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EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Information Sciences Institute (USC ISI)

Ph.D. in Computer Science, Viterbi School of Engineering

Advisor: Prof. [Jonathan May](#)

Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing

2020/9 - Present

Los Angeles, CA, USA

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

B.Eng. in Computer Science, School of Engineering

Graduated with First Class Honors

2013/9 - 2019/6

Hong Kong, HK

PREPRINTS

1. [What is a Good Question? Utility Estimation with LLM-based Simulations](#)

D. Lee, [Hyundong Cho](#), J. May, J. Pujara. 2025

under review

PUBLICATIONS

1. Can Vision Language Models Understand Mimed Actions?

[Hyundong Cho](#), S. Lin, T. Srinivasan, M. Saxon, D. Kwon, N. Chavez, J. May. 2025

ACL 2025 Findings

2. [NewsInterview: Evaluating LLMs' Grounding Gap via Informational Interviews](#)

M. Lu, S. Kalyan, [Hyundong Cho](#), W. Shi, J. May, A. Spangher. 2025

ACL 2025

3. [Tuning-Free Personalized Alignment via Trial-Error-Explain In-Context Learning](#)

[Hyundong Cho](#), K. Sharma, N. Jedema, L. Ribeiro, A. Moschitti, J. May.

NAACL 2025 Findings

4. [Aligning Language Models with Demonstrated Feedback](#)

O. Shaikh, M. Lam, J. Hejna, Y. Shao, [Hyundong Cho](#), M. Bernstein, D. Yang. 2024

ICLR 2025

5. [Speechworthy Instruction-tuned Language Models](#)

[Hyundong Cho](#), N. Jedema, L. Ribeiro, K. Sharma, P. Szekely, A. Moschitti, R. Janssen, J. May

EMNLP 2024

6. [Can Language Model Moderators Improve the Health of Online Discourse?](#)

[Hyundong Cho](#), S. Liu, T. Shi, D. Jain, B. Rizk, Y. Huang, Z. Lu, N. Wen, J. Gratch, E. Ferrara, J. May

NAACL 2024

7. [Improving Covert Toxicity Detection by Retrieving and Generating References](#)

D. Lee, [Hyundong Cho](#), W. Jin, J. Moon, S. Park, P. Röttger, J. Pujara, R. Lee

NAACL 2024 Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms

8. [BotEval: Facilitating Interactive Human Evaluation](#)

[Hyundong Cho](#), Thamme Gowda, Y. Huang, Z. Lu, Tianli Tong, J. May

ACL 2024 System Demonstration

9. [Continual Dialogue State Tracking via Example-Guided Question Answering](#)

[Hyundong Cho](#), A. Madotto, Z. Lin, K. Raghavi Chandu, S. Kottur, J. Xu, J. May, C. Sankar

EMNLP 2023

10. [Analyzing Norm Violations in Live-Stream Chat](#)

J. Moon, D. Lee, [Hyundong Cho](#), W. Jin, C. Park, M. Kim, J. May, Jay Pujara, S. Park

EMNLP 2023

11. [RECAP: Retrieval-Enhanced Context-Aware Prefix Encoder for Personalized Dialogue Response Generation](#)
S. Liu, **Hyundong Cho**, M. Freedman, X. Ma, J. May
ACL 2023
12. [Know Thy Strengths: Comprehensive Dialogue State Tracking Diagnostics](#)
Hyundong Cho, C. Sankar, C. Lin, A. Celikyilmaz, S. Shayandeh, J. May, A. Beirami
EMNLP 2022 Findings
13. [Reflect, Not Reflex: Inference-Based Common Ground Improves Dialogue Response Quality](#)
P. Zhou, **Hyundong Cho**, P. Jandaghi, D. Lee, Y. Lin, J. Pujara, X. Ren
EMNLP 2022
14. [Probing Commonsense Explanation in Dialogue Response Generation](#)
P. Zhou, P. Jandaghi, **Hyundong Cho**, Y. Lin, J. Pujara, X. Ren
EMNLP 2021 Findings
15. [Viola: A Topic Agnostic Generate-and-Rank Dialogue System](#)
Hyundong Cho, B. Shbita, K. Shenoy, S. Liu, N. Patel, H. Pindikanti, J. Lee, J. May 2021
Alexa Prize Socialbot Grand Challenge 4 Proceedings
16. [Agenda Pushing in Email to Thwart Phishing](#)
Hyundong Cho, G. Bartlett, M. Freedman
ACL 2021 Doc2Dial Workshop
17. [Grounding Conversations with Improvised Dialogues](#)
Hyundong Cho, J. May
ACL 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

Amazon AGI	2024/5 - 2024/9
<i>Research Intern, Structured Information Retrieval.</i> Manager: Ravi Krishnan	<i>Santa Barbara, CA, USA</i>
Amazon Alexa	2023/6 - 2023/9
<i>Research Intern, Graphiq.</i> Manager: Ruben Janssen	<i>Santa Barbara, CA, USA</i>
Meta AI	2022/6 - 2022/9
<i>Research Intern, Cognitive AI.</i> Manager: Dr. Chinnadhurai Sankar	<i>Menlo Park, CA, USA</i>
Meta AI	2021/8 - 2022/3
<i>Research Intern, Conversational AI Research.</i> Manager: Dr. Ahmad Beirami	<i>Menlo Park, CA, USA</i>
Stitch Fix Inc.	2020/6 - 2020/8
<i>Data Science Intern.</i> Manager: Dr. Anna Schneider	<i>San Fransisco, CA, USA</i>
USC ISI Natural Language Group (NLG)	2019/9 - 2020/6
<i>Programmer Analyst, Managers: Prof. Jonathan May, Marjorie Freedman</i>	<i>Los Angeles, CA, USA</i>
<i>Summer Research Intern, PI: Prof. Jonathan May</i>	2019/6 - 2019/9
<i>Undergraduate Research Assistant, PI: Prof. Jonathan May</i>	2018/9 - 2019/2
Imago.ai	2018/6 - 2018/9
<i>Artificial Intelligence Research Intern</i>	<i>Hong Kong, HK</i>

AWARDS

Viterbi School of Engineering/Graduate School Fellowship for Incoming Students	2020
Academic Excellence Recruitment Scholarship (Full Tuition), HKUST	2013/9 - 2019/6
Reaching Out Award, HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund	2019/2

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Program Committee Member (Reviewer)
 - Main conferences: ACL (2021-2024), EMNLP (2020-2024), EACL (2023), AACL (2022-2023), NAACL (2020-2025), NeurIPS (2023-2024), ICLR (2025)
 - Journals: TMLR (2023, 2024)
 - Workshops: Social Influence in Conversations (ACL 2023-2024), What's left to TEACH chatbots (ICML 2023), Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants (ACL 2022), Doc2Dial Workshop (ACL 2021)
- Workshop organizer:
 - What's left to TEACH chatbots Workshop at ICML 2023