Xuanchang Zhang

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Education

Shanghai Jiao Tong University   Shanghai, China
Bachelor of Computer Science   *Sept. 2021-June. 2025*

- Member of <u>ACM Honors Class</u>, which is an elite CS program for top 5% talented students
- **Related courses:** Computer Architecture (90), Compiler (95), Operating System 91), Data Structure (90), Design and Analysis of Algorithms (97), Computer Vision (100), Introduction to Data Science (90), Large Language Models (97), Reinforcement Learning (97)

Publications

GLaPE: Gold Label-agnostic Prompt Evaluation for Large Language Models
Accepted by EMNLP 2024 Main

Xuanchang Zhang, Zhuosheng Zhang, Hai Zhao

From Lists to Emojis: How Format Bias Affects Model Alignment
Accepted by ACL 2025 Main

Xuanchang Zhang, Wei Xiong, Lichang Chen, Tianyi Zhou, Heng Huang, Tong Zhang

Research Experience

Investigate Distribution Mismatch in LLM RL Training   **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Research Assistant, advised by Prof. <u>Tong Zhang</u>   *Sep.2025 - Present*

- Investigated the challenge of **off-policy distribution mismatch** between the sampling policy and the training policy in LLM RL training
- Proposed an effective algorithm based on perturbation to mitigate the off-policy distribution mismatch, enhancing training stability and data efficiency

Investigate and Mitigate Format biases in RLHF   **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**
Research Assistant, advised by Prof. <u>Tong Zhang</u>   *July.2024 - Dec.2024*

- Identify **format biases** in widely used preference datasets for **reward models** and aligned language models, revealing their prevalence
- Demonstrate the ease of injecting such biases into unbiased models
- Propose a method to train an unbiased reward model from biased preference data based on the newly introduced bias format
- Our method successfully trains an unbiased reward model from biased preference dataset while preserving, and in some cases improving, overall capability

Design Gold Label-agnostic Prompt Evaluation and Optimization for LLMs   **Shanghai Jiao Tong University**
Research Assistant, advised by Prof. <u>Hai Zhao</u> and Prof. <u>Zhuosheng Zhang</u>   *Sept.2023 - June.2024*

- Develop **Gold Label-agnostic Prompt Evaluation (GLaPE)** to address reliance of existing prompt optimization methods on exclusive gold labels
- Leverage **self-consistency evaluation** and **mutual-consistency refinement** to enable robust, label-free assessment
- Our method achieves performance comparable to prior supervised approaches despite having no access to gold labels

Skills

Programming Languages: Proficient in C/C++, Python, JAVA