

Jeonghwan Kim

📍 Champaign, USA ✉ jk100@illinois.edu 🔗 wjdghks950.github.io 📄 Google Scholar

Research Interests

Natural Language Processing (NLP), Multimodal Large Language Models (LLMs), Deep Learning

Large Vision-Language Models (VLMs), Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG), Representation Learning, Multi-Hop Question Answering (QA), Numeracy in LLMs, and Model Interpretability and Robustness.

Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science (Advisor: [Heng Ji](#))

Champaign, USA
Aug 2023 – Present

KAIST

M.S. in Computer Science (Advisor: [Sung-Hyon Myaeng](#))
Thesis Committee: Sung-Hyon Myaeng, Alice Oh, Junho Lim
GPA: 4.13/4.30

Daejeon, South Korea
Feb 2022

Handong Global University

B.S. in Computer Science & Electrical Eng. (Advisor: [Heeyoul Henry Choi](#))
Magna Cum Laude (Overall GPA: 4.11/4.5 | Major GPA: 4.21/4.5)

Pohang, South Korea
Feb 2020

Experience

Meta — Research Scientist Intern

Working on Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and multimodal LLMs.

Redmond, USA
May 2025 – Present

Amazon — Applied Scientist Intern

Developed a generalizable multimodal encoder for geospatial applications.

Bellevue, USA
May 2024 – Aug 2024

BLENDER Lab, UIUC — Research Assistant

Research on Multimodal LLMs and reasoning.

Champaign, USA
Aug 2023 – Present

KAIST IR&NLP Lab — Research Associate

Developed graph and RAG-based language modeling approaches for QA.

Daejeon, Korea
Mar 2022 – Jul 2023

Republic of Korea Marine Corps — Sergeant

Served as a rifleman and interpreter for the ROK-US Combined Marine Command.

Pohang, Korea
Mar 2015 – Dec 2016

Publications

[1] Infogent: An Agent-based Framework for Web Information Aggregation

Revanth Gangi Reddy*, Sagnik Mukherjee*, **Jeonghwan Kim***, Zhenhailong Wang*, Dilek Hakkani-Tur, Heng Ji

NAACL 2025, Findings

[2] Aligning LLMs with Individual Preferences via Interaction

Shujin Wu, May Fung, Cheng Qian, **Jeonghwan Kim**, Dilek Hakkani-Tur, Heng Ji

COLING 2025

[3] Finer: Investigating and Enhancing Fine-Grained Visual Concept Recognition in Large Vision Language Models

Jeonghwan Kim, Heng Ji

EMNLP 2024

[4] Why So Gullible? Enhancing the Robustness of Retrieval-Augmented Models against Counterfactual Noise

Giwon Hong*, **Jeonghwan Kim***, Junmo Kang*, Sung-Hyon Myaeng, Joyce Jiyoung Whang

NAACL 2024, Findings

- [5] **FinePrompt: Unveiling the Role of Finetuned Inductive Bias on Compositional Reasoning in GPT-4**
*Jeonghwan Kim**, Giwon Hong*, Sung-Hyon Myaeng, Joyce Jiyoung Whang

EMNLP 2023, Findings

- [6] **Graph-Induced Transformers for Efficient Multi-Hop Question Answering**
Giwon Hong, Jeonghwan Kim, Junmo Kang, Sung-Hyon Myaeng

EMNLP 2022

- [7] **Exploiting Numerical-Contextual Knowledge to Improve Numerical Reasoning in Question Answering**
Jeonghwan Kim, Junmo Kang, Kyung-min Kim, Giwon Hong, Sung-Hyon Myaeng

NAACL 2022, Findings

- [8] **Have You Seen That Number? Investigating Extrapolation in Question Answering Models**
Jeonghwan Kim, Giwon Hong, Kyung-min Kim, Junmo Kang, Sung-Hyon Myaeng

EMNLP 2021

- [9] **Leveraging Order-Free Tag Relations for Context-Aware Recommendation**
Junmo Kang, Jeonghwan Kim, Suwon Shin, Sung-Hyon Myaeng

EMNLP 2021

- [10] **Can You Distinguish Truthful from Fake Reviews? User Analysis and Assistance Tool for Fake Review Detection**
Jeonghwan Kim, Junmo Kang*, Suwon Shin*, Sung-Hyon Myaeng*

HCI+NLP Workshop, EACL 2021

- [11] **Maximizing Efficiency of Language Model Pre-training for Learning Representation**
Junmo Kang, Suwon Shin*, Jeonghwan Kim*, Jaeyoung Jo*, Sung-Hyon Myaeng*

KSC 2020

- [12] **Object Classification on Raw Radar Data Using Convolutional Neural Networks**
Heejae Han, Jeonghwan Kim, Junyoung Park, YuJin Lee, Hyunwoo Jo, Yonghyeon Park, Eric T Matson, Seongha Park

IEEE SAS 2019

- [13] **Towards the Development and Realization of an Undetectable Stealth UAV**
Jiyeon Oh, Daeun Choe, Chanhui Yun, Jeonghwan Kim, Michael Hopmeier

IEEE IRC 2019

Projects

Development of Expert Decision-making Support AI

Apr 2022 – Jul 2022

Development of AI technology for explainable expert decision-making.
Funded by the Korean Government (Ministry of Science and ICT)

Contextual-Numerical Embedding for Reasoning

Jul 2021 – Dec 2021

Development of context-number embedding for numerical reasoning in QA.
Funded by the Korean Government (Ministry of Science and ICT)

ExoBrain

Apr 2020 – Jul 2023

Development of Knowledge Evolutionary WiseQA Platform Technology.
Funded by the Korean Government (Ministry of Science and ICT)

Smart Interaction and Context Association

Apr 2020 – Mar 2021

Machine Learning for Context Association and Smart Interaction Suggestion.
Funded by the Korean Government (Ministry of Science and ICT)

AI-based National Online Petition System

Apr 2021 – Dec 2021

Development of AI-based national Online Petition System for citizen deliberation.
Funded by KAISTs Exploratory Research Program

Purdue University - IITP Capstone

Aug 2018 – Dec 2018

Raw radar data object detection and stealth UAV design.

Honors & Awards

- **2020:** Graduated with Honors in CSE, Magna Cum Laude (Handong Global University)
- **2020:** Finalist (Top 3), COMEUP2020 AI CHAMPIONSHIP (K-Startup)
- **2019:** Grand Prize, Capstone Graduation Project Festival (Handong Global University, CSEE)
- **2018:** Certificate of Merit, IITP Capstone 9 Program (Purdue University)
- **2018:** Finalist (Top 15), NAVER AI Hackathon (NAVER AI RUSH)
- **2017:** National Science and Technology Scholarship, Korea Student Aid Foundation (KOSAF)

Teaching

- **Aug 2020 – Jun 2021:** Teaching Assistant, Senior Data Science, Samsung SDS
- **Jun 2021 – Jul 2021:** Teaching Assistant, Text Mining, SKKU Global Business School
- **Mar 2021 – Dec 2021:** Teaching Assistant, Text Mining, KAIST
- **Mar 2019 – Jun 2019:** Teaching Assistant, Data Structures, Handong Global University

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, Pytorch, C, C++, Java, Dart

Frameworks: Pytorch, TensorFlow, Theano, Docker, Huggingface, OpenCV, Flutter, Firebase, DGL

Tools: SpaCy, NLTK, Seaborn, Matplotlib