

YUPING LIN

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University

Ph.D. in Computer Science

09/2023 - Present

- Advisor: Dr. Jiliang Tang
- Research Area: Safety and Interpretability in Large Language Models, Trustworthy AI

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

01/2022 - 08/2023

- Advisor: Dr. Tongping Liu
- Research Area: Machine Learning Model Compression

University of Electronic Science and Technology of China

B.Eng in Information Security

09/2017 - 07/2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dynamic Retrieval Heads in Large Language Models (LLMs)

Ongoing

- Existing works identified a special class of attention heads in LLMs responsible for retrieval, termed retrieval heads. However, existing work approaches this from a statistical perspective, overlooking the dynamic nature of these heads as generation steps change.
- Our ongoing investigation has uncovered several key properties of these heads: dynamism, irreplaceability, and predictability. Simultaneously, we extend the exploration of retrieval heads from the constrained Needle-in-a-Haystack test to understanding and reasoning tasks.
- We further propose a new in-context retrieval framework and explore its performance in solving long-context understanding tasks.

Memory Management in LLM-based Agents

Submitted to ARR

- The memory module is a crucial component of LLM-based agents, yet there is no consensus on its optimal design.
- We investigate the general principles of memory management for LLM agents by examining the impact of two core operations—the addition and deletion of memories—on LLM agent performance.
- We examine various memory addition and deletion strategies, and find that with the optimal memory addition strategy, the agent's execution success rate can increase from 13% to 38%. Additionally, the optimal memory deletion strategy reduces the memory size from 1000 to 250, highlighting the critical importance of effective memory management.
- Our manuscript, titled *Towards Optimal Memory Management: Investigating Experience-Following Behavior of Large Language Model Agents*, is currently under submission to **ACL 2026**.

Understanding Jailbreak Attacks in LLMs

EMNLP 2024 (Main)

- Although various jailbreak attacks have been developed in the literature, a comprehensive understanding of their underlying mechanisms remains elusive. This gap hinders the advancement of robust jailbreak attacks as well as the development of effective alignment and defense strategies.
- We propose an analytical framework that leverages the hidden representations of LLMs to examine the behavior of jailbreak attacks. Our analysis reveals a clear separation between harmful and benign prompts in the hidden space, with successful jailbreak attacks shifting harmful prompt representations toward the benign direction.
- We demonstrate that steering the representation of jailbreak attacks toward the benign region increases the attack success rate from 26% to 62%, thereby exposing a critical vulnerability in current LLM architectures.
- Our work, titled *Towards Understanding Jailbreak Attacks in LLMs: A Representation Space Analysis*, has been accepted for poster presentation at **EMNLP 2024 (Main Conference)**.

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

1. Shenglai Zeng, Jiankun Zhang, Bingheng Li, **Yuping Lin**, Tianqi Zheng, Dante Everaert, Hanqing Lu, Hui Liu, Yue Xing, Monica Xiao Cheng, Jiliang Tang. *Towards Knowledge Checking in Retrieval-augmented Generation: A Representation Perspective*. [NAACL 2025]
2. Yingqian Cui, Jie Ren, **Yuping Lin**, Han Xu, Pengfei He, Yue Xing, Lingjuan Lyu, Wenqi Fan, Hui Liu, Jiliang Tang. *FT-Shield: A Watermark Against Unauthorized Fine-tuning in Text-to-Image Diffusion Models*. [SIGKDD Explorations Newsletter, 2025]
3. Pengfei He, **Yuping Lin**, Shen Dong, Han Xu, Yue Xing, Hui Liu. *Red-Teaming LLM Multi-Agent Systems via Communication Attacks*. [ACL 2025]
4. **Yuping Lin***, Zidi Xiong*, Wenya Xie*, Pengfei He, Jiliang Tang, Himabindu Lakkaraju, Zhen Xiang. *Towards Optimal Memory Management: Investigating Experience-Following Behavior of Large Language Model Agents*. [Preprint]
5. Kaiqi Yang, Hang Li, Yucheng Chu, **Yuping Lin**, Tai-Quan Peng, Hui Liu. *Unpacking Political Bias in Large Language Models: Insights Across Topic Polarization*. [Preprint]
6. **Yuping Lin***, Pengfei He*, Han Xu, Yue Xing, Makoto Yamada, Hui Liu, Jiliang Tang. *Towards Understanding Jailbreak Attacks in LLMs: A Representation Space Analysis*. [EMNLP 2024]

INTERNSHIPS

Research Intern, Alibaba

Summer 2025

- Worked on the research of Long-Context processing in LLM Agents.
- Developed an open-source MCP toolkit for LLM Agent Long-Context handling.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2025

CSE 335 Object-oriented Software Development

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2024

CSE 482 Big Data Analysis

SERVICES

- Reviewer for Computational Linguistics, 2025
- Reviewer for ARR October 2025

AWARDS

- Travel grant, 2024, Michigan State University
- Outstanding Student Scholarship in the academic year of 2018, 2019, UESTC
- Third prize in the 16th UESTC ACM Programming Competition, 2018
- CCF National Olympiad in Informatics 2015 (2nd), 2016 (2nd)
- Second prize in Computer Production Activities for Primary and Secondary schools in Shandong Province, 2016

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, C, C++, Pascal, JavaScript, Java, HTML/CSS, MATLAB
- **Softwares and Systems:** PyTorch, HuggingFace, Numpy, Pandas, Scikit-Learn, Git, Docker, Linux, Vue, SpringBoot
- **AI skills:** Large Language Models (LLaMA, DeepSeek, Qwen, Gemma, Mixtral, Vicuna, GPT), Computer Vision (Diffusion models), Data Science, Data Visualization