

# Yang Zhong

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Pittsburgh, PA - 15213  
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## EDUCATION

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- **University of Pittsburgh** 09/2021 - Now  
*Ph.D. Student in Computer Science* Pittsburgh, PA
  - **Advisor:** Prof. Diane J. Litman
- **The Ohio State University** 2019-2021  
*M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering* Columbus, OH
  - Thesis Track, Advisors: Prof. Feng Qin and Prof. Wei Xu
- **The University of Texas at Austin** 2015-2019  
*B.S. in Mathematics (with Honors)* Austin, TX

## PUBLICATIONS

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- [15] **Discourse-Driven Evaluation: Unveiling Factual Inconsistency in Long Document Summarization**  
Yang Zhong and Diane Litman  
*Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)*, 2025 (long paper)
- [14] **From Information to Insight: Leveraging LLMs for Open Aspect-Based Educational Summarization**  
Yang Zhong and Diane Litman  
*In Submission*, 2024 (long paper)
- [13] **How to Align Multiple Signed Language Corpora for Better Sign-to-Sign Translations**  
Mert Inan, Yang Zhong, Vidya Ganesh, Malihe Alikhani  
*Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)*, 2025 (long paper)
- [12] **ReflectSumm: A Benchmark for Course Reflection Summarization**  
Yang Zhong<sup>†</sup>, Mohamed S. Elaraby<sup>†</sup>, Diane Litman, Ahmed Ashraf Butt, Mhusin Menekse<sup>†</sup>  
*The 2024 Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC-COLING)*, 2024 (long paper; <sup>†</sup>: equal authorship)
- [11] **Multimodal Understanding of Memes with Fair Explanations**  
Yang Zhong, Bhiman Kumar Baghel  
*Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) Workshops*, 2024 (long paper)
- [10] **Evaluating AI-Generated Essays with GRE Analytical Writing Assessment**  
Yang Zhong, Jiangang Hao, Michael Fauß, Chen Li, Yuan Wang  
*In Submission*, 2024 (long paper)
- [9] **STRONG – Structure Controllable Legal Opinion Summary Generation**  
Yang Zhong and Diane Litman  
*Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: IJCNLP-AAACL*, 2023 (short paper)
- [8] **Overview of ImageArg-2023: The First Shared Task in Multimodal Argument Mining**  
Zhexiong Liu, Mohamed S. Elaraby<sup>†</sup>, Yang Zhong<sup>†</sup>, Diane Litman  
*The 10th Argument Mining Workshop in EMNLP*, 2023 (long paper; <sup>†</sup>: equal authorship)
- [7] **Towards Argument-Aware Abstractive Summarization of Long Legal Opinions with Summary Reranking**  
Mohamed S. Elaraby, Yang Zhong, Diane Litman  
*Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL*, 2023 (short paper)
- [6] **Computing and Exploiting Document Structure to Improve Unsupervised Extractive Summarization of Legal Case Decision**  
Yang Zhong and Diane Litman  
*The Natural Legal Language Processing Workshop in EMNLP*, 2022 (long paper)
- [5] **Modeling Intensification for Sign Language Generation: A Computational Approach**  
Mert Inan<sup>†</sup>, Yang Zhong<sup>†</sup>, Sabit Hassan<sup>†</sup>, Lorna Quandt, Malihe Alikhani  
*Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL*, 2022 (long paper, <sup>†</sup>: equal authorship)

- [4] **WIKIBIAS: Detecting Multi-Span Subjective Biases in Language**  
 Yang Zhong, Jingfeng Yang, Wei Xu, Diyi Yang  
*Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP*, 2021 (long paper)
- [3] **Neural CRF Model for Sentence Alignment in Text Simplification**  
 Chao Jiang, Mounica Maddela, Wuwei Lan, Yang Zhong, Wei Xu  
*Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2020 (long paper)
- [2] **Discourse Level Factors for Sentence Deletion in Text Simplification**  
 Yang Zhong, Chao Jiang, Wei Xu, Junyi Jessy Li  
*The Thirty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2020 (long paper)
- [1] **Predicting and Analyzing Language Specificity in Social Media Posts**  
 Yifan Gao<sup>†</sup>, Yang Zhong<sup>†</sup>, Daniel Preotiuc-Pietro, Junyi Jessy Li  
*The Thirty-Third AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2019 (long paper, <sup>†</sup>: equal authorship)

## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- **Graduate Student Researcher** 01/2022 – now  
*University of Pittsburgh* Advisor: Dr. Diane Litman
  - Investigated key discourse factors influencing long-document summarization evaluation and proposed a novel approach integrating linguistically inspired structures and features that is generalizable across text domains [15].
  - Conducted research on document summarization with a specific focus on the educational domain [12, 14].
  - Led multiple projects in text summarization for the legal domain, enhancing model performance in unsupervised settings [6], developing argument-aware abstractive summarization [7], and enabling structurally controllable generation [9].
  - Co-organized the first shared task on multimodal argument mining and contributed to the official report summarizing key findings [8].
  - Conducted research on analyzing academic job postings, examining key value dimensions in higher education. The paper is currently under review for a journal.
- **Research and Measurement Sciences (RMS) Internship** 06/2023 - 09/2023  
*Educational Testing Service* Mentors: Dr. Jiangang Hao and Dr. Michael Fauß
  - Assessed AI-generated essays using both human raters and the e-rater automated scoring engine as used in the GRE scoring and presented a linguistic-driven analysis of the texts. Evaluated the detection accuracy of AI-generated content. This leads to a paper under review [10].
- **Graduate Student Researcher** 09/2021 - 05/2022  
*University of Pittsburgh* Mentor: Dr. Malihe Alikhani
  - Led research on modeling intensification in sign language for generation using Transformers and study the sign-to-sign translations. The projects led to publications [5, 13].
- **Graduate Research Assistant** 09/2019 - 12/2020  
*The Ohio State University* Advisor: Dr. Wei Xu
  - Led research on studying subjective bias in language [4] and worked on projects studying text simplification from both sentence level [3] and document level [2].
- **Undergraduate Research Assistant** 06/2018 - 05/2019  
*The University of Texas at Austin* Advisor: Dr. Junyi Jessy Li
  - Led the research on studying document-level factors for sentence deletion, a phenomenon in document-level simplification [2].
  - Conducted a large-scale, data driven empirical analysis of language specificity on Tweet and developed a model that improves specificity prediction, improved the prediction accuracy by 33% comparing to baseline. This results in a paper [1].

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- **Regular Reviewer**  
 ACL Rolling Review, ACL, EMNLP, NAACL, AAAI, COLING, BEA Workshop
- **Teaching Assistant**
  - CS 1502: Formal Methods in Computer Science, University of Pittsburgh – Fall 2021
  - CS1510: Algorithm Design, University of Pittsburgh – Fall 2021
  - CSE 6341: Foundations of Programming Languages (Graduate-level), Ohio State University – Spring 2021
- **Invited Talk**  
 OSU AI seminar, OSU Clippers forum

## AWARDS

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- **AAAI Travel Scholarship** 2019
- **Undergraduate Research Travel Scholarship** 2018

## SKILLS

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- **Language:** Proficient in Python, R, SQL; Exposure to Swift, Java, C++
- **Framework:** PyTorch, Huggingface, Git, Pandas, spaCY, NLTK, Scikit-Learn CoreNLP, AWS, OpenAI Toolkits
- **Natural Language:** Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Full professional proficiency)

## REFERENCES

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1. **Diane J. Litman, Ph.D**  
Professor, Department of Computer Science  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, pA  
Email: dlitman [at] pitt [dot] edu  
<https://people.cs.pitt.edu/litman/>
2. **Junyi Jessy Li**  
Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics  
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX  
Email: jessy@austin.utexas.edu  
jessyli.com