

Cheng Li

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Summary

My name is Cheng Li, and I am a Chinese girl with a deep fascination for advanced technologies that enhance our daily lives, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and computational linguistics. Over the past two years, I have conducted research exploring the cognitive mechanisms of LLMs (e.g., *EmotionPrompt* and *NegativePrompt*), multicultural understanding of LLMs (*CultureLLM* and *CulturePark*), and AI for healthcare (*MentalArena*). Looking ahead, I aspire to contribute to more impactful and innovative work on large models.

Research Interests

AI for Social Science: Unveiling Emotions in Generative AI (ICML 2024), NegativePrompt (IJCAI 2024), Emotion-Prompt (LLM@IJCAI'23)

Cultural Problems in Large Models: CultureLLM (NeurIPS 2024), CulturePark (NeurIPS 2024)

AI for Healthcare: MentalArena (Submitted to ICLR 2025)

Experience

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Research Intern

Advisors: Prof. Heng Ji

05/2024 - 10/2024

- Proposed **MentalArena**, a self-play framework to train language models by generating domain-specific personalized data, where we obtain a better model capable of making a personalized diagnosis and treatment (as a therapist) and providing information (as a patient).

Microsoft Research, Social Computing Group

Research Intern

Advisors: Prof. Xing Xie, Dr. Jindong Wang

04/2023 - 05/2024

- First leverage psychology knowledge (emotional stimuli) to enhance LLMs: **EmotionPrompt**
- Devised **EmotionAttack** and **EmotionDecode** which explore emotion's role as attacker and emotion's mechanism in LMs, respectively.
- Introduced two novel methods: **CultureLLM** and **CulturePark** which incorporate cultural differences into LLMs and train culturally specific models to mitigate cultural bias problem in LLMs.

Publication

- Cheng Li**, Jindong Wang, Yixuan Zhang, Kaijie Zhu, Xinyi Wang, Wenxin Hou, Jianxun Lian, Fang Luo, Qiang Yang, Xing Xie. *The good, the bad, and why: Unveiling emotions in generative ai*. [Implemented by [LlamaIndex](#)] [Media coverage: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#)] [Reported by [Forbes](#)] [**ICML 2024**]
- Cheng Li**, Mengzhuo Chen, Jindong Wang, Sunayana Sitaram, Xing Xie. *CultureLLM: Incorporating Cultural Differences into Large Language Models*. [**NeurIPS 2024**]
- Cheng Li**, Damien Teney, Linyi Yang, Qingsong Wen, Xing Xie, Jindong Wang. *CulturePark: Boosting Cross-cultural Understanding in Large Language Models*. [Media coverage: [MIT Technology Review](#), [Vitalbridge](#)] [**NeurIPS 2024**]
- Xu Wang*, **Cheng Li***, Yi Chang, Jindong Wang, Yuan Wu. *NegativePrompt: Leveraging Psychology for Large Language Models Enhancement via Negative Emotional Stimuli*. (*: Co-first Authors) [**IJCAI 2024**]
- Cheng Li**, May Fung, Qingyun Wang, Chi Han, Manling Li, Jindong Wang, Heng Ji. *MentalArena: Self-play Training of Language Models for Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Health Disorders*. [Submitted to ICLR 2025]
- Cheng Li**, Jindong Wang, Yixuan Zhang, Kaijie Zhu, Wenxin Hou, Jianxun Lian, Fang Luo, Qiang Yang, Xing Xie. *Large language models understand and can be enhanced by emotional stimuli*. [**LLM@IJCAI'23**]

- Yujun Zhang, Lei Zhu, Wei Feng, Huazhu Fu, Mingqian Wang, Qingxia Li, **Cheng Li**, Song Wang. *Vil-100: A new dataset and a baseline model for video instance lane detection* [ICCV 2021]

Education

Master, Computer Science *Institute of Software, Chinese Academic of Sciences* **Beijing, China** 2022-2025
GPA: 3.75/4.00

Bachelor, Software Engineering *Tianjin University* **Tianjin, China** 2018-2022
GPA: 3.72/4.00

Academic Reviews

- **NeurIPS 2024**: The Thirty-Eighth Neural Information Processing Systems *Reviewer*
- **ICLR 2024**: The Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations *Reviewer*

Award

- NeurIPS 2024 Scholar Award
- ICML 2024 Travel Award

Projects

promptbench |   2.4k 09/2023 - 05/2024

- Incorporated several representative prompt engineering approaches into an united project for researchers and users to use and evaluate their performance.

Personality and Hobbies

I'm easy-going and like to meet new friends, which is so interesting and fun!