Emmy Liu

Contact Information

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Research Interests

- ○ **General:** Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Cognitive Science
- ○ **Specific:** Analysis and interpretability of language models, Semantics in natural language, Evaluation of language model generations, Pretraining dynamics and pretraining data

Education

2021–2026 (anticipated)
Ph.D, *Carnegie Mellon University*, Pittsburgh
School of Computer Science, Language Technologies Institute
Advisor: Graham Neubig
cGPA: 4.03/4.33
Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning, Advanced Natural Language Processing, Multimodal Machine Learning, Machine Learning with Large Datasets

2016–2021
B.Sc, *University of Toronto*, Toronto
Computer Science Specialist & Cognitive Science Major & Statistics Minor

Experience

June 2024– November 2024
Research Scientist Intern, Meta AI
Investigating fusion of language model post-training with pre-training.

2021–
Research Assistant, *Neulab*, Carnegie Mellon University
Worked on multiple topics in natural language processing, including training language models, curating datasets, interpretability of models, and model evaluation. Experienced with working with models in huggingface, fairseq, or pytorch for diverse applications like question answering, machine translation, and reasoning.

June 2023–August 2023
Visiting Researcher, *Language and Intelligence Group (LINGO)*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Worked on a novel form of prompt engineering for reasoning, by leveraging large language models to induce rules from in-context examples and applying rules to improve performance on compositional and reasoning tasks.

2018–2019	**Associate Engineer**, *Wattpad*, Toronto
	Contributed large web features and new data science experiments through a year-long internship (through undergrad internship program)

- ○ Independently rebuilt major parts of frontend web app serving 65+ million monthly users, including Home page, tag (explore) pages, and onboarding
- ○ Implemented data science experiments in content recommendations and rankings affecting millions of users

2018–2021	**Research Assistant**, *Cognitive Lexicon Laboratory*, University of Toronto
	Worked on computational linguistics research, especially efficient communication.
2020–2021	**Research Assistant**, *Intelligent Adaptive Interventions Laboratory*, University of Toronto
	Worked on human-computer interaction research, especially adaptive interventions with bandits.
June 2020–Aug 2020	**Research Assistant**, *Computational Psycholinguistics Laboratory*, MIT
	Worked on examining gender bias with language models.

Awards

- ○ (2023) Best Resource Paper, ACL 2023
- ○ (2023 – 2024) NEC Fellowship
- ○ (2023 – 2026) NSERC PGS-D Fellowship
- ○ (2021 – 2022) CMU ASA Presidential Fellowship
- ○ (2021) NSERC USRA

Skills

- ○ Languages: Python, Javascript/Typescript, R
- ○ Frameworks/tools: Pytorch, Numpy/Pandas, Deepspeed, Slurm, React + Redux, Pyspark, anything else as needed
- ○ General skills: Model training and fine-tuning, interpretability of language models, benchmark/dataset construction, technical writing

Publications

Manuscripts & In Submission

[1] Isabelle Lee, Emmy Liu, Cathy Jiao, Michael Saxon, Brihi Joshi, Dani Yogatama, Fazl Barez, and Naomi Saphra. *Position: Stop Using Brittle Interpretations*. 2025.

[3] Emmy Liu, Amanda Bertsch, Lintang Sutawika, et al. *Not-Just-Scaling Laws: Towards a Better Understanding of the Downstream Impact of Language Model Design Decisions*. 2025. arXiv: 2503.03862 [cs.CL]. URL: https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.03862.

Conference Articles

[2] Belinda Z. Li, Emmy Liu, Alexis Ross, Abbas Zeitoun, Graham Neubig, and Jacob Andreas. "Language Modeling with Editable External Knowledge". In: *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: NAACL 2025*. 2025.

[4] **Emmy Liu**, Graham Neubig, and Jacob Andreas. "An Incomplete Loop: Deductive, Inductive, and Abductive Reasoning in Large Language Models". In: *Proceedings of the 1st Conference on Language Modeling*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2024.

