Wasi Uddin Ahmad

Contact Information

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Research Interests

Developing computational algorithms that (1) reduce the amount of labeled data required to train NLP models from scratch; and (2) adapt to new domains and languages with fewer labeled examples.

Topics: Representation Learning for NLP, Transfer Learning, Multi-task Learning.

Education

Ph.D. in **Computer Science** [2017 – present]
University of California, Los Angeles
CGPA: 3.78 on a scale of 4.00
Advisor: Dr. Kai-Wei Chang

Master of **Computer Science** [2015 – 17]
University of Virginia
CGPA: 4.00 on a scale of 4.00

B.Sc. in **Computer Science and Engineering** [2008 – 13]
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
CGPA: 3.81 on a scale of 4.00

Selected Publications

Ahmad, W. U., Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). Cross-lingual Dependency Parsing with Unlabeled Auxiliary Languages. In Proceedings of the 23rd Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL). pages 372382.

Ahmad, W. U., Zhang, Z., Ma, X., Hovy, E., Chang, K. W., & Peng, N. (2019). On Difficulties of Cross-Lingual Transfer with Order Differences: A Case Study on Dependency Parsing. In Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers) (pp. 2440-2452).

Ahmad, W. U., Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2019). Context Attentive Document Ranking and Query Suggestion. In Proceedings of the 42nd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 385-394). ACM.

Ahmad, W. U., Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Intent-aware query obfuscation for privacy protection in personalized web search. In Proceedings of the 41st International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (pp. 285-294). ACM.

Ahmad, W. U., Chang, K. W., & Wang, H. (2018). Multi-task learning for document ranking and query suggestion. In Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).

Ongoing Research Projects

Cross-lingual Representation Learning [2018 – Present]
Our objective is to learn contextualized representations of sentences from resource-rich languages and transfer to low-resource languages. In this project, the research questions we address: what and how information can be transferred across languages and can be refined for a new language given a few labeled examples.

Information Extraction from Privacy Policies [2019 – Present]
We aim to develop techniques to accurately extract information and precisely present them by translating narrative policy descriptions in security and privacy policy documents to the users.

Open Keyphrase Generation for Contextual Targeting [2019 – Present]
Developing and experimenting with novel keyphrase generation techniques from web documents to improve page-to-segment relevance models to facilitate contextual targeting.

Source Code to Natural Language Generation [2019 – Present]
In this project, we aim to design models that can facilitate source code to natural language generation, such as, automatic code summarization, commit message generation for source code changes etc.

Intern Experience

Research Intern, Yahoo Research, Sunnyvale, California [06/2019 – 09/2019]
Research Intern, Microsoft AI and Research, Redmond, Washington [06/2018 – 09/2018]
Research Intern, Walmart Labs, Reston, Virginia [06/2016 – 08/2016]

Awards & Scholarships

Graduate Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles [2017 – 18]
William L Ballard Jr Endowed Graduate Fellowship, University of Virginia [Spring, 2017]
Graduate Fellowship, University of Virginia [2015 – 16]

Professional Services

Program Committee/Reviewer: IJCAI 2020, AAAI 2020, LREC 2020, NAACL 2019 etc.
Secondary Reviewer: EMNLP 2018