Wenzheng Zhang

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Summary

An AI researcher specializing in natural language processing and large language models, with a track record of publications in top venues (Google Scholar). My work spans LLM reasoning, retrieval- and memory-augmented generation, contrastive learning, and entity-centric language understanding, across both academia and industry. I am motivated to contribute to AI research with meaningful and positive impact.

Employment

Roblox   Oct 2025 – Present
Senior Machine Learning Engineer at Roblox Discovery

Meta   May 2024 – Dec 2024
Research Scientist Intern at FAIR

- Designed and developed a unified retriever–generator model for latent retrieval-augmented generation based on Llama 3.
- Demonstrated strong performance on knowledge-intensive and multi-hop reasoning benchmarks; results published in **EMNLP Findings 2025**. This work represents an early exploration toward latent retrieval and memory-augmented generation within a single language model.

Microsoft   June 2022 – Aug 2022
Applied Scientist Intern

- Designed a novel multitask learning framework to promote task specialization in multitask information retrieval using task-specific prompting and adaptive learning.
- Achieved state-of-the-art performance on the KILT benchmark, surpassing task-specific retrievers; results published in **TACL 2023**.

Publications

Wenzheng Zhang, Karl Stratos. *ReNCE: Learning to Reason by Noise Contrastive Estimation*. Preprint (under submission).

Wenzheng Zhang, Xi Victoria Lin, Karl Stratos, Wen-tau Yih, Mingda Chen. *ImpRAG: Retrieval-Augmented Generation with Implicit Queries*. EMNLP Findings 2025.

Wenzheng Zhang, Sam Wiseman, Karl Stratos. *Seq2seq is All You Need for Coreference Resolution*. EMNLP 2023.

Wenzheng Zhang, Chenyan Xiong, Karl Stratos, Arnold Overwijk. *Improving Multitask Retrieval by Promoting Task Specialization*. TACL 2023.

Wenzheng Zhang, Wenyue Hua, Karl Stratos. *EntQA: Entity Linking as Question Answering*. ICLR 2022 (Spotlight).

Wenzheng Zhang, Karl Stratos. *Understanding Hard Negatives in Noise Contrastive Estimation*. NAACL 2021.

Education

Rutgers University, PhD in Computer Science   Sept 2021 – Oct 2025

Rutgers University, MS in Computer Science   Jan 2020 – June 2021

University of Science and Technology of China, BS in Applied Physics   Sept 2015 – May 2019

Honors

ICLR Spotlight Paper (Top 5%); Outstanding Publications Award (Rutgers University)

Professional Service

Reviewer: NAACL 2021; EMNLP 2023, 2025; ICML 2026