Yue Zhao

CONTACT INFORMATION

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University of Southern California

RESEARCH SUMMARY

I build *fast*, *automated*, and *open* **machine learning (ML)** and **data mining (DM) systems**, with a focus on **anomaly detection**, **graph neural networks**, and **healthcare AI**.

1. **Accelerate** large-scale learning tasks by leveraging ML systems techniques.
2. **Automate** unsupervised ML by model selection and hyperparameter optimization.
3. **Develop** open-source ML tools to support applications in healthcare, finance, and security.

(1) Data Mining and Machine Learning

- ❑ Unsupervised Machine Learning
- ❑ Outlier & Anomaly Detection
- ❑ Graph Neural Networks
- ❑ Out-of-distribution (OOD) Detection

(2) Open Systems

- ❑ Automated Machine Learning
- ❑ Meta-Learning
- ❑ Machine Learning Systems
- ❑ Parallel Computing

(3) Applications

- ❑ Healthcare AI & Therapeutic for ML
- ❑ AI for Science
- ❑ Security AI
- ❑ Risk Modeling

OPEN-SOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

yzhao062

Open-source Contribution: I have led or contributed as a core developer to more than 10 ML open-source initiatives. Popular ones include PyOD (A Python Toolbox for Scalable Outlier Detection), ADBench (Anomaly Detection Benchmark), and TDC (An ML Data Hub for Drug Discovery).

My works receive **17,000 GitHub Stars** and 20,000,000 downloads as of December 4, 2023.

FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Southern California
Thomas Lord Department of Computer Science
Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) — Aug. 2023 - Present
Automation, System, and APplication (**ASAP**) Lab (Link)

PwC Canada
Consulting & Deals
Senior Consultant (Data Scientist) — Aug. 2017 - Jun. 2019
Consultant (Data Scientist) — Feb. 2017 - Jul. 2017
Research Associate (Intern) — May. 2016 - Jan. 2017

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University — Pittsburgh, PA
Ph.D. in Information Systems and Management — Sep. 2019 - May. 2023

- **Affiliation**: CMU automated learning systems group (Catalyst) and Data Analytics Techniques Algorithms (DATA) Lab
- **Advisors and Mentors**: CMU: Prof. Leman Akoglu, Prof. Zhihao Jia, and Prof. George Chen. I collaborate with Prof. Jure Leskovec at Stanford, and Prof. Philip S. Yu at UIC.
- **Thesis**: Outlier Detection: Automation, Systems, and Applications

University of Toronto Toronto, ON
Master of Science in Computer Science Sep. 2015 - Dec. 2016

University of Cincinnati Cincinnati, OH
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering Sep. 2010 - May. 2015
Minor: *Computer Science* and *Mathematics*

PUBLICATIONS
SCHOLAR
RESEARCHG

Preprints & Under Submission

39. Hao Dong, Gaetan Frusque, Yue Zhao, Eleni Chatzi, Olga Fink
NNG-Mix: Improving Semi-supervised Anomaly Detection with Pseudo-anomaly Generation
Under submission
arXiv preprint arXiv:2311.11961

38. Tim Fu, Yue Zhao
Benchmarking Machine Learning Models for Quantum Error Correction
Under submission
arXiv preprint arXiv:2311.11167

37. Xueying Ding, Yue Zhao, Leman Akoglu
Fast Unsupervised Deep Outlier Model Selection with Hypernetworks
Under submission
arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.10529

36. Minqi Jiang, Chaochuan Hou, Ao Zheng, Xiyang Hu, Songqiao Han, Hailiang Huang, Xiangnan He, Philip S. Yu, Yue Zhao
Weakly Supervised Anomaly Detection: A Survey
Under submission
arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.04549

35. Yue Zhao, Leman Akoglu
Hyperparameter Optimization for Unsupervised Outlier Detection
Under submission
arXiv preprint arXiv:2208.11727

34. Kay Liu*, Yingtong Dou*, Yue Zhao*, et al.
PyGOD: A Python Library for Graph Outlier Detection
arXiv preprint arXiv:2204.12095; Minor revision at JMLR
(*equal contribution)

