

# Charlie Ruan

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## EDUCATION

### Carnegie Mellon University, Computer Science Department

*M.S., Computer Science*

GPA: 4.17/4.33

Pittsburgh, PA | Aug 2023 - May 2025

### Cornell University, College of Engineering

*B.S., Computer Science and Operations Research*

GPA: 4.0/4.3; *Summa Cum Laude*

Ithaca, NY | Aug 2019 - May 2023

**Relevant Courses:** Deep Learning Systems, Parallel Architecture and Programming, Operating Systems, Computer Networks, Distributed Computing Principles, Functional Programming, Reinforcement Learning, Stochastic Processes

## PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

(\* denotes equal contribution)

- Hongyi Jin\*, Ruihang Lai\*, **Charlie F. Ruan\***, Yingcheng Wang\*, Todd Mowry, Xupeng Miao, Zhihao Jia, Tianqi Chen. "MicroServe: A System for Microserving of LLMs." *Under submission*.
- Yixin Dong, **Charlie F. Ruan**, Yaxing Cai, Ziyi Xu, Yilong Zhao, Ruihang Lai, Tianqi Chen. "XGrammar: Flexible and Efficient Structured Generation Engine for Large Language Models." *Under submission*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.15100>
- Siyuan Feng\*, Jiawei Liu\*, Ruihang Lai, **Charlie F. Ruan**, Yong Yu, Lingming Zhang, Tianqi Chen. "Productive Deployment of Emerging Models on Emerging Platforms: A Top-Down Approach." *Under submission*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.09151>
- Xun Zhou, **Charlie Ruan**, Zihe Zhao, Tianqi Chen, Chris Donahue. "Local Deployment of Large-Scale Music AI Models On Commodity Hardware." *ISMIR 2024 (LBD session)*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.09625>
- A. Feder Cooper\*, Wentao Guo\*, Khiem Pham\*, Tiancheng Yuan, **Charlie F. Ruan**, Yucheng Lu, Christopher De Sa. "CD-GraB: Coordinating Distributed Example Orders for Provably Accelerated Training." *NeurIPS 2023*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.00845>
- Charlie Ruan**. "Approximating Martingale Process for Variance Reduction in Deep Reinforcement Learning with Large State Space." *On arXiv November 2022*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.15886>

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Sky Computing Lab *Research Assistant* (GPU Programming, Kernel Language/Compiler)

Berkeley, CA | Aug 2024 – Present

PI: [Prof. Ion Stoica](#)

- Working on a GPU kernel language/compiler for automating grid-level optimizations; extensively worked with Triton and MLIR

### Catalyst Group *Research Assistant* (Distributed Systems, LLM Serving)

Pittsburgh, PA | Mar 2024 – Present

PI: [Prof. Tianqi Chen](#), [Prof. Zhihao Jia](#)

- Proposed an LLM microserving architecture that enables dynamic reconfiguration of various disaggregation and coordination patterns, including balanced prefill/decode disaggregation, KV transfer, and distributed prefix cache
- Explored other disaggregated strategies such as attention/non-attention, and long request/short request; built a distributed system that supports point-to-point remote attention with CUDA kernels and the NVSHMEM communication library
- Paper under submission

### MLC-LLM & WebLLM *Research Assistant* (Machine Learning Compilation)

Pittsburgh, PA | Jun 2023 – Present

PI: [Prof. Tianqi Chen](#)

- Working on the open-source project MLC-LLM (**19.3k stars, #4 contributor**), enabling universal native deployment of LLMs through machine learning compilation techniques including TVM, building an LLM serving system on top of it
- Leading WebLLM (**13.9k stars, #1 contributor**), deploying LLMs locally in client-side browser with WebGPU acceleration
- Github links available: <https://github.com/mlc-ai/mlc-llm>, <https://github.com/mlc-ai/web-llm>

### RelaxML Lab *Research Assistant* (Distributed Machine Learning)

Ithaca, NY | Sep 2022 – May 2023

PI: [Prof. Christopher De Sa](#)

