Zijie Wang

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Education

University of Arizona — Tucson, AZ, USA
Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science — *Aug. 2022 – Expected May 2026*
- Advisor: Dr. Eduardo Blanco

Arizona State University (Transferred with advisor) — Tempe, AZ, USA
Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science — *Jan. 2022 – Aug. 2022*
- Advisor: Dr. Eduardo Blanco

Arizona State University — Tempe, AZ, USA
Master of Science, Computer Science — *Aug. 2019 – Dec. 2021*
- Thesis Track, Advisor: Dr. Jia Zou

Beijing Information Science & Technology University — Beijing, China
Bachelor of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology — *Sept. 2015 – June 2019*

Research Interests

Natural language processing, question answering, dialogue system, multilingual understanding, large language models, retrieval-augmented generation, and multimodal learning,.

Publications

1. **Zijie Wang**, Farzana Rashid, and Eduardo Blanco. Interpreting answers to yes-no questions in dialogues from multiple domains. In Kevin Duh, Helena Gomez, and Steven Bethard, editors, *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: **NAACL 2024***, pages 2111–2128, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2024. Association for Computational Linguistics

2. **Zijie Wang**, Md Hossain, Shivam Mathur, Terry Melo, Kadir Ozler, Keun Park, Jacob Quintero, MohammadHossein Rezaei, Shreya Shakya, Md Uddin, and Eduardo Blanco. Interpreting indirect answers to yes-no questions in multiple languages. In Houda Bouamor, Juan Pino, and Kalika Bali, editors, *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: **EMNLP 2023***, pages 2210–2227, Singapore, December 2023. Association for Computational Linguistics

3. Lixi Zhou, Arindam Jain, **Zijie Wang**, Amitabh Das, Yingzhen Yang, and Jia Zou. Benchmark of dnn model search at deployment time. In *Proceedings of the 34th International Conference on Scientific and Statistical Database Management*, **SSDBM '22**, New York, NY, USA, 2022. Association for Computing Machinery

4. **Zijie Wang**, Lixi Zhou, and Jia Zou. Integration of fast-evolving data sources using a deep learning approach. In ***Software Foundations for Data Interoperability and Large Scale Graph Data Analytics***, pages 172–186. Springer, 2020

Experience

Dolby Laboratories, Advanced Technology Group — Atlanta, GA, USA
PhD Research Intern — *May 2025 – Aug. 2025*
Mentor: Pranav Maneriker, Manager: Fan Du

- Mitigating Ambiguity in Audio-Video Question Answering. Ongoing research project.

University of Arizona, Department of Computer Science — Tucson, AZ, USA
Research Assistant — *Aug. 2022 – May 2025*
Advisor: Dr. Eduardo Blanco

Selected research projects:

- Leveraging Commonsense Reasoning with Negation for Negation Understanding.
  We present a data augmentation method to develop large scale Commonsense reasoning dataset with negation. Comprehensive experiments demonstrate that this dataset is beneficial for LLMs to understand negation. **(One first-author paper in submission)**
- Identifying and Answering Questions with False Assumptions.
  We propose a method based on evidence retrieval to identify questions with false assumptions. We develop an assumption extraction approach that answers the questions with interpretability. The combined approach yields SOTA on three datasets with human validated interpretability. **(One first-author paper in submission)**
- Interpreting Indirect Answers to Yes-No Questions.
  We develop so far the largest yes-no question datasets in multi-domains (three domains) and multiple languages (nine languages). We investigate a distant supervision method that leverages auto-labelled data to interpret the indirect answers to yes-no questions.
  Two first-author papers published at NAACL 2024 Findings [1] and EMNLP 2023 Findings [2]
  Github Repo

Awards

OpenAI Researcher Access Program Credits	Jan. 2025
EMNLP 2024 Outstanding Reviewer	Dec. 2024
UofA GPSC Travel Fund Award	Dec. 2023
Department of Cognitive Science Travel Award	Nov. 2023
Outstanding Graduates, Beijing City	June 2019

Skills

Programming Language: Python, Java, Perl, Scala, SQL

Machine Learning & NLP Tools: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras; vLLM, LangChain, NLTK, spaCy

Language Models: (Encoder and Decoder-based) Transformers, GPT-X, Llama, DeepSeek R1 etc.

Services

Conference review: ACL 2023, EMNLP 2023, AACL 2023, ACL Rolling Review (regularly)