

# Zae Myung Kim

CS PhD candidate at University of Minnesota Twin Cities

My research interests center on developing a “meta-scaffolding paradigm” that integrates discourse structures, dataset metadata, and metacognitive feedback into the training loop of large language models to stabilize learning and produce interpretable, coherent long-form text. I design disciplined training schemes that slash data and compute demands, curtail manual prompt engineering, and steer model reasoning toward human-like cognitive patterns.

I have collaborated with researchers at Amazon, Salesforce, Grammarly, and Naver.

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 [Google Scholar](#)

 [zaemyung.github.io](https://zaemyung.github.io)

 [LinkedIn](#)

 [GitHub](#)

 [zaemyung](#)

## Education

Sept 2022 – Feb 2026 (expected)	<b>University of Minnesota Twin Cities</b> PhD in Computer Science Thesis: <i>Meta-Scaffolding for Large Language Models</i> (tentative) Advisor: <a href="#">Dongyeop Kang</a>	Minneapolis, MN
Sept 2014 – Aug 2016	<b>Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)</b> MS in Computer Science Thesis: <i>Classifying Travel-Related Intents in Textual Data Using Recurrent Neural Networks</i> Advisor: <a href="#">Ho-Jin Choi</a>	Daejeon, Korea
Oct 2008 – Aug 2011	<b>Imperial College London</b> BEng in Computer Science Group Project: <i>Intention Recognition in Ambient Homes</i> Individual Project: <i>Computing Fictitious Plays in Graph-Based Games</i>	London, UK

## Professional Employment

Jun – Nov 2024	<b>Research Intern – Amazon AGI</b> Proposed and developed structural alignment of LLMs for long-form generation.	Seattle, WA
May – Sept 2023	<b>Research Intern – Salesforce AI Research</b> Implemented a large-scale challenging benchmarking system for scientific-paper retrieval. Built a co-writing system with large language models for scientific writing.	Palo Alto, CA
Apr – Jul 2022	<b>Research Intern – Grammarly</b> Developed a human-in-the-loop iterative text-revision system. Trained span-based text-revision models with data augmentation.	Remote
Oct 2020 – Feb 2022	<b>ML Researcher – Naver Labs Europe</b> Studied language-specific representations in multilingual NMT. Conducted cross-lingual discourse analysis for document-level NMT.	Meylan, France
Mar 2017 – Sept 2020	<b>ML Researcher – Papago, Naver Corp.</b> Developed machine translation models for Thai–Korean and German–Korean pairs. Implemented tools for NMT: <a href="#">sentence-segmenter</a> , corpus pre-processor, aligner, and crawler. Created website-translation service using NMT + heuristic attention. Ranked 1 <sup>st</sup> (doc-level) and 4 <sup>th</sup> (sent-level) at WMT20 quality estimation shared task.	Seongnam, Korea

Dec 2016 – Feb 2017	<b>Invited Researcher – KEAI Lab, KAIST</b> Built an adaptive vocabulary learning app using learner interest profiles. Developed a healthcare app that recommends Pokémon Go events by forecasting users' physical activity patterns using recurrent neural network.	Daejeon, Korea
Sept – Nov 2016	<b>Research Intern – Naver Labs Corp.</b> Researched extending named entity recognition for Korean with hierarchical categories.	Seongnam, Korea
Apr 2014 – Jul 2016	<b>Research Assistant – Samsung-KAIST Initiative</b> [1 <sup>st</sup> Year] Intent classification for travel-service personalization. [2 <sup>nd</sup> Year] Modeled long-term activeness using RNNs for wellness prediction.	Daejeon, Korea
Dec 2013 – Sept 2014	<b>Research Intern – KEAI Lab, KAIST</b> Surveyed plan and intention recognition. Researched temporal information extraction for English and Korean.	Daejeon, Korea
Jan 2012 – Oct 2013	<b>Military Service – Special Warfare Command, ROK Army</b> Served as an army interpreter, aviation image analyst, and squad leader.	Incheon, Korea

## Honors, Awards, and Accomplishments

- 2025 **Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship** (University of Minnesota)
- 2022 **Best Paper Award** (In2Writing workshop at ACL 2022)
- 2022 **3M Science and Technology Fellowship** (University of Minnesota)
- 2018 **Runner-Up**, Elice Data Science Challenge (3rd place out of 300 participants)
- 2016 **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award** (2016 Elice Data Science Workshop & Challenge)
- 2016 **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award** (KAIST)
- 2012 **Runner-Up**, Republic of Korea Army Oratorical Contest (ROK Army)
- 2011 **Winning Team**, Robotics Localization Challenge (Imperial College London)
- 2009 **Winning Team**, Deutsche Bank Prize for Topics in AI Group Project (Imperial College London)
- 2008 **Bronze Medal**, Royal College of Science Union Science Challenge (Imperial College London)

## Publications

An asterisk (\*) marks co-first authors.

