

Lili Mou

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Personal Profile

Dr. Lili Mou is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta. Lili received his BS and PhD degrees in 2012 and 2017, respectively, from School of EECS, Peking University. After that, he worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Waterloo and a research scientist at Adeptmind (a startup in Toronto, Canada). His research interests include deep learning applied to natural language processing as well as programming language processing. He has published more than 30 papers at top-tier conferences and journals, including AAAI, ACL, CIKM, COLING, EMNLP, ICASSP, ICML, IJCAI, INTERSPEECH, NAACL-HLT, and TACL (in alphabetic order), as well as a monograph with Springer. He has a tutorial *Discreteness in Neural Natural Language Processing* accepted by EMNLP-IJCNLP, 2019.

Employment

2018.12–2019.7 Assistant Professor, University of Alberta
2018.12–2019.7 & 2017.8–2018.4 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Waterloo (Advisors: [Pascal Poupart](#), [Olga Vechtomova](#))
2018.6–2018.11 Deep Learning Scientist, Adeptmind Inc.

Education

2012.9–2017.7 PhD, School of EECS, Peking University (Advisors: Zhi Jin and Lu Zhang)
Awards: 2012–2013, *Second Prize of Hangtiankegong Scholarship*
2014–2015, *Specialized Scholarship in Research*
2015–2016, *Specialized Scholarship in Research*
2015–2016, *National Scholarship of China*
2016.5, *Top-10 Student Scholars in School of EECS, Peking University*
2017.7, *Distinguished PhD Thesis in Peking University*
2008.9–2012.7 BS, School of EECS, Peking University

Internships

2016.8–2017.1 Research intern at Noah's Ark Lab, Huawei Technologies, Hong Kong (Mentor: Zhengdong Lu)
2015.5–2016.4 Research intern at Inspiro Inc. (In corporation with Rui Yan at Baidu)
2010.5–2017.7 Research assistant at Key Laboratory of High Confidence Software Technologies (Peking University), Ministry of Education, China

Languages (Natural)

- Chinese (native)
- Wu (native) [a dialect of Chinese, significantly different from Mandarin]
- English (proficient)

Languages (Programming)

- C/C++
- Matlab
- Python
- Theano
- PyTorch
- TensorFlow

Software release: A hybrid C++ and python package for automatic forward/back-prop of neural networks (available at <https://github.com/Lili-Mou>)

Publications

¹ = equal contribution

Book

- **Lili Mou**, Zhi Jin. *Tree-Based Convolutional Neural Networks: Principles and Applications*, Springer, 2018.

Refereed Papers

1. Bowen Li, **Lili Mou**, Frank Keller. An imitation learning approach to unsupervised parsing. To appear in *ACL*, 2019.
2. Vineet John, **Lili Mou**, Hareesh Bahuleyan, Olga Vechtomova. Disentangled representation learning for non-parallel text style transfer. To appear in *ACL*, 2019.
3. Yu Bao, Hao Zhou, Shujian Huang, Lei Li, **Lili Mou**, Olga Vechtomova, Xin-Yu Dai, Jiajun Chen. Generating sentences from disentangled syntactic and semantic spaces. To appear in *ACL*, 2019.
4. Hareesh Bahuleyan, **Lili Mou**, Hao Zhou, Olga Vechtomova. [Stochastic Wasserstein autoencoder for probabilistic sentence generation](#). In *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL-HLT short)*, pages 4068–4076, 2019.
5. Ning Miao, Hao Zhou, **Lili Mou**, Rui Yan, Lei Li. [CGMH: Constrained generation via Metropolis-Hastings sampling](#). To appear in *AAAI*, 2019.
6. Zeyu Sun, Qihao Zhu, **Lili Mou**, Yingfei Xiong, Ge Li, Lu Zhang. [A Grammar-based structural CNN decoder for code generation](#). To appear in *AAAI*, 2019.
7. Bolin Wei,¹ Shuai Lu,¹ **Lili Mou**, Hao Zhou, Pascal Poupart, Ge Li, Zhi Jin. [Why do neural dialog systems generate short and meaningless replies? A comparison between dialog and translation](#). In *Proceedings of the 2019 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, pages 7290–7294, 2019.
8. Hareesh Bahuleyan,¹ **Lili Mou**,¹ Olga Vechtomova, Pascal Poupart. [Variational attention for sequence-to-sequence models](#). In *Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)*, pages 1672–1682, 2018. Also presented at *TADGM Workshop @ICML*, 2018.
9. Xianggen Liu, **Lili Mou**, Haotian Cui, Zhengdong Lu, Sen Song. [Jumper: Learning when to make classification decision in reading](#). In *Proceedings of the 27th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*, pages 4237–4243, 2018.
10. Zaixiang Zheng,¹ Hao Zhou,¹ Shujian Huang, **Lili Mou**, Xin-Yu Dai, Jiajun Chen, Zhaopeng Tu. [Modeling past and future for neural machine translation](#). *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)*, vol. 6, pages 145–157, 2018.
11. Nabihha Asghar, Pascal Poupart, Jesse Hoey, Xin Jiang, **Lili Mou**. [Affective neural response generation](#). In *Proceedings of the European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR)*, pages 154–166, 2018.

