Assoc Professor. Soon Lay Ki
Malaysia Sch of Information Technology
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Biography

Dr. Soon graduated with a Ph.D (Engineering) in Web Engineering from Soongsil University, Korea. Her main research interests include applied natural language processing and data management. She teaches Databases, and Business Intelligence and Data Warehousing to both Masters and undergraduate students in Monash. Beyond classroom, Dr. Soon is also the Associate Head (Graduate Research) of School of Information Technology since November 2018.
Prior to her tenure at Monash University Malaysia, Dr. Soon served as a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FCI) within Multimedia University (MMU). She held the esteemed position of Deputy Dean (Research and Innovation) of FCI, MMU from March 2016 to August 2018.
To date, she has graduated seven Ph.D and three Master's students. One of the Master's student under her main supervision was awarded MMU Best Master Thesis Award in 2015.
In addition to her university roles, Dr. Soon also lent her expertise as a Research Fellow at Telekom Malaysia R&D, where she contributed significantly to the call data records database optimization project. Besides, Dr. Soon has conducted courses on Relational Database and NoSQL Database, enriching the skillsets of professionals beyond the academic realm.

Qualifications

Web Engineering, PhD, Towards a Semantically-Drive Focused Web Crawling, Soongsil University

Database, Master of Science, Translating Relational to Object-Oriented Database Conceptual Schema, Universiti Putra Malaysia (University Putra Malaysia)

Bachelor of Computer Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia (University Putra Malaysia)

2012 → … Microsoft® Certified IT Professional , MCITP

Employment

Associate Professor

Malaysia Sch of Information Technology

MONASH UNIVERSITY

3 Sept 2018 → present

Research outputs

DialogXpert: Driving Intelligent and Emotion-Aware Conversations Through Online Value-Based Reinforcement Learning with LLM Priors

Rakib, T. B. A., Mehrish, A., Soon, L. K., Lim, W. H. & Poria, S., 2026, *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence.* Koenig, S., Jenkins, C. & E. Taylor, M. (eds.). Washington DC USA: Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), p. 29967-29975 9 p. (Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence; vol. 40, no. 36).

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Khajiev, N., Puussaar, A., Chu, L. S., Olivier, P., Soon, L. K. & Varghese, D., 2026, *SysTEX'26 - Proceedings of the 2026 9th Workshop on System Software for Trusted Execution.* Dushku, E. & Ghosn, A. (eds.). New York NY USA: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), p. 78-85 8 p.

LEPREC: Reasoning as Classification over Structured Factors for Assessing Relevance of Legal Issues

Wang, F., Kang, C., Burgess, P., Srivastava, A., Arora, C., Trakic, A., Soon, L.-K., Hossain, M. K. & Qu, L., 2026, *ACL 2026, The 64th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2026), Proceedings of the Conference - Volume 1: Long Papers.* Stap, D., Xu, H. & Niehues, J. (eds.). Kerrville TX USA: Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), p. 7701-7736 36 p. (Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics; vol. 1).

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Who You Are, What You Say: Intra- and Inter-Context Personality for Emotion Recognition in Conversation
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Automating IRAC analysis in Malaysian contract law using a semi-structured knowledge base
Kang, X., Qu, L., Soon, L.-K., Li, Z. & Trakic, A., 7 Jul 2025, (Accepted/In press) In: Artificial Intelligence and Law. 44 p.

Iterative Window Mean Filter: Thwarting Diffusion-Based Adversarial Purification
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ACCESS: A Benchmark for Abstract Causal Event Discovery and Reasoning
Vo, V., Qu, L., Feng, T., Hua, Y., Kang, X., Fan, S., Dwyer, T., Soon, L. K. & Haffari, G., 2025, *NAACL 2025, Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Proceedings of the Conference Volume 1: Long Papers .* Chiruzzo, L., Ritter, A. & Wang, L. (eds.). Kerrville TX USA: Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), p. 1049-1074 26 p.

Domain-Independent True Fact Identification from Knowledge Graph
Govindapillai, S., Soon, L. K. & Haw, S. C., 2025, In: International Journal on Informatics Visualization. 9, 3, p. 893-913 21 p.