- 2025 **Toward Evaluative Thinking: Meta Policy Optimization with Evolving Reward Models**  
Zae Myung Kim, Chanwoo Park, Vipul Raheja, Dongyeop Kang.  
*Under review.*
- 2025 **Anchors Aweigh! Sail for Optimal Unified Multi-Modal Representations**  
Minoh Jeong\*, Min Namgung\*, Zae Myung Kim\*, Dongyeop Kang, Yao-Yi Chiang, Alfred Hero.  
*Under review.*
- 2025 **Align to Structure: Aligning Large Language Models with Structural Information**  
Zae Myung Kim, Anand Ramachandran, Farideh Tavazoei, Joo-Kyung Kim, Oleg Rokhlenko, Dongyeop Kang.  
*AAAI 2026.*
- 2024 **Threads of Subtlety: Detecting Machine-Generated Texts Through Discourse Motifs**  
Zae Myung Kim, Kwang Hee Lee, Preston Zhu, Vipul Raheja, Dongyeop Kang.  
*ACL 2024.*
- 2024 **Benchmarking Cognitive Biases in Large Language Models as Evaluators**  
Ryan Koo, Minhwa Lee, Vipul Raheja, Jong Inn Park, Zae Myung Kim, Dongyeop Kang.  
*Findings of ACL 2024.*

- 2024 **Under the Surface: Tracking the Artifactuality of LLM-Generated Data**  
 Debarati Das\*, Karin de Langis\*, Anna Martin-Boyle\*, Jaehyung Kim\*, Minhwa Lee\*, Zae Myung Kim\*, Shirley Anugrah Hayati, Risako Owan, Bin Hu, Ritik Sachin Parkar, Ryan Koo, Jong Inn Park, Aahan Tyagi, Libby Ferland, Sanjali Roy, Vincent Liu, Dongyeop Kang.  
*Under review.*
- 2022 **Improving Iterative Text Revision by Learning Where To Edit From Other Revision Tasks**  
 Zae Myung Kim, Wanyu Du, Vipul Raheja, Dhruv Kumar, Dongyeop Kang.  
*EMNLP 2022.*
- 2022 **Read, Revise, Repeat: A System Demonstration for Human-in-the-loop Iterative Text Revision [Best Paper Awarded]**  
 Wanyu Du\*, Zae Myung Kim\*, Vipul Raheja, Dhruv Kumar, Dongyeop Kang.  
*In2Writing at ACL 2022.*
- 2022 **Understanding Iterative Revision from Human-Written Text**  
 Wanyu Du, Vipul Raheja, Dhruv Kumar, Zae Myung Kim, Melissa Lopez, Dongyeop Kang.  
*ACL 2022.*
- 2021 **Visualizing Cross-Lingual Discourse Relations in Multilingual TED Corpora**  
 Zae Myung Kim, Vassilina Nikoulina, Dongyeop Kang, Didier Schwab, Laurent Besacier.  
*CODI 2021 at EMNLP 2021.*
- 2021 **Do Multilingual Neural Machine Translation Models Contain Language Pair Specific Attention Heads?**  
 Zae Myung Kim, Laurent Besacier, Vassilina Nikoulina, Didier Schwab.  
*Findings of ACL 2021.*
- 2020 **A Multilingual Neural Machine Translation Model for Biomedical Data**  
 Alexandre Bérard, Zae Myung Kim, Vassilina Nikoulina, Eunjeong Park, Matthias Gallé.  
*NLP-COVID19 at EMNLP 2020.*
- 2020 **PATQUEST: Papago Translation Quality Estimation**  
 Yujin Baek\*, Zae Myung Kim\*, Jihyung Moon, Hyunjoong Kim, Eunjeong Park.  
*WMT 2020.*
- 2017 **An Adaptive Vocabulary Learning Application through Modeling Learner's Linguistic Proficiency and Interests**  
 Zae Myung Kim, Suin Kim, Alice Oh, Ho-Jin Choi.  
*International Conference on Big Data and Smart Computing.*
- 2016 **TIMEX3 and Event Extraction Using Recurrent Neural Networks**  
 Zae Myung Kim, Young-Seob Jeong, Ho-Jin Choi.  
*International Conference on Big Data and Smart Computing.*
- 2016 **An Approach to Spam Comment Detection Through Domain-Independent Features**  
 Jong Myoung Kim, Zae Myung Kim, Kwangjo Kim.  
*International Conference on Big Data and Smart Computing.*
- 2015 **Temporal Information Extraction from Korean Texts**  
 Young-Seob Jeong, Zae Myung Kim, Hyun-Woo Do, Chae-Gyun Lim, Ho-Jin Choi.  
*CoNLL 2015.*
- 2017 **Modeling Long-Term Human Activeness Using Recurrent Neural Networks for Bio-metric Data**  
 Zae Myung Kim, Hyungrai Oh, Han-Gyu Kim, Chae-Gyun Lim, Kyo-Joong Oh, Ho-Jin Choi.  
*BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making [SCIE, IF: 2.042].*

