Ting-Wei Wu

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Applied Scientist at Amazon and Research Interests in *DL, NLP, RL, speech, vision & conversational AI.*

Education

Georgia Institute of Technology — Atlanta, GA
Ph.D. in Machine Learning; GPA: 3.90 — *Aug. 2019 - Aug. 2023*
Advised by Dr. Biing-Hwang Juang

University of California, Berkeley — Berkeley, CA
M.Eng. in Bioengineering; GPA: 3.83 — *Aug. 2017 – May. 2018*
Advised by Dr. Aaron Streets

National Taiwan University — Taipei, Taiwan
B.S. & M.S. in Electrical Engineering; GPA: B.S. 3.82 (3.93/4.3); M.S. 4.00 (4.22/4.3) — *Sep. 2012 – Jul. 2017*
Advised by Dr. Chih-Ting Lin

Skills

Languages & Tools: **Python**, **C & C++**, **MATLAB**, **SQL**, Verilog, VBA, Java
Technologies: Pytorch, Tensorflow, Transformers, Docker, GPU, Flask, AWS, Linux OS, Git, AutoCAD, Photoshop, COMSOL
Coursera Certificates: Advanced ML (DL, Bayesian, RL, NLP), Deep Learning Specialization, Machine Learning
Courses: Math in ML, Probabilistic Graphical Model, Computational Data Analysis, Convex Optimization, Deep Learning, Deep Learning for texts, Digital Image Processing, Data Structures and Programming, Computer Vision, Operating Systems.

Professional Experience

- **Applied Scientist, Amazon** — Bellevue, WA
  Alexa AI - Intelligent Decision team **(pytorch, transformers)** — *Aug. 2023 - Now*
  - Skill-routing research: Developed and lauched new deep learning-based conversational frameworks for more robust and intelligent decision making in Alexa systems and improved current production performance in contextual bandit setup.

- **Research Scientist Intern, Meta** — Sunnyvale, CA
  Meta Reality Labs, Fast AI team **(pytorch, transformers, pytext, fairseq)** — *Aug. - Nov. 2022*
  - Cross-lingual transfer: Developed multilingual conversational dialog system to allow cross-lingual transfer from high-resource to low-resource languages. Published in **ACL'23** and received **Outstanding Paper Award (Oral)**.
  - Adapter fusion: Showed BLEU and slot error rate improvement by proposing an adapter-based framework to dynamically training language adapters and fusion modules. Discovered zero-shot performance and benchmarked with large LLMs.

- **Applied Scientist Intern, Amazon** — Seattle, WA
  Alexa AI - Natural Understanding team **(pytorch, T5, VAE)** — *May. - Aug. 2022*
  - Data augmentation in skill routing: Devised a new heterogeneous data augmentation framework with conditional generative network with variational latent space to increase model robustness of Alexa skill routing and action planning components.
  - Replication policy: Showed replication rate improvement on utterances on over 70% low-count and low-accuracy intents with augmented data from joint T5 seq2seq models and conditional variational BERT.

- **Applied Scientist Intern, Amazon** — Seattle, WA
  Alexa Speech - Language Modeling team **(pytorch, transformers, lightgbm, libsvm)** — *May. - Aug. 2021*
  - ASR second pass rescoring: Adopted LambdaMART with listwise loss to rescore N-best hypotheses with miscellaneous linguistic/non-linguistic signals. Introduced WER reduction of 5.16 % in Alexa dataset and 9.38 % in Librispeech test-clean.
  - Feature engineering: Proposed a new ensemble approach of ASR BERT-based confidence sub-models to digest group information and other customer-related signals like query rewrites and error detection signals. Published in **INTERSPEECH'22**.

