Jonghyun (Jong) Song

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Research interest

- Language representation learning for information retrieval, including dense and sparse retrieval methods
- Internal mechanisms and representational dynamics of language models, particularly encoder-based architectures
- Applications of information retrieval in downstream tasks, such as Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and Task-Aware Language Models (TALM)
- Development and adaptation of personalized language models for user-specific tasks and preferences
- **Keywords**: Natural Language Processing (NLP), Information Retrieval, Retrieval-Augmented Generation, Multi-modal Language Models, Large Language Models, Representation Learning

Education

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea Mar. 2022 - Present

Ph.D. in Data Science
GPA: 3.95/4.3
Advisor: Jay-Yoon Lee
Course Highlights: Machine Learning & Deep Learning, Machine Learning for Visual Understanding, Conversational AI for Dialogue System

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea Mar. 2017 - Feb. 2022

B.S., Cum Laude, in Mechanical Engineering
GPA: 3.88/4.3
Undergrad thesis: Wrist Wearable Robot for Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders Prevention
Advisor: Kyu-Jin Cho
Course Highlights: Machine Learning and Elementary Math, Introduction to Robotics, Introduction to Computer Programming

Papers and Presentations

1. **Joint Sparse-Dense Optimization for Learned Sparse Text-Image Retrieval**
   Under Review
   Jonghyun Song, YoungJune Lee, Gyu-hwung Cho, Ilhyeon Song, Saehun Kim and Yohan Jo
2. **Comparing Neighbors Together Makes it Easy: Jointly Comparing Multiple Candidates for Efficient and Effective Retrieval**
   In EMNLP Main Track (Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing), 2024 / Spotlight Talk at 9th Workshop on Representation Learning for NLP in ACL 2024
   Jonghyun Song, Cheyon Jin, Wenlong Zhao, Andrew McCallum and Jay-Yoon Lee
3. **Redefining Information Extraction from Visually Rich Documents as Token Classification**
   In IJCAI Competition of Visually Rich Form Document Intelligence and Understanding (VRDIU), 2024 (2nd place)
   Jonghyun Song, Eunyi Lyou

Work Experience

Research Intern Jan. 2025 – Mar. 2025

NAVER Corporation, Gyeonggi, Korea

- Designed and implemented a multimodal item-to-item recommender system using both dense and sparse document embeddings (text + image), achieving a **+4.3p** gain in nDCG@1 on real-world clicklog test sets.
- Fine-tuned multilingual CLIP (m-CLIP) with pairwise and triplet contrastive learning on large-scale user interaction data.
- Constructed a high-quality training dataset by leveraging LLM-based filtering to enhance relevance and learning stability.
- Conducting ongoing research on *SPLADE-CLIP* for lightweight and interpretable sparse image representations.

Research Assistant (Ph.D. Student) under Professor Yohan Jo Jul. 2022 – Present

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

- Project: Jointly Comparing Multiple Candidates for Efficient and Effective Retrieval
  - Proposed the Comparing Multiple Candidates (CMC) framework to improve the retrieve-and-rerank pipeline.
  - Employed shallow self-attention layers to jointly compare query and candidate embeddings, enabling scalable and efficient multiple comparisons.
  - Achieved strong performance across entity linking, passage ranking, and dialogue ranking tasks, with improved latency and memory efficiency.
  - One paper accepted to **EMNLP 2024** *(main track)*

Research Internship under Professor Kyu-Jin Cho Jul. 2020 – Dec. 2021

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

- Project: Soft Wearable Robot for Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders at the Wrist
- Developed wearable robotic devices that regulate compression based on human intention to prevent work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSDs) in the wrist. Specifically:
  - Performed physical modeling of cable routing to maximize power transmission efficiency
  - Designed a silicone component embedded with bearings and fabric to improve mobility and portability
  - Built Arduino-based robotic control systems using force-sensitive resistors (FSRs)

Founder & Software Engineer Sep. 2019 – Jun. 2020

Hakwongo Corp. Seongnam, Korea

- Founded a startup that connects working mothers with private education institutes using deep learning technologies. (Funded by Seongnam City and Yonsei University)
  - Developed a natural language processing (NLP) model to recommend educational institutes tailored to working mothers' needs
  - Built the Android application frontend using the Flutter framework
  - Processed and managed educational institute database using SQL and pandas

Awards and Honors

2nd Place, VRDIU Competition (Track A) on IJCAI 2024 sponsored by Google Research — Jul. 2024
– Task: predicting the Region-of-Interests (RoIs) that can provide correct answer to given questions
– Fine-tuned SOTA model (LayoutLMv3) with a token classifier for predicting the answer span (97.9 F1)
– Served as a team leader

1st Place (Minister's Award) on K-Datascience Hackathon, Ministry of Science and ICT, Korea — Nov. 2023
– Presented *Multi-modal and Multi-view Patent Search System*, a patent search engine with CLIP embeddings of drawings and text
– Utilized self-supervised learning, using 'prior art' section in patents as a pseudo-label
– Implemented a chatbot interface with LangChain and Streamlit
– Served as a team leader

Park Min-Chul Data Science Challenge Scholarship, Seoul National University, Korea — Mar. 2022

Cum Laude, Seoul National University, Korea — Feb. 2022

Sanhak (Industrial-Educational Cooperation) Foundation Scholarship, Korea Sanhak Foundation, Korea — Mar. 2021 – Dec. 2021

Merit-Based Scholarship, Seoul National University, Korea — Dec. 2018 – Dec. 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA, *AI Expert Training Project*, Samsung Electronics — July 2024
Head TA, *Natural Language Processing with Neural Networks*, Seoul National University — Fall 2023
Instructor, *Big Data Fintech Specialist Training Course*, Ministry of Employment and Labor — Fall 2023
Head TA, *Math and Statistics Foundations for Data Science*, Seoul National University — Spring 2023
Head TA, *Applications of Natural Language Processing*, Seoul National University — Fall 2022
TA, *Data science Boot Camp*, Seoul National University — Fall 2022
Math Tutor, *Self-Paced Learning & Tutoring Program*, Seoul National University — Winter 2020
Undergraduate TA, *Creative Engineering Design*, Seoul National University — Fall 2019

Technical Skills

Languages Python, MATLAB, C++, C, SQL, Arduino
Library & Tools Pytorch, Huggingface, FAISS, Langchain, Google Cloud Platform, Weights & Biases, Git, LaTex, Solidworks

Personal Information

- Korean (Native Speaker) and English (Fluent)
- Leadership Role: Leader of the Graduate School Tennis Club