



University of
Pittsburgh®

Informatics and Networked Systems
School of Computing and Information

You are receiving this email because you are enrolled in the MSIS/MST graduate degree programs within the Department of Informatics and Networked Systems at the School of Computing and Information. Each weekly newsletter will feature important updates on career/academic and job opportunities, department and school events, enrollment guidance and upcoming academic deadlines.



Spring Term Office Hours-Starting Tuesday, January 31, 2023:
Available in Person in IS Building Room 706
Tuesday: 2pm-4pm
Thursday: 11am-12pm or 1pm-2pm

Announcements

Have you recently seen an 'Academic Advisement Hold' on your student PeopleSoft account?

In most cases, this is normal as the Registrar places such holds right before enrollment opens for the next term. **You don't have to do anything; the holds will be removed prior to your open enrollment period.**

You may also have a hold if you still need to **submit transcripts from a prior degree (particularly if you are in your first term in the program)**. If that applies to you, please see this page to find out how to have official transcripts submitted: <https://www.sci.pitt.edu/student-resources/newly-admitted-students/new-graduate-student-faq>

Events

Faculty Colloquium: "Iterative Learning and Planning - Innovations and Lessons Through AI for Nonprofits"



Monday, February 20 at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

130 North Bellefield, 538/539 Conference Room

RSVP for Zoom information: https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_01Tkhbj5vQeNfIW

Abstract: I work on AI for nonprofits, with nonprofits, which is actually used by nonprofits.

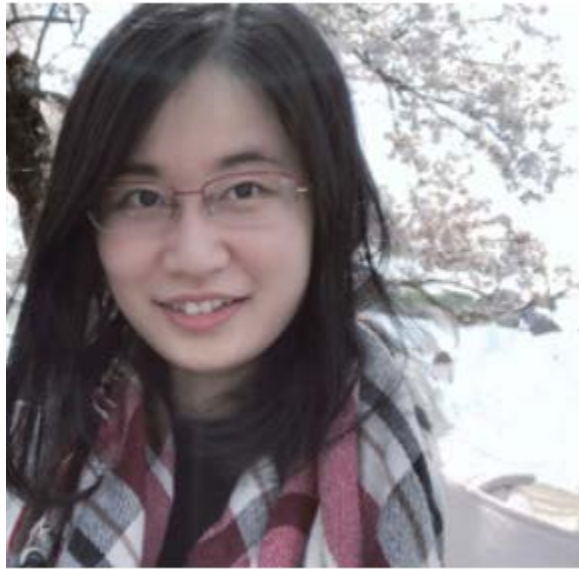
This talk will be focused on my line of work around iterative learning and planning. I will start with a 4-year collaboration with a crowdsourcing food rescue platform, where we combined offline ML model with online optimization to improve volunteer engagement. I will discuss our randomized controlled trial, and ongoing effort to roll it out to over 16 cities across the US.

Lifting ourselves beyond this particular application domain, we will discuss bandit data-driven optimization, a paradigm for principled iterative prediction-prescription to address the unique challenges that arise in low-resource sustainability settings. We prove theoretical guarantees for our algorithm and show that it achieves superior performance on simulated and real food rescue datasets.

I will also briefly discuss our other projects, including an NLP project in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund which won a 2023 IAAI Deployed Application Award. I will conclude the talk with an overview of our impact and future directions.

Bio: Ryan Shi is a Ph.D. candidate of Societal Computing in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He works with nonprofit organizations to address societal challenges in food security, environmental conservation, and public health using AI. His research has been deployed at these organizations worldwide. Shi studies game theory, online learning, and reinforcement learning on problems motivated by these applications. He was the recipient of a 2023 IAAI Deployed Application Award, a 2022 Siebel Scholar Award, and a 2022 Carnegie Mellon Presidential Fellowship, and was selected as a 2022 Rising Star in Data Science and ML & AI, by UChicago and USC, respectively. He has interned at Microsoft and Facebook during his Ph.D. Shi grew up in Henan, China before moving to the U.S., where he graduated from Swarthmore College with a B.A. in mathematics and computer science.

Faculty Colloquium: "When Causal Inference Meets Graph Machine Learning: Unleashing the Potential of Mutual Benefit"



Wednesday, February 22 at 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

130 North Bellefield, 538/539 Conference Room

RSVP for Zoom information: https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_cOv34PxJIXAmuNM

Abstract: Recent years have witnessed rapid development in graph machine learning (ML) in various high-impact domains (e.g., bioinformatics, recommendation, natural language, and security). Currently, most graph ML methods are based on statistical learning, e.g., utilizing the correlations between the graph structure and labels for classification. However, statistical learning has been widely criticized for only capturing the superficial relations between variables, and consequently, rendering the lack of trustworthiness in real-world applications. For example, ML models often make biased predictions toward underrepresented groups, or lack explanation for their decisions. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the causality in the learning process. Causal inference is the discipline that investigates the causality inside a system. Involving the concepts and philosophy of causal inference in ML methods is often considered as a significant component of human-level intelligence and can serve as the foundation of artificial intelligence (AI). However, most traditional causal inference studies rely on strong assumptions, and focus on tabular data, while causal inference on graphs is faced with many barriers to effectiveness. Fortunately, the interplay between causal inference and graph ML has the potential to bring mutual benefit for each other. In this talk, we will present the challenges and our contributions for bridging the gap between causal inference and graph ML, mainly including two directions: 1) leveraging graph ML methods to facilitate causal inference in effectiveness; and 2) leveraging causality to facilitate graph ML models in model trustworthiness (e.g., model fairness and explanation).

