

Deric Pang

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EXPERIENCE

Figma

July 2023 – Present

Senior Research Engineer

New York, NY

- Lead the modeling and quality of new design generation AI features.
- Improved the human rater score of AI-generated designs by over 70%.
- Built the LLM finetuning infrastructure used by Figma's machine learning engineers.
- Developed the evaluation strategy for new text- and vision-based design search.

Google

Sept. 2019 – July 2023

Senior Software Engineer, Tech Lead

New York, NY

- Worked on semantic parsing and question answering for Google Search.
- Tech lead improving Google Search query understanding via distillation from LLMs.
- Built a system to mine entity relations from web documents.

UW Natural Language Processing

Jan. 2018 – June 2019

Researcher, advised by Noah Smith

University of Washington

- Improved textual inference by incorporating syntactic information in neural models [2].

Unity Technologies

June 2018 – Sept. 2018

Machine Learning Intern

San Francisco, CA

- Shipped multi-agent curriculum learning in the Unity Machine Learning Agents Toolkit.

NVIDIA

March 2018 – June 2018

Applied Research Intern

Redmond, WA

- Developed and investigated methods of training neural networks in simulation for autonomous navigation.
- Built a rover which was 7% more autonomous than robots using previously published techniques.

Programming Languages and Software Engineering Lab

March 2015 – Jan. 2018

Researcher, advised by Michael Ernst, Luke Zettlemoyer, and René Just

University of Washington

- Worked on Tellina, a tool to generate bash commands from plain English using deep learning [1].
- Created an automatic bug finder using patch minimization and delta debugging techniques [3].

Amazon Alexa AI

June 2017 – Sept. 2017

Software Development Engineering Intern

Seattle, WA

- Shipped features in Amazon's internal deep learning framework specialized for speech recognition.
- Built a system to automatically convert Alexa's acoustic model into other deep learning frameworks.

EDUCATION

University of Washington

Sept. 2014 – June 2019

B.S. & M.S. in Computer Science

Thesis: *Improving Natural Language Inference with Syntactic Word Representations*

Honors: *cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award (Honorable Mention)

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] X. V. Lin, C. Wang, D. Pang, K. Vu, L. Zettlemoyer, and M. D. Ernst. Program synthesis from natural language using recurrent neural networks. Technical report, University of Washington, 2017.
- [2] D. Pang, L. H. Lin, and N. A. Smith. Improving natural language inference with a pretrained parser. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1909.08217*, 2019.
- [3] S. Pearson, J. Campos, R. Just, G. Fraser, R. Abreu, M. D. Ernst, D. Pang, and B. Keller. Evaluating and improving fault localization. In *ICSE*, 2017.