Expanding Malaysian English Dataset with Human-in-the-Loop Annotation for Entity and Relation Recognition
Chanthran, M. R., Soon, L. K., Ong, H. F. & Selvaretnam, B., 2025, *Proceedings of 2025 International Conference on Asian Language Processing, IALP 2025.* Wang, L., Tong, R., Juan, S. F. S., Lu, Y., Tan, P. P., Saee, S. & Dong, M. (eds.). Piscataway NJ USA: IEEE, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, p. 165-169 5 p.

Self-help digital mental health intervention in improving burnout and mental health outcomes among healthcare workers: A narrative review
Aye, L. M., Tan, M. M., Schaefer, A., Thurairajasingam, S., Geldsetzer, P., Soon, L. K., Reininghaus, U., Bärnighausen, T. & Su, T. T., 9 Sept 2024, In: Digital Health. 10, p. 1-19 19 p.

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I2Match: Optimization Techniques on Subgraph Matching Algorithm Using Label Pair, Neighboring Label Index, and Jump-Redo Method
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Cyberbullying detection based on emotion
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Can ChatGPT perform reasoning using the IRAC method in analyzing legal scenarios like a lawyer?
Kang, X., Qu, L., Soon, L.-K., Trakic, A., Zhuo, T. Y., Emerton, P. C. & Grant, G., 2023, *The 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing - Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2023.* Tomeh, N., Fujita, A., Sun, A., Wang, B., Tong, R. & Cotterell, R. (eds.). Stroudsburg PA USA: Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), p. 13900-13923 24 p.

Emotion-aware chatbot with cultural adaptation for mitigating work-related stress
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Improved automated essay scoring using Gaussian Multi-Class SMOTE for dataset sampling
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Schema-agnostic entity matching using pre-trained language models
Teong, K. S., Soon, L. & Su, T. T., 2020, *Proceedings of the 29th ACM International Conference on Information & Knowledge Management.* Hauff, C., Curry, E. & Cudre Mauroux, P. (eds.). New York NY USA: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), p. 2241-2244 4 p.

Popularity of university based on sentiment analysis in social network media
Koh, C. L., Haw, S. C. & Soon, L. K., Oct 2019, *International Conference on Advanced Science, Engineering and Technology 2019.* Hwee Ling, W. (ed.). 3S ed. Bhopal India: Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering and Sciences Publication (BEIESP), Vol. 8. p. 25-30 6 p. 6. (International Journal of Recent Technology and Engineering).

Comparing DBpedia, Wikidata, and YAGO for web information retrieval
Pillai, S. G., Soon, L.-K. & Haw, S.-C., 2019, *Intelligent and Interactive Computing - Proceedings of IIC 2018.* Piuri, V., Emilia Balas, V., Borah, S. & Sakinah Syed Ahmad, S. (eds.). Singapore Singapore: Springer, p. 525-535 11 p. (Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems; vol. 67).

Cyberbullying detection using deep learning and word embeddings: an empirical study
Al-Hashedi, M., Soon, L. K. & Goh, H. N., 2019, *Proceedings of the 2019 2nd International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Intelligent Systems (CIIS 2019).* C.C. Cheung, R. & KDV Yarlagadda, P. (eds.). New York NY USA: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), p. 17-21 5 p.

Performance evaluation of XML query processing in centralized and distributed environment
Subramaniam, S., Haw, S.-C. & Soon, L.-K., 2019, *Proceedings of the 2019 2nd International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Intelligent Systems (CIIS 2019).* C.C. Cheung, R. & KDV Yarlagadda, P. (eds.). New York NY USA: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), p. 129-133 5 p.

An exploratory study on Latent-Dirichlet Allocation models for aspect identification on short sentences
Bakar, A. A., Soon, L.-K. & Goh, H.-N., 2018, *Computational Science and Technology: 4th ICCST 2017, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29–30 November, 2017.* Alfred, R., Iida, H., Ag. Ibrahim, A. A. & Lim, Y. (eds.). Singapore Singapore : Springer, p. 314-323 10 p. (Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering; vol. 488).