Bio: Jing Ma is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Computer Science at University of Virginia, under the supervision of Dr. Jundong Li and Dr. Aidong Zhang. She received her B.Eng. degree and M.Eng. degree at Shanghai Jiao Tong University with Outstanding Graduate Award. Her research interests broadly cover machine learning and data mining, especially include causal inference, graph mining, fairness, trustworthy machine learning, and AI for social good. Her recent work focuses on bridging the gap between causality and machine learning. Her research papers have been published in many top conferences and journals such as KDD, NeurIPS, IJCAI, WWW, AAAI, TKDE, WSDM, SIGIR, ECML-PKDD, AI Magazine, and IPSN. She has rich

internship experience in companies and academic organizations such as Microsoft Research, and has won some important awards such as SIGKDD 2022 Best Paper Award and CAPWIC 2022 Best Poster Award.

DINS PhD Student Speaker Series

Thursday, February 23 at 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[Information Sciences Building, 3rd Floor Theatre](#)
135 North Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15260

Featuring Abhishek Viswanathan and Akshay Madan

The DINS PhD Student Speaker Series, an ongoing series of presentations by DINS PhD students, explores the next generation of scholarship about networks, information, and human behavior.

Join us for the next installment in this series on February 23rd. Please check back for more information as it is finalized.

[DINS PhD Student Speaker Series - University of Pittsburgh](#)

Career/Academic Opportunities

2023 Intern: Research Security and Privacy

IBM

On-site •

Yorktown Heights, NY

Application deadline

February 28, 2023 12:00 AM

Your Role and Responsibilities

Start and end dates for this Internship are during Summer 2023 (3 months).

Candidates must be willing to work in Yorktown Heights, NY. In the Security Research department at the T. J. Watson Research Center, we conduct fundamental and applied research in all aspects of Cryptography, Security, and Privacy. We are building new and innovative technologies in Secure Multiparty Computation, Confidential Computing, Data Security and Privacy, Software Security, Adversarial Machine Learning, Cybersecurity Analytics, Cloud Computing and Virtualization Security, Ethical Hacking, and more.

We are seeking a brilliant candidate who is looking for real-world research experience at an industrial research lab to assist on our ongoing research projects. We value research skills, innovation, demonstrated systems intuition, systems building experience and a proven desire to implement one's own ideas.

You will advance fundamental science and publish in top-tier journals and conferences. You will also help conceive and build the next generation of innovative solutions to address real-world security challenges.

[2023 Intern: Research Security and Privacy | IBM | Handshake \(joinhandshake.com\)](#)

SW Engineer – Process Automation Intern

Ricoh USA, Inc

Remote • United States

Application deadline

February 28, 2023 2:00 AM

Intern Position Description

The Process Automation Intern will work on building Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD) pipelines using Jenkins automation software with a Professional Services (ASP) software engineering team.

This will consist of creating a suite of automated jobs that will run on-demand or part of our CI/CD development process. The jobs will perform a variety of tasks, such as creating virtual machines, installing and configuring web applications, and performing various actions in the resulting systems. The intern will work closely with their mentor and other members of the ASP development team to identify the automated jobs that need to be developed and the most efficient way and technologies needed to develop them. The work will be performed in an Agile environment with a multidisciplinary team consisting of software engineers and solution-implementation engineers.

[SW Engineer – Process Automation Intern | Ricoh USA, Inc | Handshake \(joinhandshake.com\)](#)

Enrollment Dates

February 13, 2023-Summer Term Open Enrollment Begins

*For those planning on graduating in Spring of 2023 (otherwise known as term 2234 in PeopleSoft), you must apply to graduate to get your diploma (**and, of course, successfully complete all appropriate coursework!**)*

Here is the timeline for Term 2234:

Graduation Application Opens – 10/1/22

Graduation Application Late Fee Begins – 12/1/22

Graduation Application Closes – 4/1/23

Final Day for ETD Paperwork & D-Scholarship Upload – 4/24/23

Please be advised that if you have not yet applied to graduate, you will be charged a \$25 late fee. I would also be aware of the ETD Paperwork and D-Scholarship deadline ([Complete Your Thesis or Dissertation | School of Computing and Information | University of Pittsburgh](#)) if you are working on a Master's Thesis.

*******Please be advised, that if you have any questions, you
can always reach out to me via the email and phone number
below. *******

Regards,

James Petraglia (Pa-trail-ya)