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| Li “Harry” Zhang | | | zharry.com  Harry.Zhang@drexel.edu |
| Last updated: Oct 2025 | | |  |
| RESEARCH INTERESTS |  | Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing  Large Language Models, Planning, Reasoning, Agents, Formal Methods, etc. | |
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| ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS |  | **Drexel University**, Philadelphia, PADec 2024 – Present  Tenure-Track Assistant Professor | |
|  |  | **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PAAug 2019 – Aug 2024  Ph.D. Computer and Information Science GPA: 3.96/4.00  Adviser: Prof. Chris Callison-Burch  Thesis: *Structured Event Reasoning with Large Language Models*  Committee: Prof. Dan Roth (chair), Prof. Rada Mihalcea, Prof. Graham Neubig,  Prof. Mark Yatskar, Dr. Marianna Apidianaki | |
|  |  | **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MIAug 2015 – Dec 2018  B.S.E. Computer Science, summa cum laude GPA: 3.82/4.00  Mentors: Prof. Rada Mihalcea and Prof. Dragomir Radev | |
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| PUBLICATIONS |  | 30 papers peer-reviewed and published in conferences and workshops **⊃** 13 first-authored ∪ 3 last-authored  Total citations: 3000+; h-index: 15+  (\*Equal contribution; ^Mentored students)  [40] V. Menon, A. Cherney, E. Cloude, **L. Zhang**, T. Do. Evaluating the Impact of LLM-guided Reflection on Learning Outcomes with Interactive AI-Generated Educational Podcasts. In AIME-Con 2025.  [39] C. Huang, S. Mohan, Z. Yang, S. Tellex and L. Zhang. Language Model as Planner and Formalizer under Constraints. Preprint.  [38] C. E. Kayan and L. Zhang. Prototype-Based Dynamic Steering for Large Language Models. Preprint.  [37] M. He, Y. Zheng, Y. Liu, Z. An, B. Cai, J. Huang, L. Zhou, F. Liu, Z. Li and L. Zhang. Vision Language Models Cannot Plan, but Can They Formalize? Preprint.  [36] R. Wang and **L. Zhang**. Documentation Retrieval Improves Planning Language Generation. In AACL 2025.  [35] L. Gong, W. Zhu, J. Thomason and **L. Zhang**. Zero-Shot Iterative Formalization and Planning in Partially Observable Environments. Preprint.  [34] P. Kagitha and **L. Zhang**. Addressing the Challenges of Planning Language Generation. Preprint.  [33] R. Amonkar, M. Lai, R. Le Bras and **L. Zhang**. Are LLMs Better Formalizers than Solvers on Complex Problems? Preprint.  [32] Y. Yuan, M. He, A. Shahid, J. Huang, Z. Li, **L. Zhang**. TurnaboutLLM: A Deductive Reasoning Benchmark from Detective Games. In EMNLP 2025.  [31] W. Hu, J. Duan, C. Wei, **L. Zhang**, Y. Zhang and K. Xu. DynaCode: A Dynamic Complexity-Aware Code Benchmark for Evaluating Large Language Models in Code Generation. In Findings of ACL 2025.  [30] C. Huang and **L. Zhang**. On the Limit of Language Models as Planning Formalizers. In ACL 2025.  [29] **L. Zhang**, P. Jansen, P. Clark, C. Callison-Burch and N. Tandon. PDDLEGO: Iterative Planning in Textual Environments. In \*SEM 2024.  [28] T. Zhang\*^, **L. Zhang**\*, Z. Hou^, Z. Wang^, Y. Gu, P. Clark, C. Callison-Burch and N. Tandon. PROC2PDDL: Open-Domain Planning Representations from Texts. In the 2nd Natural Language Reasoning and Structured Explanations Workshop at ACL 2024.  [27] Q. Lyu, K. Shridhar, C. Malaviya, **L. Zhang**, Y. Elazar, N. Tandon, M. Apidianaki, M. Sachan and C. Callison-Burch. Calibrating Large Language Models with Sample Consistency. In AAAI 2025; **Area Chair Award**.  [26] Y. Lal, **L. Zhang**, F. Brahman, B. Majumder, Peter Clark and N. Tandon. One Size Does Not Fit All: Customizing Open-Domain Procedures. In Findings of ACL 2024.  [25] B. Majumder, B. Dalvi, P. Jansen, O. Tafjord, N. Tandon, **L. Zhang** and C. Callison-Burch, Peter Clark. CLIN: A Continually Learning Language Agent for Rapid Task Adaptation and Generalization. In COLM 2024.  [24] Z. Hou^, **L. Zhang** and C. Callison-Burch. *Choice-75: A Dataset on Decision Branching in Script Learning*. In LREC-COLING 2024.  [23] **L. Zhang**, H. Xu^, A. Kommula, N. Tandon and C. Callison-Burch. *OpenPI2.0: An Improved Dataset for Entity Tracking in Texts*. In EACL 2024.  [22] **L. Zhang**\*, L. Dugan\*, H. Xu\*^ and C. Callison-Burch. *Exploring the Curious Case of Code Prompts*. In preprint. In the 1st Natural Language Reasoning and Structured Explanations Workshop at ACL 2023.  [21] T. Zhang^, I. Tham, Z. Hou^, Jia. Ren, L. Zhou, H. Xu^, **L. Zhang**, L. Martin, R. Dror, S. Li, H. Ji, M. Palmer, S. Brown, R. Suchocki, C. Callison-Burch. *Human-in-the-Loop Schema Induction*. In preprint; in ACL 2023 Demos.  [20] Q. Lyu\*, S. Havaldar\*, A. Stein\*, **L. Zhang**, D. Rao, E. Wong, M. Apidianaki and C. Callison-Burch. *Faithful Chain of Thought Reasoning*. In IJCNLP-AACL 2023.  [19] **L. Zhang**\*, H. Xu\*^, Y. Yang, S. Zhou, W. You, M. Arora and C. Callison-Burch. *Causal Reasoning of Entities and Events in Procedural Texts*. In Findings of EACL 2023.  [18] **L. Zhang** and C. Callison-Burch. *Language Models are Drummers: Drum Composition with Natural Language Pre-Training*. In 1st Workshop on Creative AI across Modalities at AAAI 2023.  [17] Y. M. Cho^, **L. Zhang** and C. Callison-Burch. *Unsupervised Entity Linking with Guided Summarization and Multiple Choice Selection*. In EMNLP 2022.  [16] S. Gehrmann, …, **L. Zhang**, …, H. Zhu, S. Brahma, Y. Li, ... *GEMv2: Multilingual NLG Benchmarking in a Single Line of Code*. In EMNLP 2022.  [15] A. Srivastava, …, **L. Zhang**, Q. Lyu and C. Callison-Burch, … *Beyond the Imitation Game: Quantifying and extrapolating the capabilities of language models.* In TMLR.  [12] Q. Lyu, H. Zheng, D. Li, **L. Zhang**, M. Apidianaki, and C. Callison-Burch. *Is "my favorite new movie" my favorite movie? Probing the Understanding of Recursive Noun Phrases*. In NAACL 2022.  [11] **L. Zhang**, I. Jindal and Y. Li. *Label Definitions Improve Semantic Role Labeling*. In NAACL 2022.  [10] **L. Zhang**\*, S. Zhou\*, Q. Lyu, Y. Yang, G. Neubig and C. Callison-Burch. *Show Me More Details: Discovering Event Hierarchies from WikiHow*. In ACL 2022.  [9] Y. Yang, A. Panagopoulou, Q. Lyu, **L. Zhang**, M. Yatskar and C. Callison-Burch. *Visual Goal-Step Inference using wikiHow*. In EMNLP 2021; presented at the 2nd Workshop on Advances in Language and Vision Research at NAACL 2021.  [8] **L. Zhang**\*, Q. Lyu\* and C. Callison-Burch. *Goal-Oriented Script Construction*. In INLG 2021.  [7] **L. Zhang**, Q. Lyu and C. Callison-Burch. *Intent Detection with WikiHow*. In AACL-IJCNLP 2020.  [6] **L. Zhang**\*, Q. Lyu\* and C. Callison-Burch. *Reasoning about Goals, Steps, and Temporal Ordering with WikiHow*. In EMNLP 2020; presented at Workshop on Enormous Language Models at ICLR 2021.  [5] **L. Zhang**, H. Zhu, S. Brahma and Y. Li. *Small but Mighty: New Benchmarks for Split and Rephrase*. In EMNLP 2020.  [4] **L. Zhang**, S. R. Wilson and R. Mihalcea. *Multi-Label Transfer Learning for Semantic Similarity*. In \*SEM 2019 and presented at NAACL 2019.  [1] C. Finegan-Dollak, J. K. Kummerfeld, **L. Zhang**, K. R. D. Ramanathan, S. Sadasivam, R. Zhang and D. Radev. *Improving Text-to-SQL Evaluation Methodology.* In ACL 2018. | |
