Qintong Li

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Education

The University of Hong Kong   **Sept. 2021 - Jun. 2025**
Ph.D., Computer Science,
Advisor: Lingpeng Kong

Shandong University   **Sept. 2018 - Jun. 2021**
M.Sc., Computer Science and Technology (GPA: 87.75/100),
Advisors: Zhaochun Ren, Zhumin Chen

Shandong University   **Sept. 2014 - Jun. 2018**
B.Sc., Software Engineering (GPA: 88.11/100, top 10%),

Research Interests

Natural Language Processing; Commonsense Reasoning; Text Generation; Neural Dialogue Generation.

Publications & Preprints

1. **Qintong Li**, Piji Li, Wei Bi, Zhaochun Ren, Yuxuan Lai, Zhumin Chen. **Event Transition Planning for Open-ended Text Generation.** Findings of ACL 2022.

2. **Qintong Li**, Piji Li, Zhaochun Ren, Pengjie Ren, Zhumin Chen. **Towards Knowledge Bridging for Empathetic Dialogue Generation.** AAAI 2022.

3. **Qintong Li**, Piji Li, Xinyi Li, Zhaochun Ren, Zhumin Chen, Maarten de Rijke. **Abstractive Opinion Tagging.** Oral paper. Accepted by WSDM 2021.

4. **Qintong Li**, Hongshen Chen, Zhaochun Ren, Pengjie Ren, Zhaopeng Tu, Zhumin Chen. **EmpDG: Multi-resolution Interactive Empathetic Dialogue Generation.** Oral paper. Accepted by COLING 2020.

Working Experiences

Tencent AI Lab   **Shenzhen, China**
Research Intern   *Jul. 2019 - Mar. 2021*
Working with Piji Li on **text generation** and **commonsense reasoning** (Works 2 & 3) .

Inspur Group   **Jinan, China**
Engineering Intern   *Aug. 2017 - Feb. 2018*
Worked on data analysis of public security department business, including data crawling, data processing, and data visualization.

Research Goals & Experiences

I conduct research on NLP techniques for open-domain production settings:

o **Opinion Summarization** (work 3): We propose a new task **abstractive opinion tagging** in e-commerce scenario. Given a set of user reviews about an item, the goal is to automatically generate a ranked list of opinion tags, e.g., *"hospitable service, delicious food, value for money, comfortable environment, served quickly."*, helping potential buyers make informed decisions without having to absorb large numbers of reviews. To facilitate the study of this task, we collect a large-scale real-world dataset **eComTag**.

- **Empathetic Dialogue Generation** (works 4 and 2): This research task aims to generate context-consistent responses on both semantic and emotional levels, including emotion perceptivity and expression. If a user said "*I have been caught in a traffic jam!*", the chatbot needs to perceive the user's worrying emotion and give a comforting response, e.g., "*I am sorry to hear that, but your boss will understand bad weather.*".

Taken together, my research experience scatters in deep learning, natural language processing, and their applications. **However, one of the critical problem of current NLP systems is lack of strong reasoning skills**, which further constraints the abilities in semantic understanding, information gathering/exchanging, and so on.

In the future, **I will continue to make progress by building algorithms for reasoning and driving future model improvements**. Since background knowledge has shown effectiveness in commonsense reasoning and many NLP tasks, I will also explore the power of knowledge for NLP tasks.

Awards

- Dec 2016, Honorable Mention Award in Mathematical Contest in Modeling.

- Oct 2016, Second Prize in Shandong Contest District in China Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling.

- Dec 2015, Dec 2016, Dec 2017, Excellent Undergraduate Student Scholarship.

- Jun 2018, Excellent Graduate Award.

- Sep 2019, Outstanding Student Scholarship.

Key Skills

Programming Language	Python
Research Scientific Computing Package	PyTorch, Tensorflow
Language	English (IELTS: 6.5)