Yating Wu

PhD Student

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Research Overview

My research primarily concentrates on **text generation, evaluation, and their applications**. My experience includes:

- Enhancing text comprehension through discourse relationships within documents. Specifically, I work on problems related to **"Questions Under Discussion"**.
- Enhancing the planning and tool using ability of LLM agents.

Education

2022 – Now **Ph.D. in Computer Engineering**, *The University of Texas at Austin*
Advisors: Jessy Li, Alex Dimakis

2020 – 2024 **M.S. in Computer Engineering**, *The University of Texas at Austin*
Advisors: Jessy Li, Alex Dimakis

2014 – 2019 **B.Eng. in Computer Science & B.A. in Japanese**, *Dalian University of Technology*

2017 - 2018 **Exchange student in Computer Science**, *The University of Tokyo*
Advisor: Toshihiko Yamasaki

Publications

[1] **Yating Wu***, Ritika Rajesh Mangla*, Alexandros G. Dimakis, Greg Durrett, Junyi Jessy Li. "Which questions should I answer? Salience Prediction of Inquisitive Questions." Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing **(EMNLP Oral)**, 2024. **Outstanding Paper Award.** [Paper]

[2] Negin Raoof*, **Yating Wu***, Carlos Bonilla*, Junyi Jessy Li, Stephanie M Grasso, Alex Dimakis, Zoi Gkalitsiou. "Modeling Bilingual Disfluencies with Large Language Models." Workshop on LLMs and Cognition in International Conference on Machine Learning **(ICML Workshop)**, 2024. [Paper]

[3] **Yating Wu**, Ritika Rajesh Mangla, Greg Durrett, Junyi Jessy Li. "QUDeval: The Evaluation of Questions Under Discussion Discourse Parsing." Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing **(EMNLP Oral)**, 2023. [Paper]

[4] **Yating Wu***, William Sheffield*, Kyle Mahowald, and Junyi Jessy Li. "Elaborative Simplification as Implicit Questions Under Discussion." Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing **(EMNLP)**, 2023. [Paper]

[5] Wei-Jen Ko, **Yating Wu**, Cutter Dalton, Dananjay Srinivas, Greg Durrett and Junyi Jessy Li. "Discourse Analysis via Questions and Answers: Parsing Dependency Structures of Questions Under Discussion." Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics **(ACL)**, 2023. [Paper]

[6] Venelin Kovatchev, Trina Chatterjee, Venkata S Govindarajan, Jifan Chen, Eunsol Choi, Gabriella Chronis, Anubrata Das, Katrin Erk, Matthew Lease, Junyi Jessy Li, **Yating Wu**, Kyle Mahowald. "longhorns at DADC 2022: How many linguists does it take to fool a Question Answering model? A systematic approach to adversarial attacks." DADC Workshop in The Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics **(NAACL Workshop)**, 2022 [Paper]

Professional Experience

May - Aug. 2024 **Applied Scientist Intern**, *Amazon Alexa AGI*, Sunnyvale, CA
- Worked on research problem for enhancing the planning and tool-using capabilities of LLM agents.

Jun. - Aug. 2023 **Software Engineer Intern**, *Amazon Prime Video*, Austin, TX
- Implemented an in-game notification system using Rule Engine.

Jun. - Sept. 2021 **Software Engineer Intern**, *Amazon Prime Video*, Austin, TX
- Implemented a Java-based Ranking System for live events.

Teaching Experience

CS391L **Machine Learning (graduate level)**, ***Head Teaching Assistant***, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

CS391L **Machine Learning (graduate level)**, *Teaching Assistant*, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

EE422C **Software design & implementation II (Java)**, *Teaching Assistant*, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Mentoring Experience

Master's student **Ritika Mangla**, 2022-2024, co-authored paper [1] and [2]

Honors

Nov. 2024 **Outstanding paper award in EMNLP 2024**

Jul. 2021 **1st place in VMware Codehouse Palo Alto**

Jun. 2019 **Outstanding graduates of Dalian University of Technology**

Jun. 2014 **Outstanding graduates of Anshan No.3 Senior High School**

Skills

Programming Python, Java, C/C++, JavaScript(TypeScript), Bash, SQL, HTML/CSS, Kotlin, LaTeX

Tools Tensorflow, PyTorch, Stanford CoreNLP, NLTK, Amazon Web Service, Cuda Programming, Mockito, Guice, DynamoDB

Languages English (fluent), Japanese (business level - JLPT N1), Chinese (native)