Ana Brassard

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Current position: Technical Staff I, Riken AIP Natural Language Understanding Team
Conducting independent and collaborative NLP research @ the Tohoku NLP Lab in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan (Dec. 2018 - now)

Research interests:
Natural language processing; commonsense reasoning & knowledge; model testing, probing, and diagnostics; dataset creation; predict-and-explain with large language models.

Language proficiency

English (fluent), **Japanese** (near-fluent), **French** (intermediate), **Croatian** (native).

Programming experience

GitHub: **/a-brassard**

Mainly **Python**, **PyTorch**-based deep learning, custom crowdsourcing forms with HTML, CSS, JavaScript.

Misc

- Enjoy **visualization** and other aspects of **scientific communication**; experienced with paper editing and dataset creation using **crowdsourcing.**
- Passionate about creating **inclusive spaces**, particularly for members of cultural minorities and neurodivergent individuals.
- Grew up in Canada, the USA, Croatia, and Japan. Mostly from Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Hobbies include drawing, cooking, Factorio, reptile care ↓

Formal education

Ph.D. (planned)
*2021 - *2024, Graduate School of Information Sciences, Tohoku University*

Master of Science in Computing
2016 - 2018, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb

Bachelor of Science in Computing
2013 - 2016, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb

Publications

- *COPA-SSE: Semi-structured Explanations for Commonsense Reasoning.* Brassard, A.; Heinzerling, B.; Kavumba, P.; Inui, K. (LREC 2022)
- *Context Limitations Make Neural Language Models More Human-Like.* Kuribayashi, T.; Oseki Y.; Brassard, A.; Inui K. (EMNLP 2022)
- *Learning to Learn to be Right for the Right Reasons.* Kavumba, P.; Henzerling, B.; Brassard, A.; Inui, K. (NAACL 2021)
- *Diamonds in the Rough: Generating Fluent Sentences from Early-Stage Drafts for Academic Writing Assistance.* Ito, T.; Kuribayashi, T.; Kobayashi, H.; Brassard, A.; Hagiwara, M.; Suzuki, J.; and Inui K. (INLG 2019)