

Hyundong Justin Cho *Ph.D. student in Computer Science*

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OBJECTIVE

- NLP research internship for Summer 2022
- Visa status: US citizen

EDUCATION

University of Southern California (USC)

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

PUBLICATIONS

1. [Probing Commonsense Explanation in Dialogue Response Generation](#)
P. Zhou, P. Jandaghi, **Hyundong Cho**, Y. Lin, J. Pujara, X. Ren.
in Proceedings of EMNLP 2021 Findings
2. [Agenda Pushing in Email to Thwart Phishing](#)
Hyundong Cho, G. Bartlett, M. Freedman.
in Proceedings of ACL 2021 Doc2Dial Workshop
3. [Grounding Conversations with Improvised Dialogues](#)
Hyundong Cho, J. May.
in Proceedings of ACL 2020

OTHERS

1. [CheckDST: Measuring Real-World Generalization of Dialogue State Tracking Performance](#)
Hyundong Cho, C. Sankar, C. Lin, A. Celikyilmaz, S. Shayandeh, J. May, A. Beirami. 2021
Arxiv preprint, submitted for review
2. [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

WORK EXPERIENCE

Meta AI

Research Intern, Conversational AI Research. Manager: Dr. Ahmad Beirami

2021.8 - Present

Menlo Park, CA, USA

- **CheckDST:** quantified and compared robustness of dialogue state tracking models through various perturbations

Stitch Fix Inc.

Data Science Intern. Manager: Dr. Anna Schneider

2020.6 - 2020.8

San Francisco, CA, USA

- **Customer reviews Summarization:** Surfaced representative client comments to facilitate purchasing decisions for merchandising partners with sentence embeddings and clustering algorithms.

USC Information Sciences Institute (ISI) Natural Language Group (NLG)

2019.9 - 2020.6

Programmer Analyst

Los Angeles, CA, USA

- **Active Social Engineering Defense (ASED) program:** Built an automatic phishing email reply system with a finite state transducer and a neural dialogue model. The program is sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Summer Research Intern, PI: Prof. Jonathan May

2019.6 - 2019.9

- **Structure-to-text:** automatically create baseball recap articles from structured data, play-by-play records of Major League Baseball matches on retrosheet.org

Undergraduate Research Assistant, PI: Prof. Jonathan May

2018.9 - 2019.2

- **Improvised dialogues:** Constructed the *Spontaneation Pairs of Learnable Improvisation* corpus, a collection of “Yes, and” type dialogue acts from improv podcasts for training more engaging dialogue models. [Project page](#)

Imago.ai

2018.6 - 2018.9

Artificial Intelligence Researcher

Hong Kong, HK

- **Question Answering:** Trained a BiDAF question answering model augmented with self-attention mechanism with MS-MARCO and SQuAD V2 datasets and evaluated performance with BLEU and ROUGE metrics.
- **Production deployment:** Deployed the trained model with a Flask app on the company’s production server.

PROJECTS

Dialogue Agent for Reducing Malicious Acts (DARMA)

2021.12 - Present

- Led the development of dialogue agents that moderate multilingual conversations in social media. PI: Prof. Jonathan May
- Part of *AI Exploration: Civil Sanctuary* program sponsored by DARPA.

Alexa Prize Socialbot Grand Challenge 4

2020.11 - 2021. 6

- Team leader of [Viola](#), the first student-led team to compete from USC. Managed ten PhD, Masters and undergraduate students. Faculty advisor: Professor Jonathan May
- Developed and deployed a scalable and versatile socialbot through AWS with a combination of finite state machines and end-to-end chit-chat neural models and QA components.

Info: News Data Processing for Fake News Detection

2018.9 - 2019.4

- Final Year Project (year-long senior level team project), Supervisor: Kenneth Wai-Ting Leung
- Developed a novel platform for a versatile fake news detection service with a multi-modal fake news detection neural network using PyTorch, Flask, and JavaScript.
- Finalist for Best Final Year Project. [Project link](#)

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

Champion of CodeIT Suisse Coding Challenge, Credit Suisse APAC Region

2017.9

Dean’s List, School of Engineering, HKUST

2013.12, 2015.6, 2017.12, 2018.6, 2019.6

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Program Committee Member (Reviewer):

Main conferences: EMNLP2021, ACL2021, EMNLP2020