[5] Anubha Kabra, Sanketh Rangreji, Yash Mathur, Aman Madaan, **Emmy Liu**, and Graham Neubig. "Program-Aided Reasoners (Better) Know What They Know". In: *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies*. Mexico City, Mexico, 2024.

[7] Yuchen Zhou, **Emmy Liu**, Graham Neubig, Michael J. Tarr, and Leila Wehbe. "Divergences between Language Models and Human Brains". In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 37*. Vancouver, Canada, 2024.

[9] Patrick Fernandes*, Kayo Yin*, **Emmy Liu**, and Graham Neubig. "When Does Translation Require Context? A Data-driven, Multilingual Exploration **(Best Resource Paper)**". In: Toronto, Canada: Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 2023.

[10] Anubha Kabra*, **Emmy Liu***, Simran Khanuja*, Alham Fikri Aji, Genta Indra Winata, Samuel Cahyawijaya, Anuoluwapo Aremu, Perez Ogayo, and Graham Neubig. "Multilingual and Multi-cultural Figurative Language Understanding". In: Toronto, Canada: Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023, 2023.

[11] Andy Liu, Hao Zhu, **Emmy Liu**, Yonatan Bisk, and Graham Neubig. "Computational Language Acquisition with Theory of Mind". In: Kigali, Rwanda: Proceedings of the Eleventh International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2023.

[12] Emmy Liu, Aditi Chaudhary, and Graham Neubig. "Crossing the Threshold: Idiomatic Machine Translation through Retrieval Augmentation and Loss Weighting". In: Singapore: Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2023.

[13] Mohi Reza, Angela Zavaleta Bernuy, **Emmy Liu**, Tong Li, Calista Barber, Zhongyuan Liang, and Joseph Jay Williams. "Exam Eustress: Designing a Brief Online Intervention for Helping Students Identify Positive Aspects of Stress". In: Hamburg, Germany: Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2023.

[14] Lindia Tjuatja, **Emmy Liu**, Lori Levin, and Graham Neubig. "Syntax and Semantics Meet in the "Middle": Probing the Syntax-Semantics Interface of LMs Through Agentivity". In: Toronto, Canada: Proceedings of the 12th Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics, 2023.

[15] **Emmy Liu**, Chenxuan Cui, Kenneth Zheng, and Graham Neubig. "Testing the Ability of Language Models to Interpret Figurative Language". In: *Proceedings of the 2022 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL)*. Seattle, United States: Association for Computational Linguistics, July 2022, pp. 4437–4452. DOI: 10.18653/v1/2022.naacl-main.330. URL: https://aclanthology.org/2022.naacl-main.330. **(Oral)**.

[16] **Emmy Liu** and Graham Neubig. "Are Representations Built from the Ground Up? An Empirical Examination of Local Composition in Language Models". In: Abu Dhabi, UAE: Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), Dec. 2022.

[20] Aida Ramezani[*], **Emmy Liu**[*], Jr. Renato Ferreira Pinto, Spike W.S. Lee, and Yang Xu. "The Emergence of Moral Foundations in Child Language Development". In: vol. 44. Toronto, Canada: Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), July 2022. **(Oral)**.

[22] **Emmy Liu** and Yang Xu. "Chaining and the Process of Scientific Innovation". In: vol. 42. Toronto, Canada: Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), 2020, pp. 1639–1646.

[25] **Emmy Liu** and Yang Xu. "Rapid information gain explains cross-linguistic tendencies in numeral ordering". In: vol. 41. Montreal, Canada: Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), 2019, pp. 2166–2173.

▬▬▬ Journal Articles

[6] Aida Ramezani, **Emmy Liu**, Spike W.S. Lee, and Yang Xu. "Quantifying the emergence of moral foundational lexicon in child language development". In: *PNAS Nexus* (2024).