- **Machine Learning Research Intern, VMware** — Palo Alto, CA
  Storage IO & Performance Engineering team **(pytorch, transformers, nltk, mysql, gensim)** — *May. - Oct. 2020*
  - Causality Extraction: Devised a new two-stream attention BiLSTM-CRF model on causality inference and paragraph-level pairing, enhancing F1 benchmark score to 0.74. Published in two internal conferences **VML'20, RADIO'21**.
  - Knowledge Graph: Established an end-to-end NLP pipeline for inter/intra sentence causality retrieval to extract 2.3k useful causal relations out of 20k problem requests within seconds to construct knowledge network for troubleshoot diagnosis.

- **Graduate Researcher, Speech & Spoken Language Processing Lab** — Atlanta, GA
  Task-oriented dialog understanding, advised by **Dr. Biing H., Juang** (IEEE Fellow, NAE member) — *Aug. 2019 - Jul. 2023*
  - Low-resource: Developed a zero-shot multi-intent label-aware BERT framework for dialog turns. Published in **EMNLP'21**.
  - Context/Knowledge-aware: Devised a new multi-turn dialog context-aware BERT mechanism for multi-task training with a novel knowledge-based attention mechanism. Six papers published in **INTERSPEECH'21, '22**, **ICASSP'22**, **EACL'23**.

Highlighted Projects

- **DeepEyeNet: Image Captioning with keyword-driven report generation** *Image Captioning & NLP*
  Research Project collaborated with Gatech, UvA, KAUST *(keras, tensorflow, pandas)* *Feb. 2019-Nov. 2021*
  - Dataset preparation and evaluation: Prepared 18,854 images annotated by experienced ophthalmologists and designed a new evaluator for the caption generator jointly in adversarial training. Work published in **WACV'21**.
  - Transformer: Devised a new contextual transformer decoder with semantic attention of technical keywords and retinal images for medical image captioning. Introduced BLEU-avg and CIDEr 74% and 87% increase over baseline models and improved abnormality interpretability. Published works in **ICMR'21, ICIP'21, WACV'22, WACV'23**.
- **Machine Translation Quality Estimation** *Natural Language Processing*
  Deep Learning (CS7643) Research Project advised by Facebook AI *(pytorch, transformers, polyglot)* *Jan.-May. 2020*
  - Transfer learning: Exploited predictor-estimator model with new transformer structure to pretrain large quality-labeled translation corpus in common languages and adapt to other scarce language QE data with semi-supervised self training.
  - Ensembling: Ensembled predictions from fine-tuning an estimator and various pretained predictors in several languages like English, Chinese, German to Estonian, Nepali with XGBoost Model, where Pearson score beats baseline 0.11 by 2 times.
- **StackBoxer: Chatroom with bilingual AI chatbots - *https://chatbox.cc*** *Natural Language Processing*
  Full-stack online plaform for functional chatbots *(Pytorch, Django, Docker, PostgreDB)* *Jan.-Mar. 2019*
  - StackBot: Modeled intent/tag identifier from tfidf features and Starspace embeddings for matching Stackoverflow queries.
  - Movie Bot, ChickBot, YourFbBot: Established a customized 2-layer seq2seq model with attention mechanism and self-designed reward mechanism with policy gradient reinforcement set up in Django+Docker+nginx backend environment.
- **Novelty Intervention in Hunter-Gatherer Game of Polycraft** *Reinforcement Learning*
  Research project in DQN funded by DARPA *(pytorch, gym, socket)* *Apr.-Nov. 2020*
  - Target-DQN: Designed a vision-based DQN agent to perform tasks of navigation and localization in Polycraft simulation.
  - Novelty: Introduced adaptation mechanism to new environments with novelty intervention and measure success of actions.
- **Cellspectra: Unsupervised cell image segmentation** *Computer Vision*
  Graduate Lab Researcher advised by Dr. Peng Qiu at Gatech *(keras, tensorflow, MATLAB)* *Jan.-May. 2020*
  - Bacterial segmentation: Developed CNN-based unsupervised object segmentation modules for cell counting and tracking.
  - Raman spectra clustering: Exploited deep embedding clustering on raman vectors from 1-d autoencoder for segmentation.
- **PillNet: A medicine pill recognition search tool in the mobile device** *Computer Vision*
  Entrepreneurship Startup Team with Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan *(tensorflow, opencv, c++)* *Apr.-Jul. 2019*
  - SSD-MobileNet: Developed a pharmaceutical pill identification module in real-time mobile camera to identify pill location with single shot detection model in tensorflow trained with FDA pill image database.
  - Pill recognition: Trained siamese network by minimizing triplet loss to recognize pills and retreive relevance information.
- **Integrated Cell-sorting Sensor System** *Semiconductor*
  UC Berkeley Streets Lab and NTU CMOS Biotechnology Lab Graduate Researcher *(python, sklearn, R)* *2014-2016, 2018*
  - Platform: Devised new impedance-based flow cytometry approach with PDMS nano-fabrication to collect impedance signals and classify cell properties with frequency analysis.
  - ML data analysis: Utilized clustering methods (Naive-Bayes, GMM, K-means, NN) and MATLAB to extract impedance data for library creation. Published work in **MicroTAS'17, IEEE NEMS'17, IMCS'16.**
  - Chip design: Expedited high-throughput droplet grabbing hydrogel beads with parameters by ML optimization.