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| External Funding |  | **Decision-Embedded Deep Learning for Transit Systems ($432,572)** 2024 - 2027  *NSF*  • Inherited from Dr. Kaidi Xu. | |
|  |  | **Alexa Prize TaskBot Challenge ($250,000)** 2021 - 2022  *Amazon*  • Primarily authored, applied, and received a stipend award of $250,000 to lead University of Pennsylvania’s effort in the Alexa Prize TaskBot Challenge 2021. | |
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| INDUSTRYEXPERIENCE |  | **Research Intern** Apr 2023 – Dec 2023  *Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2)* Seattle, WA | |
|  | **Research Intern** Apr 2019 – Jun 2019; May 2021 – Aug 2021  *IBM Research* San Jose, CA | |
|  | **Software Engineer Intern** May 2017 – Aug 2017  *Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.* Jersey City, NJ | |
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| ACADEMIC SERVICE |  | **Chair**  • Area Chair:  AACL 2025, EMNLP 2025, ACL 2025, ACL 2024, EMNLP 2024, COLING 2024  • Program Chair:  Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on Speech, Language and Learning (MASC-SLL) 2023  • Program Chair:  1st Workshop on Data Science with Human in the Loop at EMNLP 2022 2022  • Session Chair:  Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association of Computational Linguistics (AACL) 2020 | |
| **Reviewer**  • Association of Computational Linguistics (ACL) recurring  • North American Chapter of ACL (NAACL) recurring  • Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) recurring  • Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) recurring  • Conference on Language Modeling (COLM) recurring  • International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC) recurring  • International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING) recurring  • Computer Speech and Language (CSL) journal. recurring | |
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| TEACHING |  | **Instructor — Applied Natural Language Processing** Apr 2025 – Jun 2025  CS T780: The graduate level NLP courseDrexel University  **Teaching Assistant — Computational Linguistics** Jan 2020 – Dec 2020  CIS 530: The graduate level NLP courseUniversity of Pennsylvania  **Teaching Assistant — Natural Language Processing** Sept 2018 – Dec 2018  EECS 595: The graduate level NLP courseUniversity of Michigan  **Teaching Assistant — Programming and Data Structures** Sept 2016 – Apr 2017  EECS 280: An introductory programming courseUniversity of Michigan  **Tutor — Elementary Chemistry** Sept 2016 – Dec 2016  Science Learning CenterUniversity of Michigan | |
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| ADVISING |  | **PhD Students**  Cassie HuangJan 2025 – present  Ceyhun Efe KayanSep 2025 – present  **Master Students**  Prabhu Prakash KagithaFeb 2025 – present  Chimezie MadunoMay 2025 – present  **Undergraduate Students**  Rikhil AmonkarFeb 2025 – present  Stuti MohanJun 2025 – present  **Interns and Visiting Students**  Muyu HeMar 2025 – present  Yuan YuanSep 2024 – present  Renxiang WangApr 2025 – present  **Alumni and Past Students**  Krystal Gong, Tianyi Zhang, Hainiu Xu, Zhaoyi Hou, Young-Min Cho | |