Peer-reviewed Journal Papers

33. Ling Yang*, Zhilong Zhang*, Yang Song, Shenda Hong, Runsheng Xu, Yue Zhao, Wentao Zhang, Bin Cui, Ming-Hsuan Yang
Diffusion Models: A Comprehensive Survey of Methods and Applications
*ACM Computing Surveys (**CSUR**)*, 2023
(*equal contribution)

32. Yue Zhao*, Martin Q. Ma*, Xiaorong Zhang, Leman Akoglu
The Need for Unsupervised Outlier Model Selection: A Review and Evaluation of Internal Evaluation Strategies
*ACM SIGKDD Explorations Newsletter (**SIGKDD Explor.**)*, 2023
(*equal contribution)

31. Kexin Huang*, Tianfan Fu*, Wenhao Gao*, Yue Zhao, Yusuf Roohani, Jure Leskovec, Connor W. Coley, Cao Xiao, Jimeng Sun, Marinka Zitnik
Artificial Intelligence Foundation for Therapeutic Science
*Nature Chemical Biology (**NCHEMB**)*, 2022
(*equal contribution)

30. Yue Zhao*, Zheng Li*, Xiyang Hu, Nicola Botta, Cezar Ionescu, George H. Chen
ECOD: Unsupervised Outlier Detection Using Empirical Cumulative Distribution Functions
*IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (**TKDE**)*, 2022.
(*equal contribution)

29. Yue Zhao, Zain Nasrullah, Zheng Li
PyOD: A Python Toolbox for Scalable Outlier Detection
Journal of Machine Learning Research (***JMLR***), 2019.

Peer-reviewed Conference & Workshop Papers (with proceedings)

28. Minqi Jiang*, Chaochuan Hou*, Ao Zheng*, Songqiao Han, Hailiang Huang†, Qingsong Wen, Xiyang Hu†, Yue Zhao†
ADGym: Design Choices for Deep Anomaly Detection.
*Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)*, 2023
(†Corresponding author)

27. Jaemin Yoo, Yue Zhao, Lingxiao Zhao, Leman Akoglu
DSV: An Alignment Validation Loss for Self-supervised Outlier Model Selection
*European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (**ECML/PKDD**)*, 2023

26. Peng Xu, Lin Zhang, Xuanzhou Liu, Jiaqi Sun, Yue Zhao, Haiqin Yang, Bei Yu
Do Not Train It: A Linear Neural Architecture Search of Graph Neural Networks
*International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**)*, 2023

25. Yue Zhao, Guoqing Zheng, Subhabrata Mukherjee, Robert McCann, Ahmed Awadallah
ADMoE: Anomaly Detection with Mixture-of-Experts from Noisy Labels
*Thirty-Seventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI**)*, 2023

24. Yue Zhao, George H. Chen, Zhihao Jia
TOD: GPU-accelerated Outlier Detection via Tensor Operations
*International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (**VLDB**)*, 2023

23. Songqiao Han*, Xiyang Hu*, Hailiang Huang*, Minqi Jiang*, Yue Zhao*
ADBench: Anomaly Detection Benchmark
*Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)*, 2022
(*equal contribution & the corresponding author)

22. Yue Zhao*, Kay Liu*, Yingtong Dou*, et al.
Benchmarking Node Outlier Detection on Graphs
*Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)*, 2022
(*equal contribution)

21. Yue Zhao, Xiaorong Zhang, Leman Akoglu
ELECT: Toward Unsupervised Outlier Model Selection
*IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (**ICDM**)*, 2022.
Regular paper. Acceptance rate 9.77% (85/870); overall acceptance 20% (174/870).

20. Zhiming Xu, Xiao Huang, Yue Zhao, Yushun Dong, Jundong Li
Contrastive Attributed Network Anomaly Detection with Data Augmentation
*Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (**PAKDD**)*, 2022
Acceptance rate 19%.

19. Yue Zhao, Ryan A. Rossi, Leman Akoglu
Automatic Unsupervised Outlier Model Selection
*Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)*, 2021
Acceptance rate 26%.