- 2016 **Investigating the Impact of Possession-Way of a Smartphone on Action Recognition**  
 Zae Myung Kim\*, Young-Seob Jeong\*, Kyo-Joong Oh, Hyung-Rai Oh, Youssef Iraqi, Ho-Jin Choi.  
*Sensors 16(6) [SCIE, IF: 2.437].*

## Patent

- 2019 **Terminal, server and event suggesting methods thereof**  
 Hyungrai Oh, Ho-Jin Choi, Zae Myung Kim, Kyo-Joong Oh, Chae-Gyun Lim.  
*US Patent US10353975B2.*

## Teaching Experience

- Spring 2025 **Lecturer** – Natural Language Processing (CSCI 5541), University of Minnesota  
 [Apr 1, 2025] Lecture titled, *LLMs as Agents*.
- Fall 2024 **Head TA** – Intro. to Computer Programming in Java (CSCI 1103), University of Minnesota
- Fall 2024 **Lecturer** – Natural Language Processing (CSCI 5541), University of Minnesota  
 [Oct 31, 2024] Lecture titled, *LLMs as Agents*.
- Spring 2024 **TA, Lecturer** – Natural Language Processing (CSCI 5541), University of Minnesota  
 [Apr 2, 2024] Lecture titled, *Instructing and Augmenting LLMs*.
- Fall 2023 **TA, Lecturer** – Natural Language Processing (CSCI 5541), University of Minnesota  
 [Nov 21, 2023] Lecture titled, *Advanced Topics: Instructing and Augmenting LLMs*.
- Sept 2022 **Lecturer** – Elice Digital Transformation Training, Samsung Electronics
- Winter 2022 **TA** – Advanced Language Processing Winter School 2022
- Winter 2021 **TA** – Advanced Language Processing Winter School 2021
- Fall 2021 **Mentor** – Academic-Industrial Collaboration Project, Chungbuk National University
- Summer 2021 **Lecturer** – Three seminars on NLP trends and practical sessions, Rye & Catchers
- Fall 2016 **TA** – Elice AI & Data Science Course, Daejeon Creative Economy Innovation Center
- Fall 2015 **TA, Lecturer** – Introduction to AI (CS470), KAIST  
 [Sept 2, 2015] Lecture on extracting travel-related intents from textual review data.
- Summer 2015 **TA** – Machine Learning Summer Camp 2015 (Online), KAIST
- Spring 2015 **TA** – Programming Practice (CS109), KAIST

## Mentorship

- Summer 2025 – Present **Yuxin Chen** (BS in Computer Science, University of Minnesota)
- Spring 2025 **Yangfan He** (BS in Computer Science, University of Minnesota)
- Summer 2024 – **Bin Hu** (BS in Computer Science, University of Minnesota)
- Spring 2025 Now: MS in Computer Science, University of Maryland.
- Spring 2024 – **Ryan Koo** (MS in Computer Science, University of Minnesota)
- Spring 2025 Now: Software Engineer at Amazon
- Fall 2023 – Spring 2024 **Preston Zhu** (BS in Computer Science, University of Minnesota)
- Spring 2022 **Josh Spitzer-Resnick** (MS in Computer Science, University of Minnesota)  
 Now: Solventum Healthcare.

## Invited Talks

- Jul 28, 2022 **Seminar Talk** – Dept. of Computer Engineering, Chungbuk Nat'l Univ.  
 Presented research on iterative text revision, machine translation, and discourse relations.

- Dec 2, 2021 **Colloquium Talk** – Graduate School of Software, KAIST  
Talk titled, *Cross-Lingual Discourse Analysis and Its Application*.
- Oct 12, 2018 **Conference Talk** – DEVIEW 2018  
Talk titled, *Papago Internals: Model Analysis and Development with Applied Technology*
- Nov 11, 2016 **Seminar Talk** – Rye & Catchers  
Talked about how textual data can be processed and utilized by *Bibly*, the company's book recommendation service.

## Academic Services

- 2025 **AAAI 2026 (PC), ACL 2025 (Reviewer), NeurIPS 2025 (Reviewer)**
- 2024 **AAAI 2024 (PC), 7th IWDS (PC), Knowledge-Based Systems (Reviewer), NAACL 2024 (Reviewer)**
- 2023 **EMNLP 2023 (Reviewer), 6th IWDS (PC)**
- 2022 **5th IWDS (PC)**
- 2021 **4th IWDS (PC)**
- 2020 **IEEE Access (Reviewer), NLP-COVID19 Workshop at EMNLP 2020 (Reviewer)**
- 2019 **2nd International Workshop on Dialog Systems (IWDS) (PC)**