12. Lei Sha, **Lili Mou**, Tianyu Liu, Pascal Poupart, Sujian Li, Baobao Chang, Zhifang Sui. [Order-planning neural text generation from structured data](#). In *Proceedings of the 32nd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 5414–5421, 2018.
13. Chongyang Tao, **Lili Mou**, Dongyan Zhao, Rui Yan. [RUBER: An unsupervised method for automatic evaluation of open-domain dialog systems](#). In *Proceedings of the 32nd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, pages 722–729, 2018.
14. Zhao Meng, **Lili Mou**, Zhi Jin. [Towards neural speaker modeling in multi-party conversation: The task, dataset, and models](#). In *Proceedings of the 32nd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-student poster)*, pages 8121–8122, 2018.
15. Zhao Meng, **Lili Mou**, Zhi Jin. [Hierarchical RNN with static sentence-level attention for text-based speaker change detection](#). In *Proceedings of the 2007 ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM-short)*, pages 2203–2206, 2017.
16. **Lili Mou**, Zhengdong Lu, Hang Li, Zhi Jin. [Coupling distributed and symbolic execution for natural language queries](#). In *Proceedings of the 34th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, pages 2518–2526, 2017. Also presented at *ICLR Workshop*, 2017.
17. Zhiliang Tian, Rui Yan, **Lili Mou**, Yiping Song, Yansong Feng, Dongyan Zhao. [How to make context more useful? An empirical study on context-aware neural conversational models](#). In *Proceedings of the 55th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL-short)*, volume 2, pages 231–236, 2017.
18. **Lili Mou**, Yiping Song, Rui Yan, Ge Li, Lu Zhang, Zhi Jin. [Sequence to backward and forward sequences: A content-introducing approach to generative short-text conversation](#). In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)*, pages 3349–3358, 2016.
19. Yan Xu,¹ Ran Jia,¹ **Lili Mou**, Ge Li, Yunchuan Chen, Yangyang Lu, Zhi Jin. [Improved relation classification by deep recurrent neural networks with data augmentation](#). In *Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)*, pages 1461–1470, 2016.
20. **Lili Mou**, Zhao Meng, Rui Yan, Ge Li, Lu Zhang, Zhi Jin. [How transferable are neural networks in NLP applications?](#) In *Proceedings of the 2016 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pages 478–489, 2016.
21. **Lili Mou**, Ran Jia, Yan Xu, Ge Li, Lu Zhang, Zhi Jin. [Distilling word embeddings: An encoding approach](#). In *Proceedings of the 25th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM-short)*, pages 1977–1980. Also presented in *Representation Learning for Natural Language Processing (RL4NLP) Workshop @ACL*, 2016.
22. Zhao Meng, **Lili Mou**, Ge Li, Zhi Jin. Context-aware tree-based convolutional neural networks for natural language inference. In *Proceedings of 9th International Conference on Knowledge Science, Engineering and Management*, pages 515–526, 2016.
23. Yiping Song, **Lili Mou**, Rui Yan, Li Yi, Zinan Zhu, Xiaohua Hu. [Dialogue session segmentation by embedding-enhanced TextTiling](#). In *Proceedings of the 17th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association (INTERSPEECH)*, pages 2706–2710, 2016.
24. Yunchuan Chen, **Lili Mou**, Yan Xu, Ge Li, Zhi Jin. [Compressing neural language models by sparse word representations](#). In *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 226–235, 2016.
25. **Lili Mou**,¹ Rui Men,¹ Ge Li, Yan Xu, Lu Zhang, Rui Yan, Zhi Jin. [Natural language inference by tree-based convolution and heuristic matching](#). In *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL-short)*, volume 2, pages 130–136 2016.
26. Xiang Li, **Lili Mou**, Rui Yan, Ming Zhang. [StalemateBreaker: A proactive content-introducing approach to automatic human-computer conversation](#). In *Proceedings of the 25th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)*, pages 2845–2851, 2016.

