Marco Cognetta

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Education

2022-Present PhD Computer Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan

- Advisor: Dr. Naoaki Okazaki
- MEXT Scholar (文部科学省奨学金)
- Expected Graduation Fall 2025

2016-2018 MS Computer Science, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea

- Advisor: Dr. Yo-Sub Han
- Thesis: Efficient Algorithms for Two Parsing Problems on Probabilistic Finite Automata

2011-2015 BS Discrete Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

- Minor in Korean
- Advisor: Dr. Anton Leykin
- Thesis: Straight Line Programs and Automatic Differentiation in Python

Work Experience

05/22-Present PhD Student Researcher, Google, Tokyo, Japan

- Researcher focusing on language modeling and federated analytics on the Gboard team.
- Developing efficient decoders for on-device language models.

08/19-04/22 Software Engineer, Google, Mountain View, CA

- Developed compressed statistical language models for mobile keyboard input.
- Developed TensorFlow Federated infrastructure and compressed sketching models for privacypreserving federated analytics.
- TA for Google Tech Exchange Applied Data Structures and Algorithms (2020, 2021).

02/19-05/19 Software Engineering Intern, Google, New York City, NY

- Developed a compression algorithm for finite-state transducers used in keyboard language models to reduced space requirements by >90% over the uncompressed version and >58%over the prior production compression scheme (published as a first-author paper).
- 09/16-12/18 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea
- 01/16-05/16 Upper School Computer Science Teacher, Maclay School, Tallahassee, FL
- 05/15-08/15 Data Science Intern, AirSage Inc., Atlanta, GA
- 05/12-08/12 Software Development Intern, AirSage Inc., Atlanta, GA

Skills

- Programming Languages: Python, C++, Julia
- Tools: PyTorch, Flux.jl, OpenFst, TensorFlow Federated
- Human Languages: English, Korean, Esperanto

Publications (*denotes primary authorship)

1. Tokenization as Finite-State Transduction

- Marco Cognetta*, Naoaki Okazaki. Computational Linguistics (to appear).
- 2. The bread emoji Team's Submission to the 2025 FedCSIS Predicting Chess Puzzle Difficulty Challenge
 - Tyler Woodruff, Luke Imbing, Marco Cognetta. FedCSIS 2025 (to appear).
 - Our submission placed 2nd and won a \$500 USD prize.

3. Pitfalls, Subtleties, and Techniques in Automata-Based Subword-Level Constrained Generation

- Marco Cognetta*, David Pohl*, Junyoung Lee, Naoaki Okazaki. TokShop 2025.
- 4. Jamo-Level Subword Tokenization in Low-Resource Korean Machine Translation
 - Junyoung Lee*, Marco Cognetta*, Sangwhan Moon, Naoaki Okazaki. LoResMT 2025.

5. Distributional Properties of Subword Regularization

- Marco Cognetta*, Vilém Zouhar, Naoaki Okazaki. EMNLP 2024.
- 6. The bread emoji Team's Submission to the IEEE BigData 2024 Cup: Predicting Chess Puzzle Difficulty Challenge
 - Tyler Woodruff, Oleg Filatov, Marco Cognetta. IEEE Big Data 2024.
 - Our submission won 1st place and a \$1000 USD prize.

7. Two Counterexamples to Tokenization and the Noiseless Channel

- Marco Cognetta*, Vilém Zouhar, Sangwhan Moon, Naoaki Okazaki. LREC-COLING 2024.
- 8. Parameter-Efficient Korean Character-Level Language Modeling
 - Marco Cognetta*, Sangwhan Moon, Lawrence Wolf-Sonkin, Naoaki Okazaki. EACL 2023.
- 9. SoftRegex: Generating Regex from Natural Language Descriptions using Softened Regex Equivalence

- Jun-U Park, Sang-Ki Ko, Marco Cognetta, Yo-Sub Han. EMNLP 2019.
- 10. On the Compression of Lexicon Transducers
 - Marco Cognetta*, Cyril Allauzen, Michael Riley. FSMNLP 2019.
- 11. Online Infix Probability Computation for Probabilistic Finite Automata
 - Marco Cognetta*, Yo-Sub Han, Soon Chan Kwon. ACL 2019.
- 12. Incremental Computation of Infix Probabilities for Probabilistic Finite Automata
 - Marco Cognetta*, Yo-Sub Han, Soon Chan Kwon. EMNLP 2018.
- 13. Online Stochastic Pattern Matching
 - Marco Cognetta*, Yo-Sub Han. CIAA 2018.

Preprints (*denotes primary authorship)

- 1. Tutorial: φ -Transductions in OpenFst via the Gallic Semiring
 - Marco Cognetta*, Cyril Allauzen.
 - https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.17942
- 2. An Analysis of BPE Vocabulary Trimming in Neural Machine Translation
 - Marco Cognetta*, Tatsuya Hiraoka, Naoaki Okazaki, Rico Sennrich, Yuval Pinter.
 - https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.00397

Conference Talks

- 1. LotteryTickets.jl: Sparsify Your Flux Models
 - JuliaCon 2023 (Boston, USA)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmcaUyZLi4Q
 - https://github.com/mcognetta/LotteryTickets.jl

Invited Talks

- 1. Subword Tokenization Meets Subword Regularization
 - Developments in Language Theory (DLT) Invited Tutorial (August 2025, Seoul)
 - https://github.com/mcognetta/subword_tokenization_meets_formal_language_theory
- 2. The Tokenization Landscape
 - National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology Artificial Intelligence Research Center's Knowledge and Information Research Team (AIST AIRC-KIRT) (March 2024, Tokyo)

Service

- Women in Science Japan's Machine Learning Summer School for Scientists Mentor (2025)
- Seminars on Formal Languages and Neural Networks (FLaNN) (https://flann.super.site/) Co-organizer (2022 Present)
- Workshop for Natural Language Processing Open Source Software (NLP-OSS) Programme Committee (2023)
- The Gradient (https://thegradient.pub/) Editorial Board (2021 2024)
- FSU ACM Programming Contest Question Writer (2020, 2021^(x2), 2022)
- Hackbright Academy Volunteer Mentor (2020^(x2), 2021)
- ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (Korea Regional) Question Writer (2017, 2018)

- Advising

- 1. Gordon Lichtstein (2024) Esperanto Morphological Tokenization
 - High School Extracurricular Senior Project
- 2. Junyoung Lee (2023) Jamo-Level BPE in Korean Machine Translation
 - Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) Bachelor's Thesis
 - Accepted as a full paper at LoResMT 2025
- 3. Emil Hukic (2022) FST Tokenization for NLP
 - Young Science and Engineering Researchers Program (YSEP) Final Project
- 4. Kosuke Endo (2022) 画像キャプション生成におけるJPEG圧縮への頑健性の改善
 - English Title: Improved Robustness to JPEG Compression in Image Caption Generation
 - Tokyo Institute of Technology Bachelor's Thesis (co-advised with Zhishen Yang)
 - Presented at the Japanese Association for Natural Language Processing conference (NLP2023)
- 5. Haksu Kim, Yumin Lim, Myeongjang Pyeon (2018) Solving k-MPS using Probabilistic Finite-State Automata
 - Yonsei University Capstone Project