Other cs-related projects:
Comics generation from wGAN, Chinese lyrics generation by charRNN, Fire event data management with selenium, pandas, SQL, Malaria cell prediction, Kaggle Sales prediction competition, Circuit Fraig and Simulation with C++.

Honors & Awards

- **Outstanding Paper Award**: Oral paper in ACL 2023 *2023*
- **Serving Program Review Committee**: WACV'22/'24, AAAI'23/'24, EMNLP'22/'23, CVPR'23, ECCV'22, ACL'23 *2022-24*
- **Travel Award**: ISCA travel grant for Interspeech 2022 *2022*
- **Taiwan Government Scholarship to Study Abroad**, Taiwan Ministry of Education *2021*
- **Graduate Research Assistantship**, Georgia Tech Electrical & Computer Engineering *2019*
- **Graduate Honor Fellowship**, UC Berkeley Fung Institute of Engineering *2018*
- **Member**, UC Berkeley Golden Key International Honor Society *2018*
- **Graduate Honor Fellowship**, National Taiwan University Graduate Institute of Electronics Engineering *2017*
- **Travel Award**, Taiwan Ministry of Science and Technology. IMCS conference 2016 *2016*
- **Delegate**, Taiwan Model APEC 2014 *2014*
- **School Delegate**, AIESEC Asia-Pacific Exchange and Leadership Development Seminar Symposium *2010*
- **Nominee of Representative of Taiwan**, Global Yong Leaders Conference *2010*

