – Jan 2025

MS in Computer Science

- Advised by [Prof. Mohit Iyyer](#) 🔗, obtained the MS degree in the MS/PhD program here before transferring

Smith College

Sep 2018 – May 2022

BA in Computer Science; Minor in Mathematics

Work Experience

Software Developer Engineer Intern *Amazon (Seattle, WA)*

May 2021 – Aug 2021

- Worked as a full-stack developer in the Make on Demand team on printer quality assurance.
- Skills involved: React, TypeScript, single-table non-relational database design, DynamoDB, Golang, GraphQL, AWS state machines and other AWS microservices.

Ongoing Projects

RL for instruction following

- Training models using GRPO with verifiable rewards

Long-context instruction tuning of language models

- Finetuning open-source models on long-form instruction data with distributed training optimizations (FSDP, DeepSpeed-Ulysses)

Publications

CLIPPER: Compression enables long-context synthetic data generation

Preprint

Chau Minh Pham, **Yapei Chang**, Mohit Iyyer

[PDF](#) 🔗

PostMark: A Robust Blackbox Watermark for Large Language Models

EMNLP 2024

Yapei Chang, Kalpesh Krishna, Amir Houmansadr, John Wieting, Mohit Iyyer

[PDF](#) 🔗

FABLES: Evaluating faithfulness and content selection in book-length summarization

COLM 2024

Yekyung Kim, **Yapei Chang**, Marzena Karpinska, Aparna Garimella, , Varun Manjunatha, Kyle Lo, Tanya Goyal, Mohit Iyyer

[PDF](#) 🔗

BooookScore: A Systematic Exploration of Book-length Summarization in the Era of LLMs

ICLR 2024

Oral Presentation
(Top 1.2%)

Yapei Chang, Kyle Lo, Tanya Goyal, Mohit Iyyer

[PDF](#) 🔗

RankGen: Improving Text Generation with Large Ranking Models

EMNLP 2022

Kalpesh Krishna, *Yapei Chang*, John Wieting, Mohit Iyyer

Oral Presentation
(Top 21.1%)

[PDF](#) [↗](#)

RELiC: Retrieving Evidence for Literary Claims

ACL 2022

Katherine Thai, *Yapei Chang*, Kalpesh Krishna, Mohit Iyyer

[PDF](#) [↗](#)

A Broader Range for 'Meaning the Same Thing': Human Against Machine on Hard Paraphrase Detection Tasks

ACS 2020

Jamie C. Macbeth, *Yapei Chang*, Jingyu Gin Chen, Yining Hua, Sandra Grandic, Winnie X. Zheng

[PDF](#) [↗](#)

Teaching

PhD Mentor for the UMass Industry Mentor Program (with Microsoft)

Jan 2025 – Present

PhD Mentor for the UMass Industry Mentor Program (with Cohere)

Feb 2024 – May 2024

TA for CS685 Advanced Natural Language Processing

Feb 2023 – May 2023

Community Service

ACL ARR Reviewer

- February 2025, October 2024, August 2024, June 2024, and a few cycles in 2023

ICLR Reviewer

- 2025