

WASI UDDIN AHMAD

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Developing computational algorithms that (1) reduce the need for large-scale annotated data to train NLP models from scratch; (2) adapt to new domains and languages with fewer labeled examples.

Learning universal language representations utilizing data from multiple sources, designing new learning objective to bridge the gap between different learning signals, developing flexible model architecture to enable cross-domain and cross-language transfer is the fundamental objective of my research.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science

09.2017 - Present

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

CGPA: 3.78 on a scale of 4.00

Advisor: Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

Master of Computer Science

08.2015 - 08.2017

University of Virginia (UVA)

CGPA: 4.00 on a scale of 4.00

Advisor: Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering

01.2008 - 02.2013

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)

CGPA: 3.81 on a scale of 4.00

Position: Ranked 8th in a class of 142 students

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Peng, N., & Chang, K. W. (2021). GATE: Graph Attention Transformer Encoder for Cross-lingual Relation and Event Extraction. In Proceedings of the 35th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), (to appear).
2. Chakraborty, S., Tafseer, M. T., & **Ahmad, W. U.** (2021). Simple or Complex? Learning to Predict Readability of Bengali Texts. In Proceedings of the 35th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), (to appear).
3. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chi, J., Tian, Y., & Chang, K. W. (2020). PolicyQA: A Reading Comprehension Dataset for Privacy Policies. In Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (pp. 743–749).
4. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chakraborty, S., Ray, B., & Chang, K. W. (2020). A Transformer-based Approach for Source Code Summarization. In Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) (pp. 4998–5007).
5. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). Cross-lingual Dependency Parsing with Unlabeled Auxiliary Languages. In Proceedings of the 23rd Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL) (pp. 372–382).

6. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2019). Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion. In Proceedings of the 42nd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 385–394). ACM.
7. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Hovy, E., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). On Difficulties of Cross-Lingual Transfer with Order Differences: A Case Study on Dependency Parsing. In Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers) (pp. 2440–2452).
8. Duong, D., **Ahmad, W. U.**, Eskin, E., Chang, K. W., & Li, J. J. (2019). Word and sentence embedding tools to measure semantic similarity of Gene Ontology terms by their definitions. Journal of Computational Biology, 26(1), 38-52.
9. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Intent-aware query obfuscation for privacy protection in personalized web search. In The 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 285-294). ACM.
10. Yu, P., **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Wang, H. (2018). Hide-n-Seek: An Intent-aware Privacy Protection Plugin for Personalized Web Search. In The 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 1333–1336). ACM.
11. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Multi-task learning for document ranking and query suggestion. In Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).
12. **Ahmad, W. U.**, & Chang, K. W. (2018). A Corpus to Learn Refer-to-as Relations for Nominals. In Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC).
13. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Rahman, M. M., & Wang, H. (2016). Topic model based privacy protection in personalized Web search. In Proceedings of the 39th International ACM SIGIR conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 1025–1028). ACM.

PREPRINTS

1. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Bai, X., Lee, S., & Chang, K. W. (2020). Select, Extract and Generate: Neural Keyphrase Generation with Syntactic Guidance. arXiv preprint arXiv:2008.01739.
2. **Ahmad, W. U.**, Bai, X., Peng, N., & Chang, K. W. (2018). Learning Robust, Transferable Sentence Representations for Text Classification. arXiv preprint arXiv:1810.00681.

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Investigating the role of language syntax in cross-lingual transfer.
- Developing a new benchmark to facilitate predicting privacy practices described in privacy policies.
- Developing a unified model for source code summarization, generation, and translation.

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

Yahoo Research, Sunnyvale, CA Research Intern, Ad Quality Science	<i>06.2019 - 09.2019</i>
Microsoft AI & Research, Redmond, WA Research Intern, Business Applications Group	<i>06.2018 - 09.2018</i>
Walmart Labs, Reston, VA Research Intern, Wireless Fraud Prevention	<i>06.2016 - 08.2016</i>
REVE Systems, Dhaka, Bangladesh Software Development Engineer, Android	<i>02.2013 - 10.2013</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Computer Science II. Instructor: David Smallberg. *01.2019 - 06.2019*
- Introduction to Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *01.2018 - 03.2018*

University of Virginia

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Advanced Machine Learning. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *01.2017 - 05.2017*
- Natural Language Processing. Instructor: Kai-Wei Chang. *08.2016 - 12.2016*
- Advanced Software Development. Instructor: Tom Horton. *08.2015 - 05.2016*
- Capstone Practicum I & II. Instructor: Aaron Bloomfield. *08.2015 - 05.2016*

Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology

Lecturer, Department of Computer Science

11.2013 - 08.2015

TALKS

- Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion, SIGIR 2019
- Multi-Task Learning, Machine Learning Seminar, UCLA, November 2017

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Program Committee/Reviewer

- 2021: ACL-IJCNLP, IJCAI, NAACL, EACL, AAAI
- 2020: EMNLP, ICML, IJCAI, AAAI, LREC
- others: NAACL 2019, EMNLP 2018 (secondary reviewer), etc.

Internal Service, Department of Computer science, University of Virginia

- Student Volunteer in the Mentee-Mentor Program for new graduate students. 16'.
- Student Ambassador for assisting prospective students. 16'.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- SIGIR Student Travel Grant *2016, 2019*
- ICLR Travel Award *2018*
- Graduate Division Fellowships, UCLA *2017*
- William L Ballard Jr Endowed Graduate Fellowship, UVA *2017*
- Graduate Division Fellowships, UVA *2015 - 2016*
- Dean's List Award, BUET *2008-09 to 2010-11*
- University Merit Scholarship, BUET *2007-08 to 2010-11*

REFERENCES

Available on request.