- Investigated finding provably better data permutations in distributed training with decentralized data, using recently proposed example-ordering algorithm Gradient Balancing (GraB)
- Built a distributed training system in a decentralized fashion to analyze bounds on convergence rate and consensus error
- Paper accepted by *NeurIPS 2023*: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.00845>

## Variance Reduction for Reinforcement Learning *Research Assistant (RL)*

Ithaca, NY | Dec 2021 – Sep 2022

PI: [Prof. Jim Dai](#)

- Used reinforcement learning (RL) to optimize the algorithm of matching drivers and customers on ride-hailing systems like Uber
- Formulated the application of variance-reduction method approximating martingale-process (AMP) in proximal policy optimization (PPO) when state space is large and state transitions are uncertain; experimented on ride-hailing and multiclass queueing networks
- Manuscript available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.15886>

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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### Google Core ML *Software Engineer Intern (TensorFlow, Python)*

Sunnyvale, CA | Jun 2023 – Aug 2023

- Worked under Core ML's Distributed Runtime team, optimizing TensorFlow (TF) runtime
- Worked on enabling TF asynchronous checkpoint in Keras, offloading model checkpointing to an asynchronous thread to reduce wasted TPU cycles; contributed 1700+ LOC to <https://github.com/tensorflow>
- Received a return offer

### Google Cloud *Software Engineer Intern (OpenBMC, Linux, C++)*

Sunnyvale, CA | Aug 2022 – Oct 2022

- Worked on Google Cloud's Technical Infrastructure Platform team, deploying accelerators including GPUs in Google data centers
- Implemented a Linux daemon that interacts with D-Bus and I2C to monitor the health of data centers' GPUs using OpenBMC; built an API on D-Bus that provides out-of-band firmware updates; worked with pre-production hardware with limited debugging support
- Received a spot bonus and a return offer

### Amazon Robotics *Software Engineer Intern (Full-Stack, Kotlin, Java)*

Greater Boston, MA | May 2022 – Jul 2022

- Worked on the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) team; implemented a full-stack configuration portal on Amazon Robotics's HCI software, allowing warehouse workers to personalize their interaction with the autonomous warehouse robots
- Received return offer for a full-time position

### XPeng Motors *Software Engineer Intern (Sensor Fusion, Python, C++)*

Shanghai, China | Jun 2021 – Aug 2021

- Worked on the Sensor Fusion team for XPeng's autonomous driving software; processed and fused various sensor data (e.g. radars, cameras) of XPeng's self-driving cars to provide a reliable perception result

### Morgina Information Technology *Software Engineer Intern (C/C++, Embedded)*

Shanghai, China | Jun 2020 – Jul 2020

- Optimized the multi-object tracking algorithm of millimeter-wave radars installed in intersections that monitor traffic information

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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### Cornell Electric Vehicles *Software Engineer (Python, ROS, Linux)*

Ithaca, NY | Aug 2019 – Mar 2022

- Designed the ROS (Robot Operating System) for the vehicle's autonomy system; engineered a platform for communications between sensors (e.g. LIDAR, IMU) and algorithms, as well as among algorithms (e.g. vision, localization)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Intro to Engineering Stochastic Processes *Teaching Assistant*

Ithaca, NY | Jan 2023 – May 2023

- Topics include: discrete-time/continuous-time Markov chain, Poisson process, queueing theory, Markov decision process
- Was the sole TA responsible for the design, direction, office hours, and grading for a coding project that compares traditional Monte Carlo simulation with neural networks

### Intro to Machine Learning *Teaching Assistant*

Ithaca, NY | Aug 2021 – Dec 2021

- Topics include: decision trees, support vector machine, kernels, neural networks, statistical learning theory, online learning, boosting
- Participated in the design of homework and coding projects

## AWARDS & HONORS

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Cornell Engineering Dean's Honor List (for all semesters)

2019 – 2023

Omega Rho Honor Society for Operations Research

May 2023

Undergraduate Summer Research Funding, School of Operations Research (five students selected in total)

May 2022

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society

Mar 2022