

NAOKI OTANI

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on natural language processing and machine learning. I am interested in language understanding and topics that realize or require to understand languages. In my previous research, I studied knowledge acquisition (OKBQA'16) and quality control in crowdsourcing (ICDM'15, ESWA'16, EMNLP'16).

EDUCATION

- Current* Ph.D. candidate
Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
Research Topic: Knowledge acquisition, Crowdsourcing
Supervisor: Professor Sadao Kurohashi
- MAR 2017 MS in Informatics, Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
Thesis: "Commonsense Knowledge Acquisition via a Game With A Purpose"
Supervisor: Professor Sadao Kurohashi
- MAR 2015 BS in Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
Thesis: "Quality Control of Hierarchical Crowdsourced Classification"
Supervisor: Professor Hisashi Kashima
Studied statistical unsupervised learning methods for quality control of crowdsourced classification. Applied statistical models in item response theory to crowdsourcing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- AUG-OCT 2016 Research Intern, Microsoft Research Asia, Beijing, China
Analyzed microblogs and studied paraphrasing for chat-bots
- APR-AUG 2016 Teaching Assistant, Kyoto University, Kyoto
Taught C programming to undergraduate students and rated their assignments.
- FEB 2016 Research Intern, Yahoo Japan Corporation, Tokyo, Japan
- Mar 2017 Developed a GWAP on a spoken dialogue system, *Yahoo! Voice Assist*.
- SEP 2015 Research Intern, IBM Research - Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
Studied acronym disambiguation on biomedical papers using network structures. Processed a massive network with millions of nodes.
- AUG 2015 Programmer, Kyoto University, Kyoto
Worked as an organizer for the Machine Learning Summer School (MLSS) Predictive Model Challenge (<http://universityofbigdata.net/MLSS2015>). Maintained a competition platform and prepared datasets for the competition.
- APR-AUG 2015 Teaching Assistant, Kyoto University, Kyoto
Taught C programming to undergraduate students and rated their assignments.

PUBLICATIONS (REFEREED)

JOURNAL

[Naoki Otani](#), Yukino Baba and Hisashi Kashima. **Quality Control of Crowdsourced Classification Using Hierarchical Class Structures.** *Expert Systems with Applications (ESWA)*, 58, October, 2016.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

[Naoki Otani](#), Toshiaki Nakazawa, Daisuke Kawahara and Sadao Kurohashi. **IRT-based Aggregation Model of Crowdsourced Pairwise Comparison for Evaluating Machine Translations.** In *Proceedings of Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, November, 2016.

[Naoki Otani](#), Yukino Baba and Hisashi Kashima. **Quality Control for Crowdsourced Hierarchical Classification.** In *Proceedings of the 2015 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)*, November, 2015.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

[Naoki Otani](#), Daisuke Kawahara, Sadao Kurohashi, Nobuhiro Kaji and Manabu Sassano. **Large-Scale Acquisition of Commonsense Knowledge via a Quiz Game on a Dialogue System.** In *Proceedings of Open Knowledge Base and Question Answering (OKBQA) Workshop at COLING*, December, 2016.

AWARDS, FUNDING AND FELLOWSHIPS

2017-2019 *Funai Overseas Scholarship*, Funai Foundation for Information Technology

- Financial supports for two years
 - the full amount of tuition
 - the full amount of medical insurance
 - living stipend (2,500 USD / month)
- Travel and preparation expenses for entering U.S. schools

2016 *Award of Excellence*, Internship program, Microsoft Research Asia

2016 *Student Scholarship*, EMNLP2016

2016 *Research Grant* (897,000 JPY), Kyoto University Design School

2015 *Kyoto University Design School Award*, [Hack U Kyoto University 2015](#)

2015 *Research Grant* (390,000 JPY), Kyoto University Design School

2014 *Semi-finalist*, [IBM Bluemix Challenge 2014](#), IBM Japan

LANGUAGE SKILLS

JAPANESE Native

ENGLISH Fluent (TOEFL iBT 100, tested in June 2016)

CHINESE Conversant (HSK Level 6, tested in September 2014)

COMPUTER SKILLS

PROGRAMMING Python, C/C++, Shell script, R

OS Linux/Unix (Ubuntu), Windows