Selected Publications

- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Changsheng Zhao, Ernie Chang, Yangyang Shi, Pierce I-Jen Chuang, Vikas Chandra and Biing-Hwang Juang, "Towards Zero-Shot Multilingual Transfer for Code-Switched Responses" *The 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**) (**Outstanding Paper Award**) (**Oral Presentation**)*, Jul 2023.
- **Ting-Wei Wu** and Biing Juang, "Infusing Context and Knowledge Awareness in Multi-turn Dialog Understanding" *The 17th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**EACL**) (Findings)*, May 2023.
- **Ting-Wei Wu** and Biing-Hwang Juang, "Induce Spoken Dialog Intents via Deep Unsupervised Context Contrastive Clustering." *The 23nd Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (**Interspeech**)*, Sep 2022.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, I-Fan Chen, Ankur Gandhe, "Learning to rank with BERT-based confidence models in ASR rescoring." *The 23nd Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (**Interspeech**)*, Sep 2022.
- **Ting-Wei Wu** and Biing-Hwang Juang, "Knowledge Augmented BERT Mutual Network in Multi-turn Spoken Dialogues." *2022 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (**ICASSP**)*, May 2022.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Ruolin Su and Biing Juang, "A Label-Aware BERT Attention Network for Zero-Shot Multi-Intent Detection in Spoken Language Understanding." *The 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (**EMNLP**)*, Nov 2021.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Ruolin Su and Biing Juang, "A Context-Aware Hierarchical BERT Fusion Network for Multi-turn Dialog Act Detection." *The 22nd Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (**Interspeech**)*, Aug 2021.
- Ruolin Su, **Ting-Wei Wu** and Biing Juang, "Act-Aware Slot-Value Predicting in Multi-Domain Dialogue State Tracking." *The 22nd Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (**Interspeech**)*, Aug 2021.
- Ruolin Su, Jingfeng Yang, **Ting-Wei Wu** and Biing Juang, "Choice Fusion as Knowledge for Zero-Shot Dialogue State Tracking." *2023 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (**ICASSP**)*, Jun 2023.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Jia-Hong Huang, Joseph Lin, Marcel Worring, "Expert-defined Keywords Improve Interpretability of Retinal Image Captioning." *The 2023 IEEE Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (**WACV**)*, Jan 2023.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Jia-Hong Huang, Chao-Han Yang, Zenglin Shi, I-Hung Lin, Jesper Tegner, Marcel Worring, "Non-local Attention Improves Description Generation for Retinal Images." *The 2022 IEEE Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (**WACV**)*, Jan 2022.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Jia-Hong Huang, Chao-Han Yang, Elbert Liu, Hiromasa Morikawa and J. N. Tegner, "Deep Context-Encoding Network for Retinal Image Captioning." *2021 IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (**IEEE ICIP**)*, Sep 2021.
- Jia-Hong Huang, **Ting-Wei Wu** and Marcel Worring, "Contextualized Keyword Representations for Multi-modal Retinal Image Captioning." *ACM International Conference on Multimedia Retrieval (**ICMR**)*, Apr 2021.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Fateme Sheikholeslami, Mohammad Kachuee, Jaeyoung Do, and Sungjin Lee, "Data Augmentation for Improving Tail-traffic Robustness in Skill-routing for Dialogue Systems." *https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.04823*, Jun 2023.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Chien-Chun Hung, Chien-Chia Chen, Razvan Cheveresan, Rajesh Somasundaran, "Two-stream Self-attentive Network for Cross-sentence Causality Reasoning." *The 3rd VMware Machine Learning Conference (**VML**)*, Oct 2020. *Largest VMware General Research Conference (**RADIO**)*, May 2021.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Yung-An Hsieh and Yi-Chieh Liu, "Ensemble-based Transfer Learning for Low-resource Machine Translation Quality Estimation." *arXiv:2105.07622*, May 2021.
- J. H. Huang, C. H. Yang, F. Liu, M. Tian, Y. C. Liu, **T. W. Wu**, I. H. Lin, K. Wang, H. Morikawa, H. H. Chang J. N. Tegner, "DeepOpht: Medical Report Generation for Retinal Images via Deep Models and Visual Explanation." *The 2021 IEEE Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (**WACV**)*, Jan 2021.
- **Ting-Wei Wu** and Chih-Ting Lin, "The development of a microfluidic particle-analyzing device by impedance Spectroscopy" *Master Thesis, Submitted in American Chemical Society (ACS) Sensors*, May 2018.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Chia-Hong Gao, Yi-Zhan Huang, Ting-Wei Lin and Chih-Ting Lin, "Electrode Spatial Design for a New Microfluidics Impedance Cytometer," *The 21st International Conference on Miniaturized Systems for Chemistry and Life Sciences (**MicroTAS**)*, October 2017.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Chia-Hong Gao, Fan-En Chen and Chih-Ting Lin, "Impedance Spectroscopy for Microfluidic Particle-analyzing Device with Spatial-Coplanar Electrode Design," *The 12th Annual IEEE International Conference on Nano/Micro Engineered and Molecular Systems (**IEEE NEMS**)*, April 2017.
- **Ting-Wei Wu**, Chia-Hong Gao and Chih-Ting Lin, "A microfluidic cell counting device based on impedance sensing," *16th International Meeting on Chemical Sensors (**IMCS**)*, July 2016.