# Independent Project Proposal

## Natural Language Processing with Reinforcement Learning

Yifan Zuo - 20876522

### WHAT PROBLEM WILL STUDY

The problem that I will study is how to improve the performance of natural language processing (NLP) tasks using reinforcement learning (RL). Specifically, I will investigate how to use RL to optimize the performance of NLP models for tasks such as text classification, named entity recognition, and sentiment analysis.

### WHY DO YOU FIND THE PROBLEM INTERESTING OR IMPORTANT

NLP is a rapidly growing field with applications in various domains, such as healthcare, finance, and customer service. However, the performance of NLP models heavily depends on the quality and quantity of the training data, and it can be challenging to optimize the model's performance for different tasks. Reinforcement learning offers a promising approach to overcoming these challenges by allowing the model to learn from its own experience and optimize its performance based on a reward signal. The potential benefits of this approach include improved accuracy, reduced reliance on labeled data, and the ability to adapt to new tasks and domains.

### PRELIMINARY PLAN ON THE METHODOLOGY

Overall structure

- Conduct a literature review of existing research on RL in NLP and identify the most promising approaches for improving NLP performance using RL.
- Design and implement RL-based algorithms for NLP tasks such as text classification, named entity recognition, and sentiment analysis.
- Evaluate the performance of the RL-based algorithms on standard NLP datasets and compare their performance with existing state-of-the-art NLP models.

- Conduct ablation studies to analyze the contribution of different components of the RL-based algorithms to the overall performance.
- Conduct experiments to evaluate the generalization performance of the RL-based algorithms on new and unseen datasets.
- Compare the performance of the RL-based algorithms with traditional supervised learning approaches and analyze the trade-offs between performance, data requirements, and training time.
- Write up the results and conclusions of the study in a research paper and submit it to relevant conferences or journals in the field of NLP and machine learning.