27. **Lili Mou**, Ge Li, Zhi Jin, Lu Zhang, Tao Wang. [Convolutional neural networks over tree structures for programming language processing](#). In *Proceedings of the 30th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, pages 1287–1293, 2016.
28. Hao Peng,¹ **Lili Mou**,¹ Ge Li, Yuxuan Liu, Zhi Jin, Yan Xu, Lu Zhang. Building program vector representations for deep learning. In *Proceedings of 8th International Conference on Knowledge Science, Engineering and Management*, pages 547–553, 2015.
29. **Lili Mou**,¹ Hao Peng,¹ Ge Li, Yan Xu, Lu Zhang, Zhi Jin. [Discriminative neural sentence modeling by tree-based convolution](#). In *Proceedings of the 2015 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pages 2315–2325, 2015.
30. Hao Peng,¹ **Lili Mou**,¹ Ge Li, Yunchuan Chen, Yangyang Lu, Zhi Jin. [A comparative study on regularization strategies for embedding-based neural networks](#). In *Proceedings of the 2015 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP-short)*, pages 2106–2111, 2015.
31. Yan Xu, **Lili Mou**, Ge Li, Yunchuan Chen, Hao Peng, Zhi Jin. [Classifying relations via long short term memory networks along shortest dependency paths](#). In *Proceedings of the 2015 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pages 1785–1794, 2015.
32. Yan Xu, Ge Li, **Lili Mou**, Yangyang Lu. Learning non-taxonomic relations on demand for ontology extension. *International Journal of Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering*, vol. 24, no. 8, pages 1159–1175, 2014.
33. **Lili Mou**, Ge Li, Zhi Jin, Lu Zhang. Verification based on hyponymy hierarchical characteristics for Web-based hyponymy discovery. In *Proceedings of 7th International Conference on Knowledge Science, Engineering and Management*, pages 81–92, 2014.
34. Yiyang Hao, Ge Li, **Lili Mou**, Lu Zhang, Zhi Jin. [MCT: A tool for commenting programs by multimedia comments](#). In *Proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE-demo)*, pages 1330–1442, 2013.
35. **Lili Mou**, Ge Li, Zhi Jin. Domain hyponymy hierarchy discovery by iterative Web searching and inferable semantics based concept selecting. In *Proceedings of the 2013 IEEE 37th Annual Computer Software and Applications Conference*, pages 387–392, 2013.
36. **Lili Mou**, Ge Li, Zhi Jin, Yangyang Lu, Yiyang Hao. Discovering domain concepts and hyponymy relations by text relevance classifying based iterative Web searching. In *Proceedings of 19th Asia-Pacific Software Engineering Conference*, pages 213–222, 2012.

Unpublished Manuscripts

37. Raphael Tang,¹ Yao Lu,¹ Linqing Liu,¹ **Lili Mou**, Olga Vechtomova, Jimmy Lin. Distilling task-specific knowledge from BERT into simple neural networks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1903.12136*, 2019.
38. Nabihha Asghar,¹ **Lili Mou**,¹ Kira A. Selby, Kevin D. Pantasdo, Pascal Poupart, Xin Jiang. [Progressive memory banks for incremental domain adaptation](#). Presented at the *1st Adaptive & Multitask Learning Workshop (@ICML)*, 2019.
39. Yunchuan Chen, **Lili Mou**, Yan Xu, Ge Li, Zhi Jin. Learning word representations from multiple information sources. Presented in *Representation Learning for Natural Language Processing (RL4NLP) Workshop @ACL*, 2016.
40. **Lili Mou**, Rui Yan, Ge Li, Lu Zhang, Zhi Jin. Backward and forward language modeling for constrained sentence generation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1512.06612*, 2015.
41. **Lili Mou**, Rui Men, Ge Li, Lu Zhang, Zhi Jin. On end-to-end program generation from user intention by deep neural networks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1510.07211*, 2015.

