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The University of Texas at Dallas 2024 - present - Ph.D. in Computer Science Dallas, TX, USA

- Advisor: Zhiyu Zoey Chen

2023 - 2024 Virginia Tech (transferred out) - Ph.D. in Computer Science Blacksburg, VA, USA

Soochow University

2020 - 2023 - M.S. in Computer Science Suzhou, Jiangsu, China

- Advisors: Wenliang Chen, Xiabing Zhou - Outstanding Graduate; Outstanding Thesis

Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications

2016 - 2020 - B.Eng. in Computer Science Nanjing, Jiangsu, China

- GPA: 3.96 / 5 (Top 3% in the Department)

Research Summary

My current research focuses on enhancing language models for social good, with a particular emphasis on health domains [1, 2, 4]. I am actively working on post-training techniques, such as reinforcement learning from human feedback [1, 6], and synthetic data generation [1, 7] to equip models with complex and reliable capabilities, including professional response generation and personalization. I have experience in evaluating and improving language models, particularly in their efficacy for health applications [2], rule-learning capabilities [3], and dialogue abilities [5, 6, 7, 8]. Additionally, I have a strong interest in vision-language models, retrieval-augmented methods, and language agents. Totally, I have 9 papers along these directions including 7 first-authored papers and 7 peer-reviewed publications in top-tier Al conferences such as ACL, NAACL, NeurIPS, etc.

Research Experiences

Human Language Technology Research Institute at UTD

Sep. 2024 - present Student Researcher (Advisor: Zhiyu Zoey Chen) Dallas, TX

Topics: Preference Learning, LLM Personalization

May. 2024 - Jul. 2024 Tencent Al Lab Research Intern (Mentors: Haitao Mi, Linfeng Song) Seattle, WA

Topics: Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback

Dec. 2021 - Dec. 2022 Tencent Al Lab Shenzhen, China Research Intern (Mentor: Lifeng Jin)

Topics: Dialogue Understanding, Semi-supervised Learning

Institute of Human Language Technology at Soochow University Sep. 2020 - Jul. 2021 Suzhou, China

Student Researcher (Advisors: Wenliang Chen, Xiabing Zhou)

Topics: Dialogue State Tracking, Conversational Emotion Recognition

Papers (*denotes equal contribution)

1. Aligning Large Language Models to Assist in Psychotherapy (Ongoing) Mian Zhang, Shaun M. Eack, Zhiyu Chen.

2. CBT-Bench: Evaluating Large Language Models on Assisting Cognitive Behavior Therapy (NAACL 2025)

- **Mian Zhang***, Xianjun Yang*, Xinlu Zhang, Travis Labrum, Jamie C. Chiu, Shaun M. Eack, Fei Fang, William Yang Wang, Zhiyu Chen.
- 3. IDEA: Enhancing the Rule Learning Ability of Large Language Model Agent through Induction, Deduction, and Abduction (NeurlPS 2024 Workshop on Open-World Agents, ACL under submission)
 - Kaiyu He, Mian Zhang, Shuo Yan, Peilin Wu, Zhiyu Zoey Chen.
- 4. Large Language Models for Disease Diagnosis: A Scoping Review (*Preprint*)
 Shuang Zhou*, Zidu Xu*, **Mian Zhang***, Chunpu Xu*, Yawen Guo, Zaifu Zhan, Sirui Ding,
 Jiashuo Wang, Kaishuai Xu, Yi Fang, Liqiao Xia, Jeremy Yeung, Daochen Zha, Mingquan Lin,
 Rui Zhang.
- 5. Inconsistent dialogue responses and how to recover from them (*EACL 2024*) **Mian Zhang**, Lifeng Jin, Linfeng Song, Haitao Mi, Dong Yu.
- 6. SafeConv: Explaining and Correcting Conversational Unsafe Bahavior (*ACL 2023 Oral*) **Mian Zhang**, Lifeng Jin, Linfeng Song, Haitao Mi, Wenliang Chen, Dong Yu.
- 7. Friend-training: Learning from Different but Related Tasks (*EACL 2023*) **Mian Zhang**, Lifeng Jin, Linfeng Song, Haitao Mi, Xiabing Zhou, Dong Yu.
- 8. Emotion Recognition in Conversation from Variable-Length Context (*ICASSP 2023*) **Mian Zhang**, Xiabing Zhou, Wenliang Chen, Min Zhang.
- 9. A Pairing Enhancement Approach for Aspect Sentiment Triplet Extraction (KSEM 2023) Fang Yang, Mian Zhang, Gongzhen Hu, Xiabing Zhou.

Skills

Programming Language: Python, C/C++, Shell, Language: Python,

Machine Learning Framework: PyTorch, NumPy, Transformers, Scikit-learn

Tool & Software: Vim, Git, pdb, Matplotlib, Pandas

Natural Language: Mandarin (native), English (advanced)

Selected Awards

Outstanding Master's Thesis	2024
Outstanding Graduate Award at Soochow University	2023
First-class Scholarship at Soochow University	2020 - 2021
Principal's Award	2019
CUMCM National First Prize (top 1%)	2018
First-class Scholarship at NJUPT	2017 - 2019