

ZDENĚK KASNER

NLP Researcher and Teacher

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EDUCATION

PhD in Computational Linguistics

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University

📅 10/2019 – 09/2024 📍 Prague, Czechia

- **thesis:** Domain Adaptation for Natural Language Generation
- **advisor:** Ondřej Dušek

Master in Artificial Intelligence

Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague

📅 07/2016 – 06/2019 📍 Prague, Czechia

- **thesis:** Incorporating Language Models into Non-autoregressive Neural Machine Translation
- dean award & minor degree in Computer Vision

Bachelor in Computer Science

Faculty of Information Technology, CTU in Prague

📅 09/2013 – 06/2016 📍 Prague, Czechia

- **thesis:** Flow-Based Classification of Devices in Computer Networks
- graduated with honors

WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University

📅 since 09/2024 📍 Prague, Czechia

Research on controllable text generation and evaluation within the ERC grant NG-NLG (Next-Generation Natural Language Generation). Teaching courses on machine learning and large language models.

Researcher & Software Developer

Robot Perception Group, CIIRC CTU in Prague

📅 01/2019 – 09/2019 📍 Prague, Czechia

Natural language understanding for an automated production line and a collaborative robotic workspace.

Software Developer

AI Center, FEE CTU in Prague

📅 07/2016 – 08/2017 📍 Prague, Czechia

Implementing a search engine with intermodal routing for public transport.

Software Developer

CESNET

📅 04/2015 – 07/2016 📍 Prague, Czechia

Developing a module for device classification in a high-throughput system for network traffic analysis (NEMEA).

INTERNSHIPS

PhD Internship

Mila – Quebec AI Institute

📅 02/2023 – 05/2023 📍 Montréal, Canada

Research on collaborative LLM agents, advised by Siva Reddy.

PhD Internship

Heriot-Watt University

📅 10/2021 – 12/2021 📍 Edinburgh, UK

Research on data-to-text generation from knowledge graphs, advised by Ioannis Konstas.

Research Internship

KDDI Research, Inc.

📅 06/2018 – 09/2018 📍 Saitama, Japan

Developing an augmented reality annotation system.

Erasmus+

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

📅 09/2017 – 02/2018 📍 Leuven, Belgium

Courses from Master of AI.

VOLUNTEERING

BEST Prague

Board of European Students of Technology

📅 10/2014 – 05/2019 📍 Prague, Czechia

Communication and cooperation with students of European universities of technology, organizing courses and engineering competitions.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

Python Machine Learning NLP LLMs

LANGUAGES

Czech
English
French
Dutch



CERTIFICATES

- Certificate of Proficiency in English (C2) – Cambridge Level 3 in ESOL International

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Kasner, Z., & Dušek, O.** (2024). Beyond Traditional Benchmarks: Analyzing Behaviors of Open LLMs on Data-to-Text Generation. *Proceedings of the ACL 2024 (Volume 1: Long Papers)*.
- **Kasner, Z., Plátek, O., Schmidtová, P., Balloccu, S., & Dušek, O.** (2024). factgenie: A framework for span-based evaluation of generated texts. *Proceedings of the 17th International Natural Language Generation Conference (System Demonstrations)*.
- **Lu, X. H., Kasner, Z., & Reddy, S.** (2024). WebLINX: Real-world Website Navigation with Multi-Turn Dialogue. *Proceedings of the ICML 2024*.
- **Kasner, Z., Garanina, E., Plátek, O., & Dušek, O.** (2023). TabGenie: A Toolkit for Table-to-Text Generation. *Proceedings of the ACL (Volume 3: System Demonstrations)*, 444–455.
- **Kasner, Z., Konstas, I., & Dušek, O.** (2023). Mind the Labels: Describing Relations in Knowledge Graphs With Pretrained Models. *Proceedings of the EACL 2023*, 2390–2407.
- **Kasner, Z., & Dušek, O.** (2022). Neural Pipeline for Zero-Shot Data-to-Text Generation. *Proceedings of the ACL 2022 (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, 3914–3932.
- **Kasner, Z., Mille, S., & Dušek, O.** (2021). Text-in-Context: Token-Level Error Detection for Table-to-Text Generation. *Proceedings of the INLG 2021*, 259–265.
- **Kasner, Z., & Dušek, O.** (2020a). Data-to-Text Generation with Iterative Text Editing. *Proceedings of the INLG 2020*, 60–67.
- **Kasner, Z., & Dušek, O.** (2020b). Train Hard, Finetune Easy: Multilingual Denoising for RDF-to-text Generation. *Proceedings of the INLG 2020 (WebNLG+ Workshop)*, 171–176.
- **Dušek, O., & Kasner, Z.** (2020). Evaluating Semantic Accuracy of Data-to-Text Generation with Natural Language Inference. *Proceedings of the INLG 2020*, 131–137.

TEACHING

Large Language Models

📅 Summer 23/24, 24/25 📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia
Assisting with lectures and assignments.

Introduction to Machine Learning with Python

📅 Winter 23/24, 24/25 📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia
Lab teaching.

Introduction to Linux

📅 Summer 21/22 📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia
Lab teaching (inverted class: no lectures).

Programming I & Introduction to Algorithms

📅 Winter 20/21 📍 MFF UK, Prague, Czechia
Lab teaching, preparing and evaluating assignments.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

🗣️ Natural Language Generation

- Data-to-text Generation
- Evaluation

🔧 Miscellaneous

- Low-Resource NLP
- Model interpretability
- Reasoning

ORGANIZER

- **DGT Summer School Luxembourg, 2025**
Co-organizer
- **PracticalD2T Workshop @ INLG 2024**
Co-organizer
- **PracticalD2T Workshop @ INLG 2023**
Main organizer
- **SIGDIAL & INLG 2023**
Local organizer

AWARDS

- 🏆 **Joseph Fourier Prize** – organized by French Embassy in Prague, 2nd place (2025)
- 🏆 **Honorable mention** – CU Grant Agency award (2023)
- 🗣️ **Outstanding reviewer** at EACL 2021
- 🏆 **Best short paper** at INLG 2020 (Dušek and Kasner, 2020)

REFEREES

Ondřej Dušek (Charles University)

👤 PhD Advisor
✉️ odusek@ufal.mff.cuni.cz

Siva Reddy (Mila - Quebec AI Institute)

👤 PhD Internship Supervisor
✉️ siva.reddy@mila.quebec

Ioannis Konstas (Heriot-Watt University)

👤 PhD Internship Supervisor
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