[8] Patrick Fernandes, Aman Madaan, **Emmy Liu**, et al. "Bridging the Gap: A Survey on Integrating (Human) Feedback for Natural Language Generation". In: *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (2023).

[18] **Emmy Liu** and Yang Xu. "Regularity in the Temporal Dynamics of Publishing Behaviour across Scientists". In: *PLoS One* (2022).

[23] Yang Xu[*], **Emmy Liu**[*], and Terry Regier. "Numeral Systems across Languages Support Efficient Communication: From Approximate Numerosity to Recursion". In: *Open Mind* 4 (2020), pp. 57–70.

▬▬▬ Workshops & Posters

[17] **Emmy Liu**, Michael Henry Tessler, Nicole Dubosh, Katherine Hiller, and Roger Levy. "Assessing Group-level Gender Bias in Professional Evaluations: The Case of Medical Student End-of-Shift Feedback". In: *Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Gender Bias in Natural Language Processing (GeBNLP)*. Seattle, United States: Association for Computational Linguistics, 2022, pp. 86–93.

[19] Sedrick Scott Keh, Rohit K. Bharadwaj, **Emmy Liu**, Simone Tedeschi, Varun Gangal, and Roberto Navigli. "EUREKA: EUphemism Recognition Enhanced through kNN-based methods and Augmentation **(First place in shared task)**". In: *The Third Workshop on Figurative Language Processing @ EMNLP 2022*. Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2022.

[21] Nayan Saxena, Pan Chen, and **Emmy Liu**. "Statistical Consequences of Duelling Bandits". In: *EDM21 Workshop on Reinforcement Learning for Education*. Virtual, 2021. **(Spotlight)**.

[24] **Emmy Liu** and Yang Xu. "Ordering in numerals supports rapid information processing". In: *32nd CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. Boulder, United States, 2019.

▬▬▬ Service

- ○ (2025) Student Research Workshop (SRW) @ NAACL 2025, **Student Chair**
- ○ (2025) CMU LTI Compute Committee Member: working to improve processes for high-performance computing

- (2023) 4th Workshop on Figurative Language Processing @ NAACL 2024, **Workshop Organizer**
- (2022 –) LTI Mentoring Program, **Mentor**
- (2021 –) SCS PhD Dean's Advisory Committee, **Social Working Group**: Organizing social events for PhD students
- (2021) CMU Graduate Application Support, **Mentor**: Mentoring applicants from underrepresented groups
- (2019 – 2021) **Chief Editor**, Review of Undergraduate Computer Science: Reviewing papers for undergrad CS journal and holding research events
- **Reviewer/Program Committee**, ARR (2023-), ACL (2023), EMNLP (2022, 2023), CogSci (2020, 2021), {TL4NLP, MemARI} Workshop @ Neurips (2022)

Teaching and Mentoring

Teaching

Fall 2023   CMU 11-667 (Large Language Models Methods and Applications), Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022   CMU 11-711 (Advanced NLP), Teaching Assistant

Research Mentorship

- **Shrey Madeyanda, Ajay Mittur**
  - Working on a project to improve abductive reasoning in scientific agents
- **Michael Zhang, Shreya Singhal, Lara Marinov**
  - Not-Just-Scaling Laws: Towards a Better Understanding of the Downstream Impact of Language Model Design Decisions (preprint)
- **Anubha Kabra**
  - Multi-lingual and Multi-cultural Figurative Language Understanding (ACL Findings 2023)
  - Code Calibrates: Investigating the Edge of Program-Aided Language Models for Reasoning (draft)

- (Course Project) **Liangze Li, Shih-Lun Wu, Yi-Hui Chou**
  - Listener Model for the PhotoBook Referential Game with CLIPScores as Implicit Reference Chain (ACL 2023)

- **Andy Liu**
  - Computational Language Acquisition with Theory of Mind (ICLR 2023)

- **Nayan Saxena, Pan Chen**
  - Statistical Consequences of Duelling Bandits (RL4ED 2021)