Téa Wright
teaywright@berkeley.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Natural language processing, multilingual NLP, machine learning, cognitive AI, psycholinguistics

EDUCATION

University of California Berkeley — PhD Computer Science (Aug 2024 - current)
Advisor: Alane Suhr

University of Colorado Boulder — B.S. Computer Science (Aug 2020 - May 2024)
GPA: 4.00
(Education Abroad) **University of Carlos III,** Madrid, Spain — Hispanic Studies (Aug 2022-Dec 2022)

Coursework: Machine Learning, Advanced Data Science, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, Automata and Formal Language Theory, Writing in Science and Society, Principles of Programming Languages, Cognitive Science, Introduction to Robotics, User Interfaces, Software Development, Data Structures, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning and Linguistics

GRANTS AND AWARDS

UC Berkeley Chancellor's Fellowship (2024 - 2025)
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award - Honorable Mention (2023- 2024)
Dean's List (2020 - 2024)
Sewall Esteemed Scholars Program and Scholarship: Joseph A. Sewall Award (2020 - 2024)
Professional and Academic Conference Endowment Grant (2023)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant, June 2023 - May 2024
University of Colorado, Boulder— Department of Computer Science, Summer Program for Undergraduate Research
Advisor: Katharina von der Wense
Participated in attempting to find an automatic metric for contextual support with the goal of improving the vocabulary learning process for preschool age children through LLM automatically generated stories. Aided in annotation, survey creation, masked language model implementation, and comparing against existing models for predicting contextual informativeness.

Undergraduate Researcher (Undergraduate Senior Thesis), Aug 2023 - May 2024
University of Colorado, Boulder— Department of Computer Science
Advisors: Katharina von der Wense, Alexis Palmer, Jim Martin
As a part of a year-long undergraduate thesis, documented resources from low-resource indigenous languages and compared adaptation methods and models for noisy data from OCR. Presented and defended a research proposal.

VOLUNTEERING

EMNLP 2023 Volunteer, December 2023
Singapore, Singapore

Served as a directional guide to help conference participants find workshops, tutorials, orals, and posters; aided with the registration process; and monitored the closing plenary session.

PUBLICATIONS

Weber, J., Valentini, M., Wright, T., von der Wense, K., & Colunga, E. (2024). Evaluating LLMs as Tools to Support Early Vocabulary Learning. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 46.

Maria Valentini, Jennifer Weber, Jesus Salcido, **Téa Wright**, Eliana Colunga, and Katharina von der Wense. 2023. On the Automatic Generation and Simplification of Children's Stories. In *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 3588–3598, Singapore. Association for Computational Linguistics.

MEMBERSHIPS

ACL

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python, C++, NumPy, Pandas, TensorFlow, PyTorch, Matplotlib, HTML/CSS, Git, PostgreSQL, JavaScript

LANGUAGES

English (*fluent*), Spanish *(conversational),* Japanese *(conversational),* Korean *(beginner)*

ACTIVITIES

Language learning, Classical Piano, Travel, Hiking, Mountain biking