18. Kwei-Herng Lai, Daochen Zha, Junjie Xu, Yue Zhao, Guanchu Wang, Xia Hu
Revisiting Time Series Outlier Detection: Definitions and Benchmarks
*Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)*, 2021

17. Kexin Huang*, Tianfan Fu*, Wenhao Gao*, Yue Zhao, Yusuf Roohani, Jure Leskovec, Connor W. Coley, Cao Xiao, Jimeng Sun, Marinka Zitnik
Therapeutics Data Commons: Machine Learning Datasets and Tasks for Drug Discovery and Development
*Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS**)*, 2021
(*equal contribution)

16. Yue Zhao*, Xiyang Hu*, Cheng Cheng, Cong Wang, Changlin Wan, Wen Wang, Jianing Yang, Haoping Bai, Zheng Li, Cao Xiao, Yunlong Wang, Zhi Qiao, Jimeng Sun, Leman Akoglu
SUOD: Accelerating Large-scale Unsupervised Heterogeneous Outlier Detection
*Conference on Machine and Learning Systems (**MLSys**)*, 2021.
Acceptance rate 23.5% (52/221). (*equal contribution)

15. Kwei-Herng Lai*, Daochen Zha*, Guanchu Wang, Junjie Xu, Yue Zhao, Devesh Kumar, Yile Chen, Purav Zumkhawaka, Minyang Wan, Diego Martinez and Xia Ben Hu
TODS: An Automated Time Series Outlier Detection System (Demo paper)
*Thirty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI**)*, 2021.
(*equal contribution)

14. Meng-Chieh Lee, Yue Zhao, Aluna Wang, Pierre Jinghong Liang, Leman Akoglu, Vincent S. Tseng, Christos Faloutsos
AutoAudit: Mining Accounting and Time-Evolving Graphs
*IEEE International Conference on Big Data (**Big Data**)*, 2020

13. Changlin Wan, Dongya Jia, Yue Zhao, Wennan Chang, Sha Cao, Xiao Wang, and Chi Zhang
A Data Denoising Approach to Optimize Functional Clustering of Single Cell RNA-sequencing Data
*IEEE International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedicine (**BIBM**)*, 2020

12. Zheng Li, Yue Zhao, Nicola Botta, Cezar Ionescu, Xiyang Hu
COPOD: Copula-Based Outlier Detection
*IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (**ICDM**)*, 2020.

11. Zheng Li, Yue Zhao, Jialin Fu
SYNC: A Copula based Framework for Generating Synthetic Data from Aggregated Sources
*IEEE International Conference on Data Mining Workshops (**ICDMW**)*, 2020.

10. Yiqun Mei, Yue Zhao, Wei Liang
DSR: An Accurate Single Image Super Resolution Approach for Various Degradations
*IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (**ICME**)*, 2020, London, UK.

9. Yue Zhao, Xuejian Wang*, Cheng Cheng*, Xueying Ding*
Combining Machine Learning Models and Scores using combo Library (Demo paper)
*Thirty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**AAAI**)*, 2020.
(*equal contribution)

8. Zain Nasrullah, Yue Zhao
Music Artist Classification with Convolutional Recurrent Neural Networks
IEEE International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (**IJCNN**), 2019, Hungary.

7. Yue Zhao, Zain Nasrullah, Maciej K. Hryniewicki, Zheng Li
LSCP: Locally Selective Combination in Parallel Outlier Ensembles
SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (**SDM**), 2019, Calgary, Canada.
Acceptance rate 22.7% (90/397).

6. Yue Zhao, Maciej K. Hryniewicki
XGBOD: Improving Supervised Outlier Detection with Unsupervised Representation Learning
IEEE International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (**IJCNN**), 2018, Rio, Brazil.

5. Yue Zhao, Maciej K. Hryniewicki, Francesca Cheng, Boyang Fu, Xiaoyu Zhu
Employee Turnover Prediction with Machine Learning: A Reliable Approach
Intelligent System Conference (**Intellisys**), 2018, London, UK.
Acceptance rate 34% (194/568).