Academic Service

- Primary reviewer: NAACL-HLT 2016 (best reviewers), COLING 2016, ACL 2017, IJCNLP 2017, LREC 2018, AAAI 2018, NAACL-HLT 2018, ACL 2018, COLING 2018 (Reviewer & Mentoring program), IJCAI 2019, ACL 2019, NeurIPS 2019 *Computer Speech & Language, TKDE*
- Subreviewer: FSE 2016, BigData 2017, AAAI 2017, *Cognitive Computing, JCST*
- Talks:
- 2016.5.28, NLP Session, Chinese R Language Forum (at Renming Univ.)
Tree-Based Convolution and its Applications
 - 2017.1.13, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
 - 2017.3.3, Information Sciences Institute, U. Southern California
Coupling Distributed and Symbolic Execution for Natural Language Queries
 - 2017.7.5, Nanyang Technological University
Deep Learning for Program Analysis: From Classification to Generation
 - 2018.10.19, Software Institute, Peking University
Probabilistic Natural Language Generation: Problems and Fixes
 - 2018.10.20, 2nd Youth Forum on Advanced Computing, Peking University
Neural Relaxation for Reinforcement Learning in Natural Language Processing
 - 2019.7.20, Queen's University (Canada)
Natural Language Understanding with "a Little" Symbolic Knowledge
 - 2019.12, EMNLP-IJCNLP Tutorial
Lili Mou, Hao Zhou, Lei Li, *Discreteness in Neural Natural Language Processing*

Teaching Experience

Course

Fall 2019 [CMPUT 651] Topics in Artificial Intelligence: Deep Learning for Natural Language Processing

Certificate: 2017.11, Completion of *Teaching and Development Seminar Series* at the University of Waterloo

Co-Advised Students

- 2017.9–2018.8 Vineet John, master student (with *ACL'19*)
- 2017.8–2018.11 Nabiha Asghar, Ph.D. student (with *ECIR'18* and *ICML'19* Workshop)
- 2017.9–2018.8 Hareesh Bahuleyan, master student (with publications at *COLING'18* and *NAACL-HLT'19*)
- 2016.1–2017.1 Yiping Song, Ph.D. student (with publication at *INTERSPEECH'16*)
- 2015.7–2018.2 Bolin Wei, undergraduate (with publication at *ICASSP'19*)
- 2015.7–2017.6 Zhao Meng, undergraduate
(with publications at *EMNLP'16*, *CIKM'17*, and *AAAI'18* student poster)
- 2015.7–2016.3 Rui Men, undergraduate (with publication at *ACL'16*)
- 2014.9–2015.6 Hao Peng, undergraduate (with publication at *EMNLP'15*)

Teaching Assistant

- 2012.9–2013.1 TA of Introduction to Computing (undergraduate course)
Exercise lesson (Dec 2012): *Minimax and Alpha-Beta Pruning*
- 2013.2–2013.6 TA of Java Programming (graduate course)

2013.9–2014.1	TA of Introduction to Programming Languages (undergraduate course) TA of Introduction to Computing (MOOC)
2014.9–2015.1	TA of Introduction to Computing (MOOC)
2015.2–2015.6	TA of Deep Learning Techniques and Applications (graduate course)
2016.2–2016.6	TA of Deep Learning Techniques and Applications (graduate course) Lecture (5 May 2016): <i>Neural Networks for Natural Language Processing</i>
2017.5.11	Guest Lecture (at the “Deep Learning Techniques and Applications” course) <i>Neural Networks in NLP: The Curse of Indifferentiability</i>
2017.10.22/23	Mini-Project Tutorial (5-hour sessions for the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Conference at the University of Waterloo) <i>Adversarial Training and Security in Machine Learning</i>