

JUSTIN CHIH-YAO CHEN

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EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D. student in Computer Science.

Chapel Hill, NC

Aug. 2023 – Present

National Taiwan University

Master of Data Science. GPA: 4.10 / 4.30

Taipei, Taiwan

Sep. 2020 – Jun. 2022

National Cheng Kung University

Bachelor of Statistics, Double Major in Computer Science. GPA: 3.93 / 4.30

Tainan, Taiwan

Sep. 2016 – Jun. 2020

EXPERIENCE

MURGe-Lab NLP Group

Research Assistant (Advisor: [Mohit Bansal](#))

Improving LLM reasoning ability and efficiency, multi-agent collaboration for reasoning

Chapel Hill, NC

Aug. 2023 – Present

Salesforce AI Research

Research Intern (Mentors: [Xiangyu Peng](#), [Prafulla Kumar Choubey](#), [Jason Wu](#))

Pushing the boundaries of LLM reasoning via post-training with self-generated hints

Palo Alto, CA

May. 2025 – Aug. 2025

Google Cloud AI Research

Student Researcher (Mentors: [Chen-Yu Lee](#), [Zifeng Wang](#))

Enhancing the reasoning of LLMs by strengthening their reverse-thinking capabilities

Sunnyvale, CA

Jun. 2024 – Sep. 2024

Institute of Information Science, Academia Sinica

Research Assistant (Advisor: [Lun-Wei Ku](#))

Work on attractive headline generation, representation learning and vision question generation

Taipei, Taiwan

Jul. 2020 – Dec. 2022

Institute of Data Science, National Cheng Kung University

Research Assistant (Advisor: [Cheng-Te Li](#))

Work on zero-shot relation extraction and anomaly detection

Tainan, Taiwan

Jun. 2018 – Jun. 2020

PUBLICATIONS (*CO-FIRST AUTHOR)

- [1] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen**, Becky Xiangyu Peng, Prafulla Kumar Choubey, Kung-Hsiang Huang, Jiaxin Zhang, Mohit Bansal, Chien-Sheng Wu “Nudging the Boundaries of LLM Reasoning.” Submitted to ICLR 2026. [\[Paper\]](#)
- [2] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen***, Sukwon Yun*, Elias Stengel-Eskin*, Tianlong Chen, Mohit Bansal “Symbolic Mixture-of-Experts: Adaptive Skill-based Routing for Heterogeneous Reasoning.” Submitted to ICLR 2026. [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
- [3] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen**, Zifeng Wang, Hamid Palangi, Rujun Han, Sayna Ebrahimi, Long Le, Vincent Perot, Swaroop Mishra, Mohit Bansal, Chen-Yu Lee, Tomas Pfister “Reverse Thinking Makes LLMs Stronger Reasoners.” The 2025 Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL 2025). [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
- [4] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen**, Archiki Prasad, Swarnadeep Saha, Elias Stengel-Eskin and Mohit Bansal. “MAgICoRe: Multi-Agent, Iterative, Coarse-to-Fine Refinement for Reasoning.” The 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2025). [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
- [5] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen**, Swarnadeep Saha and Mohit Bansal. “ReConcile: Round-Table Conference Improves Reasoning via Consensus among Diverse LLMs.” The 62st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2024). [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
- [6] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen***, Swarnadeep Saha*, Elias Stengel-eskin and Mohit Bansal. “MAGDI: Structured Distillation of Multi-Agent Interaction Graphs Improves Reasoning in Smaller Language Models.” The Forty-Second International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2024). [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)

[7] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen**, Tun-Min Hung, Lun-Wei Ku. “Label-Aware Hyperbolic Embeddings for Fine-grained Emotion Classification.” The 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL 2023**). [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)

[8] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen**, Dennis Wu, Lun-Wei Ku. “HonestBait: Forward References for Attractive but Faithful Headline Generation.” The 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL Findings 2023**). [\[Paper\]](#)

[9] **Justin Chih-Yao Chen** and Cheng-Te Li. “ZS-BERT: Towards Zero-Shot Relation Extraction with Attribute Representation Learning.” The Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**NAACL 2021**). [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)

HONOR & AWARDS

College Student Research Creativity Award (Out of 2,689 Research) <i>Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan</i>	2020
Honorable Mention Award, Big Data and Business Analysis Competition <i>Department of Finance, National Sun Yat-sen University</i>	2018
Cathay United Bank Undergraduate Scholarship <i>Cathay Life Insurance Company</i>	2017
Academic Excellence Award (Top 10%) <i>Department of Statistics, National Cheng Kung University</i>	2016

REFERENCE

Mohit Bansal (mbansal@cs.unc.edu)
Department of Computer Science, UNC Chapel Hill
Relationship: PhD advisor, director of the Multimodal Understanding, Reasoning, and Generation for Language Lab

Jason Wu (wu.jason@salesforce.com)
AI Research, Salesforce
Relationship: internship mentor, director at Salesforce AI Research

Chen-Yu Lee (chenyulee@google.com)
Cloud AI Research, Google
Relationship: internship mentor, staff research scientist and manager

Lun-Wei Ku (lwku@iis.sinica.edu.tw)
Institute of Information Science, Academic Sinica
Relationship: master's advisor, director of the Natural Language Processing and Sentiment Analysis Lab

Cheng-Te Li (chengte@ncku.edu.tw)
Institute of Data Science, National Cheng Kung University
Relationship: undergraduate advisor, director of the Networked Artificial Intelligence Lab