

# Curriculum Vitae - Mian Zhang

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Contact Information      Virginia Tech  
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Education      **Virginia Tech**      *2023 - present*  
- Ph.D. in Computer Science      *Blacksburg, VA, USA*

**Soochow University**      *2020 - 2023*  
- M.S. in Computer Science      *Suzhou, Jiangsu, China*  
- Advisors: [Wenliang Chen](#), [Xiabing Zhou](#)

**Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications**      *2016 - 2020*  
- B.Eng. in Computer Science      *Nanjing, Jiangsu, China*  
- GPA: 3.72 / 4

Research Interests      Natural Language Processing, especially building LLM-based human-friendly dialogue agents.

- Papers
1. [Inconsistent dialogue responses and how to recover from them \(EACL 2024\)](#)  
**Mian Zhang**, Lifeng Jin, Linfeng Song, Haitao Mi, Dong Yu.
  2. [SafeConv: Explaining and Correcting Conversational Unsafe Behavior \(ACL 2023 Oral\)](#)  
**Mian Zhang**, Lifeng Jin, Linfeng Song, Haitao Mi, Wenliang Chen, Dong Yu.
  3. [Friend-training: Learning from Different but Related Tasks \(EACL 2023\)](#)  
**Mian Zhang**, Lifeng Jin, Linfeng Song, Haitao Mi, Xiabing Zhou, Dong Yu.
  4. [Emotion Recognition in Conversation from Variable-Length Context \(ICASSP 2023\)](#)  
**Mian Zhang**, Xiabing Zhou, Wenliang Chen, Min Zhang.
  5. [A Pairing Enhancement Approach for Aspect Sentiment Triplet Extraction \(KSEM 2023\)](#)  
Fang Yang, **Mian Zhang**, Gongzhen Hu, Xiabing Zhou.

Research Experiences      **Tencent AI Lab**      *Anticipated Start from: May 2024*  
[Research Intern](#)      *Seattle, WA*

**Tencent AI Lab**      *Dec. 2021 - Jun. 2023*  
*Research Intern (Mentor: [Lifeng Jin](#))*      *Seattle, WA (remote)*

- **Conversational Inconsistency**: We study the whole life span of conversational inconsistencies, including its introduction, understanding and resolution, with a newly proposed dataset. Experiments on several tasks around dialogue consistency, namely consistency checking and resolving reveal that the proposed dataset could advance the detection and resolution of conversational inconsistencies and the current popular

large language models like ChatGPT behave well in resolving inconsistencies however still struggle with checking them.

- **Dialogue Safety:** We release a large-scale dataset for dialogue safety, where utterances with unsafe behavior are demonstrated and accompanied with spans that make them unsafe and context-dependent civil alternatives. We benchmark several popular models on our dataset and conduct a systematic analysis of their performance, which indicates that while there is plenty of room for improvement, our dataset empowers a better detection and mitigation of conversational unsafe behavior.
- **Automatic Data Generation:** We propose friend-training, the first cross-task self-training framework which exploits supervision from different but related tasks for better selection of pseudo-labels. With two dialogue understanding tasks, conversational semantic role labeling and dialogue rewriting, chosen for a case study, we show that the models trained with the friend-training framework achieve the best performance compared to strong baselines.

**Institute of Human Language Technology at Soochow University** Sep. 2020 - Jul. 2021  
*Student Researcher* (Advisors: [Wenliang Chen](#), [Xiabing Zhou](#)) Suzhou, China

- **Emotion Recognition in Conversation (ERC):** We present a new approach to ERC being capable of recognizing speakers' emotion from variable-length context, where inner- and inter-speaker dependencies are explicitly modeled to determine the best current length of context for emotion prediction. Experiments demonstrate our approach can effectively alleviate the context scantiness and context redundancy problems in ERC and surpass several strong baselines on F1 score.

Awards	Outstanding Graduate Award at Soochow University	2023
	First-class Scholarship at Soochow University	2020 - 2021
	<a href="#">CUMCM National First Prize (top 1%)</a>	2018
	First-class Scholarship at NJUPT	2017 - 2019
Teaching Experience	<a href="#">Intermediate Programming in Python (CS2064)</a> at VT ( <i>Teaching Assistant</i> )	Fall, 2023
	<a href="#">Data Structures and Algorithms (CS3114)</a> at VT ( <i>Teaching Assistant</i> )	Spring, 2024
Services	Reviewer: EMNLP 2022, ACL2023, ACL Rolling Review	
	Secondary Reviewer: EMNLP 2021, AAAI 2022, COLING 2022	
Skills	<i>Programming Language:</i> Python, C/C++, Shell, $\LaTeX$ , Matlab	
	<i>Machine Learning Framework:</i> PyTorch, NumPy, Transformers, Scikit-learn	
	<i>Tool &amp; Software:</i> Vim, Git, pdb, Matplotlib, Pandas	
	<i>Natural Language:</i> Mandarin (native), English (TOEFL iBT: 94; Duolingo: 120)	