Leveraging part-of-speech tagging for sentiment analysis in short texts and regular texts
Khong, W.-H., Soon, L.-K., Goh, H.-N. & Haw, S.-C., 2018, *Semantic Technology: 8th Joint International Conference, JIST 2018 Awaji, Japan, November 26–28, 2018 Proceedings.* Ichise, R., Lecue, F., Kawamura, T., Zhao, D., Muggleton, S. & Kozaki, K. (eds.). Cham Switzerland : Springer, p. 182-197 16 p. (Lecture Notes in Computer Science ; vol. 11341).

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QTwig: A structural join algorithm for efficient query retrieval based on region-based labeling
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Crawling social media to create morphological resource of under-resourced language: Melanau language
Saee, S., Bali, R. M., Soon, L. K. & Lim, T. Y., 2017, *2017 2nd International Conference on Information in Business and Technology Management (I2BM).* Ibrahim, Z. (ed.). 11 ed. USA: American Scientific Publishers, Vol. 23. p. 11503-11507 5 p. (Advanced Science Letters).

DGReLab^{+}: improving XML path query processing by avoiding buffering irrelevant results
Subramaniam, S., Haw, S.-C. & Soon, L.-K., 2017, *7th International Conference on Advances and Computing & Communications, ICACC-2017.* Gahegan, M. & Paul Mulerikkal, J. (eds.). Elsevier, Vol. 115. p. 804-811 8 p. (Procedia Computer Science).

Learning to extract domain-specific relations from complex sentences
Tan, S. S., Lim, T. Y., Soon, L. K. & Tang, E. K., 30 Oct 2016, In: Expert Systems with Applications. 60, p. 107-117 11 p.

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Structural analyses of Malaysian Web and host graphs
Tee, J. Y. J., Soon, L. K. & Ting, C. Y., 19 Oct 2015, *Proceedings - 2015 International Conference on Future Internet of Things and Cloud, FiCloud 2015 and 2015 International Conference on Open and Big Data, OBD 2015.* Younas, M., Awan, I. & Mecella, M. (eds.). IEEE, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, p. 443-450 8 p.

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Subramaniam, S., Haw, S. C. & Soon, L. K., 2 Sept 2015, *ISTT 2014 - 2014 IEEE 2nd International Symposium on Telecommunication Technologies.* Ismail, M. & Ramli, N. (eds.). IEEE, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, p. 121-125 5 p.

Automatic discovery of person-related named-entity in news articles based on verb analysis
Goh, H. N., Soon, L. K. & Haw, S. C., 1 Apr 2015, In: Multimedia Tools and Applications. 74, 8, p. 2587-2610 24 p.

A comparative study of statistical and natural language processing techniques for sentiment analysis
Khong, W. H., Soon, L. K. & Goh, H. N., 2015, In: Jurnal Teknologi. 77, 18, p. 155-161 7 p.

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Saee, S., Soon, L. K., Lim, T. Y., Ranaivo-Malancon, B., Juk, J. & Tang, E. K., 3 Dec 2014, *Proceedings of the International Conference on Asian Language Processing 2014, IALP 2014.* Dong, M., Lu, Y., Banchs, R. E. & Ranaivo-Malancon, B. (eds.). IEEE, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, p. 203-206 4 p.

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Goh, H. N., Soon, L. K. & Haw, S. C., Dec 2013, In: Knowledge-Based Systems. 54, p. 147-162 16 p.

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An empirical study on harmonizing classification precision using IE patterns
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Classifying web pages using information extraction patterns - Preliminary results and findings
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Identifying equivalent URLs using URL signatures
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Soon, L. K. & Lee, S. H., 2007, *Integrating Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining - Proceeding of the 2nd International Workshop on Integrating Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining, AIDM 2007.* Ong, K.-L., Gao, J. & Li, W. (eds.). Australian Computer Science Society, (Conferences in Research and Practice in Information Technology Series; vol. 84).