4. Yue Zhao*, Zhongtian Qiu*, Yiqing Yang*, Weiwei Li*, Mingming Fan
An Empirical Study of Touch-based Authentication Methods on Smartwatches
ACM International Symposium on Wearable Computers (***ISWC***), 2017, Maui, USA.
Acceptance rate 25.6% (23/90). (*equal contribution)

Peer-reviewed Workshop Papers (without proceedings)

3. Yue Zhao, Xueying Ding, Jianing Yang, and Haoping Bai.
SUOD: Toward Scalable Unsupervised Outlier Detection
Workshops *at the Thirty-Fourth* ***AAAI*** *Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 2020.
Extended version published in *MLSys 2021*.

2. Colin Wan, Zheng Li, Alicia Guo, Yue Zhao
SynC: A Unified Framework for Generating Synthetic Population with Gaussian Copula
Workshops *at the Thirty-Fourth* ***AAAI*** *Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 2020.
Extended version published in *ICDMW 2020*.

1. Yue Zhao, Maciej K. Hryniewicki
DCSO: Dynamic Combination of Detector Scores for Outlier Ensembles
ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (***KDD Workshop*** *on Outlier Detection De-constructed*), 2018, London, UK.
Extended version published in *SDM 2019*, renamed to LSCP.

Awards, Grants, and Funding

AAAI New Faculty Highlights		Dec. 2024
Meta 2022 AI4AI Research Award (co-PI)	$50,000	Oct. 2022
The Norton Labs Graduate Fellowship	$20,000	Mar. 2022
CMU Presidential Fellowship	$80,000	2019
Mitacs-Accelerate Research and Development Funding	$30,000	2016-2017
University Global Award and Scholarship	$32,000	2010-2015
Mantei/Mae Award & Scholar	$40,000	2012-2015
Engineer of the Month (University of Cincinnati)		Jun. 2014

Internship Experience

NortonLifeLock Research Group
Machine Learning Research Intern — 2022
- Supervised by Dr. Acar Tamersoy and Dr. Kevin Roundy.

Microsoft Research
Machine Learning Research Intern — 2022
- Designed weakly supervised anomaly detection algorithms
- Supervised by Dr. Guoqing Zheng and Dr. Subhabrata (Subho) Mukherjee.

Stanford University, Computer Science Department
Visiting Student Researcher — 2021
- Designed new GNN systems.
- Supervised by Prof. Jure Leskovec.

IQVIA, Analytics Center of Excellence
Machine Learning Research Intern — 2020
- Designed new machine learning models in healthcare.
- Supervised by Dr. Cao (Danica) Xiao (IQVIA) and Prof. Jimeng Sun (UIUC).

Siemens PLM Software USA
Software Engineer (Intern & Contract) — Mar. 2012 - Dec. 2014
- Managed a Java project to transition the LabManager system to vCloud Director.
- Refactored outdated automation code and added new modules and JUnit test cases.
- Led a C++ Code Coverage project on Teamcenter platform to strengthen its stability.

Teaching Experience

University of Southern California — Los Angeles, CA
Instructor — Spring 2024
CSCI 566 Deep Learning and its Applications

Carnegie Mellon University — Pittsburgh, PA
Teaching Assistant — Fall 2022
Managing Digital Business (Prof. David Riel)

Teaching Assistant & co-Instructor (lectures on AutoML and MLSys) — Spring 2022
Teaching Assistant & co-Instructor (lectures on AutoML and MLSys) — Fall 2021
Teaching Assistant & co-Instructor (lectures on AutoML) — Spring 2021
Teaching Assistant & co-Instructor (lectures on AutoML) — Fall 2020
Intro to Artificial Intelligence (Prof. David Steier)

Teaching Assistant — Spring 2022
Digital Transformation (Prof. David Riel)

Teaching Assistant (helping on course topics) — Fall 2021
Statistics for IT Managers (Prof. Daniel Nagin)

University of Toronto — Toronto, ON
Teaching Assistant & Lab Session Instructor — Fall 2015
Embedded Systems (Prof. Philip Anderson)

University of Cincinnati — Cincinnati, OH
Teaching Assistant & Lab Session Instructor — Fall 2014
Intro to Programming (Prof. George Purdy)

Qual & Thesis Committee

- Yi Chien Lin (USC, ECE Ph.D.)
- Yuke Zhang (USC, ECE Ph.D.)

