

# JUSTIN CHIH-YAO CHEN

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## EDUCATION

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### 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

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### 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)

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- [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.” The Fourteenth International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2026). [\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
- [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.” Preprint submitted to ICML 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. “MAGCoRe: 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

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

## REFERENCE

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- 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