Ziqi **Wang**

Ph.D. student at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in CS

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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — *Champaign, IL*

Ph.D. in Computer Science — *Aug. 2021 - 2025 (Expected)*

- Member of Blender Lab under the supervision of Prof. Heng Ji and Prof. Tong Zhang

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — *Champaign, IL*

M.S. in Computer Science — *Aug. 2021 - Dec. 2023*

- Member of Blender Lab under the supervision of Prof. Heng Ji

Tsinghua University — *Beijing, China*

B.E. in Computer Science and Technology — *Aug. 2016 - May. 2021*

- Member of THUNLP under the supervision of Prof. Zhiyuan Liu
- Magna Cum Laude

Selected Publications

*** denotes equal contribution. See full publications in Google Scholar**

Topic: Post-Training and Reasoning

- **Ziqi Wang**, Hanlin Zhang, Xiner Li, Kuan-Hao Huang, Chi Han, Shuiwang Ji, Sham M Kakade, Hao Peng, Heng Ji. *Eliminating Position Bias of Language Models: A Mechanistic Approach*. **ICLR 2025; NeurIPS 2024 Workshop SciForDL**
- Wei Xiong*, Hanze Dong*, Chenlu Ye*, **Ziqi Wang**, Han Zhong, Heng Ji, Nan Jiang, Tong Zhang. *Iterative Preference Learning from Human Feedback: Bridging Theory and Practice for RLHF under KL-Constraint*. **ICML 2024, Oral at ICLR 2024 ME-FoMo Workshop**
- **Ziqi Wang**, Le Hou, Tianjian Lu, Yuexin Wu, Yunxuan Li, Hongkun Yu, Heng Ji. *Enabling Language Models to Implicitly Learn Self-Improvement From Data*. **ICLR 2024**

Topic: Knowledge Distillation

- **Ziqi Wang**, Yuexin Wu, Frederick Liu, Daogao Liu, Le Hou, Hongkun Yu, Jing Li, Heng Ji. *Augmentation with Projection: Towards an Effective and Efficient Data Augmentation Paradigm for Distillation*. **ICLR 2023**

Topic: Representation Learning and Neuro-Symbolic Learning

- Xiao Li*, **Ziqi Wang***, Bo Zhang, Fuchun Sun, Xiaolin Hu. *Recognizing Object by Components with Human Prior Knowledge Enhances Adversarial Robustness of Deep Neural Networks*. **IEEE TPAMI 2023**
- **Ziqi Wang***, Xiaozhi Wang*, Xu Han, Yankai Lin, Lei Hou, Zhiyuan Liu, Peng Li, Juanzi Li, Jie Zhou. *CLEVE: Contrastive Pre-training for Event Extraction*. **ACL-IJCNLP 2021**
- **Ziqi Wang***, Yujia Qin*, Wenxuan Zhou, Jun Yan, Qinyuan Ye, Leonardo Neves, Zhiyuan Liu, Xiang Ren. *Learning from Explanations with Neural Execution Tree*. **ICLR 2020 (Poster)**
- Wenxuan Zhou, Hongtao Lin, Bill Yuchen Lin, **Ziqi Wang**, Junyi Du, Leonardo Neves, Xiang Ren. *NERO: A Neural Rule Grounding Framework for Label-Efficient Relation Extraction*. **WWW 2020 (Best Paper Runner-Up, 2/1500+)**
- Xiaozhi Wang*, **Ziqi Wang***, Xu Han, Zhiyuan Liu, Juanzi Li, Peng Li, Maosong Sun, Jie Zhou, Xiang Ren. *HMEAE: Hierarchical Modular Event Argument Extraction*. **EMNLP-IJCNLP 2019 (Short, Oral)**

Work Experience

Yutori AI — *Remote*

Member of Technical Staff (Intern) — *Jan. 2025 - Present*

- Post-Training and Reinforcement Learning for Web Agents.

Meta — *Menlo Park, CA*

Research Intern — *May. 2024 - Aug. 2024*

- Reinforcement Learning for (Vision) Language Models Reasoning. Host: Rui Wang

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — *Champaign, IL*

Research Assistant — *Aug. 2021 - Present*

- Reasoning in Artificial Intelligence. Advisor: Prof. Heng Ji and Prof. Tong Zhang

Google — *Sunnyvale, CA*

Software Engineering Intern — *May. 2023 - Aug. 2023*

- Reinforcement Learning for Language Models Self-Improvement. Hosts: Dr. Le Hou and Dr. Yuexin Wu

Google *Bellevue, WA and Remote*

Software Engineering Intern and Student Researcher *May. 2022 - Dec. 2022*

- Data-Efficient Knowledge Distillation. Hosts: Dr. Yuexin Wu and Dr. Le Hou

University of Southern California *Los Angeles, CA*

Research Assistant *July. 2019 - Sep. 2019*

- Representation Learning and Neuro-Symbolic Learning. Advisor: Prof. Xiang Ren

Tsinghua University *Beijing, China*

Research Assistant *Dec. 2018 - May. 2021*

- Representation Learning and Neuro-Symbolic Learning. Advisor: Prof. Zhiyuan Liu, Prof. Xiaolin Hu, and Prof. Minlie Huang

Talks

Objective, Inc. *2023*

- Topic: AI Self-refinement with Reinforcement Learning.

Cohere AI *2024*

- Topic: AI Self-refinement with Reinforcement Learning.

Service

Reviewer: ICLR, NeurIPS (**Top reviewers in 2024**), ICML, ACL, EMNLP, NAACL, COLM, Pattern Recognition