Services

Conference Organizing Committee
- Workflow Co-Chair for KDD 2023

External Reviewer for Funding Proposals
- Dutch Research Council (NWO)

Journal Editor
- Associate Editor, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems (TNNLS)
- Action Editor, Journal of Data-centric Machine Learning Research (DMLR)

Program Committee and/or (Meta-)Reviewer for Conferences and Workshops
- AISTATS 2024 (meta-reviewer)
- MLSys 2024
- KDD 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- IJCAI 2022, 2023
- NeurIPS 2021, 2022, 2023
- AAAI 2021, 2022, 2023
- AAAI Demonstrations 2021, 2022
- MICCAI 2020, 2021, 2022
- ICDM 2020
- KDD Workshop on Outlier Detection and Description (ODD), 2021
- KDD Workshop on Anomaly and Novelty Detection (ANDEA), 2021, 2022
- IJCAI Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Anomalies and Novelties (AI4AN), 2020, 2021
- INFORMS Workshop on Data Science 2021

Journal Reviewer

- Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR)
- Machine Learning
- IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI)
- IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)
- IEEE Internet of Things Journal (IoT-J)
- IEEE Intelligent Systems
- IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications (J-SAC)
- Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery (DMAI)
- ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems (TMIS)
- Knowledge and Information Systems (KAIS)
- INFORMS Journal on Computing (IJOC)
- Big Data
- Artificial Intelligence Review (AIRE)
- Neurocomputing
- IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics: Systems
- IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (TCBB)
- IEEE Network Magazine
- IEEE Computational Intelligence Magazine (CIM)
- BioData Mining
- European Journal of Management and Business Economics (EJMBE)
- The Journal of Open Source Software (JOSS)

Talks and Lectures

U of Nevada, Las Vegas	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Oct. 2023
Samsung Seminar	*Automated and Scalable Anomaly Detection Systems*	Aug. 2023
KDD SoCal Day	*Enable Security Applications by ML with Noisy Inputs*	Aug. 2023
CMU Catalyst	*How (Not) to Fail Your Academic Job Search*	May. 2023
KAUST	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Apr. 2023
Emory University	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Apr. 2023
USC	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Mar. 2023
UC Davis	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Mar. 2023
Stony Brook University	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Feb. 2023
University of Chicago	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Feb. 2023
UC Merced	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Feb. 2023
CMU PDL Meeting	*Automated and Scalable ML Algorithms and Systems*	Jan. 2023
CMU Data Science Seminar	**Guest Lecture** *Automated Anomaly Detection*	Nov. 2022
LoG Seminar	*Large-scale Graph Anomaly Detection*	Oct. 2022
Intuit	*Anomaly Detection for Financial Risk Modeling*	Aug. 2022
Rice University	*Large-scale Anomaly Detection with Automation*	Sep. 2022
Microsoft Research	*Weakly-supervised Anomaly Detection*	Sep. 2022
Wells Fargo	*Anomaly Detection for Financial Risk Modeling*	Aug. 2022
Columbia University	**Guest Lecture** *Anomaly Detection*	Jul. 2022
Morgan Stanley	*Automated Outlier Detection*	Jun. 2022
Microsoft Research	*Automated Outlier Detection*	Jun. 2022
Morgan Stanley	*Large-scale Anomaly Detection Systems*	Mar. 2022
Rutgers Business School	*Outlier Model Selection*	Mar. 2022
Tesla	*Large-scale Anomaly Detection Systems*	Feb. 2022
Catalyst, CMU	*Systems for Data Mining Algorithms*	Dec. 2021
E&Y Canada	*ML applications in Data Analytics*	Oct. 2021
University of Nottingham	*General Machine Learning Applications*	Jan. 2021