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Prizes

ITEX'24 Silver Award for the invention of "MOBOT" Mobile Application of a conversational Agent for Mental Health
Su, T. T. (Recipient), Thurairajasingam, S. (Recipient), Lay Ki, S. (Recipient), Aye, L. M. (Recipient), Omar, N. S. S. (Recipient) & Kai Gin, T. (Recipient), 17 May 2024

Silver Medal (Malaysia Technology Expo 2023) for innovation of "MoBOT, A Self-Help Digital Mental Health Intervention Conversational Agent

Su, T. T. (Recipient), Lay Ki, S. (Recipient), Thurairajasingam, S. (Recipient), Aye, L. M. (Recipient), Omar, N. S. S. (Recipient) & Kai Gin, T. (Recipient), 20 Oct 2023

The Incubator Grant: Bolster Category

Watterson, J. (Recipient), Su, T. T. (Recipient), Boyle, J. (Recipient), Olivier, P. (Recipient), Keng, S.-L. (Recipient), Jones, E. (Recipient), Maisarah, S. (Recipient), Angela, N. (Recipient), Jayanthi, T. (Recipient), Lay Ki, S. (Recipient), Selva Raja, D. B. R. (Recipient), Tan, S. S. (Recipient), Lim, S. (Recipient), Yap, M. (Recipient), Leder, K. (Recipient), McCaffrey, T. (Recipient) & Warren, N. (Recipient), 15 Nov 2023

Projects

A Novel Context-Aware Model for Relation Extractions from Conversational Texts using Graph Convolutional Networks

Lay Ki, S. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Wong, K. S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lim, I. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Chun Yong, C. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Tan, I. K. T. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/09/22 → 28/02/25

Co-designing an Inclusive Framework for Consumer and Community Involvement in Precision Diabetes Medicine

Lim, S. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Ahmad, B. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Boyle, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Ng, A. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Su, T. T. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Misra, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Alshehri, T. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Mariapun, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lay Ki, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Angela, N. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Franks, P. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Hivert, M. F. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Vesco, K. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Josefson, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Semnani-Azad, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Grieger, J. A. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Vethakkan, S. R. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Holman, D. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Li, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Merino, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lim, L. L. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Thapa, R. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Tan Kiak Min, M. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Akmal, N. N. (Chief Investigator (CI))
Monash University – Internal University Contribution
1/01/26 → 31/12/26

Consumer and Community Involvement for Precision Medicine in Diabetes

Ahmad, B. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Lim, S. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Alshehri, T. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lay Ki, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Angela, N. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Misra, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Boyle, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Mariapun, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Su, T. T. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/01/26 → 31/12/26

Enhancing Deaf Healthcare Access and Outcomes through Inclusive Health Research

Palanisamy, U. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Wong, K. S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lay Ki, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Olivier, P. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Chong, A. A. V. Y. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Appalasamy, J. R. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Selvaraj, A. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Ramadas, A. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Thanzami, V. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Alshehri, T. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Watterson, J. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/08/25 → 31/07/29

Fake News Detection on Social Networking Services using Tacit Knowledge Graph with User Reliability Estimates

Lim, I. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Lay Ki, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Eu Gene, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Carman, M. J. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Wong, S. M. (Chief Investigator (CI))
7/09/21 → 6/09/25

WAge: Healthy Working environments for all ages: An evidence-driven framework

Wong, K. S. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Lay Ki, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lim, C. H. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Chun Yong, C. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Watterson, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Olivier, P. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Gonzalez, V. (Partner Investigator (PI)), Sanchis, M. (Partner Investigator (PI)), Carnide, F. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Pape, L. (Partner Investigator (PI)), Merhi Auar, R. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Roman-Liu, D. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Cairney, P. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Alshehri, T. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/12/23 → 30/11/27

Epsilon: Inclusive Research Infrastructure: SEACO as a Platform for Participatory Observation
Lay Ki, S. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Chun Yong, C. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Watterson, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Su, T. T. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Varghese, D. (Chief Investigator (CI)), McNaney, R. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Kirkham, R. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Abdulgalimov, D. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/12/22 → 31/12/24

IndigiSEA - Indigenous Digital Futures for Southeast Asia
Lay Ki, S. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Wijaya, D. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Wong, K. S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Olivier, P. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Haffari, R. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Alshehri, T. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Saee, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Daud, A. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Wong, E. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Abdullah, S. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/12/25 → 28/02/27

WHinc: from Community Observatory to Women's Health INCubator
Watterson, J. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Su, T. T. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Olivier, P. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Jones, E. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Maisarah, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Angela, N. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Jayanthi, T. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lay Ki, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Selva Raja, D. B. R. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Tan, S. S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Lim, S. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Kulkarni, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Alshehri, T. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Boyle, J. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/01/24 → 30/06/26