

# Weiyang “Frank” Wang

Ph.D. Candidate, MIT EECS Department

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 flasew

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## Education

- 2022 – 2026 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**  
Ph.D. Computer Science  
**Advisor:** Prof. Manya Ghobadi  
**Tentative Thesis:** Workload-Driven Network Optimizations for Distributed Machine Learning  
Minor in Quantum Computing and Quantum Information Science
- 2020 – 2022 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**  
M.S. Computer Science  
**Advisor:** Prof. Manya Ghobadi  
**Thesis:** TopoOpt: Co-optimizing Network Topology and Parallelization Strategy for Distributed Machine Learning Training Jobs
- 2016 – 2020 **University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA, magna cum laude**  
B.S. Computer Science, *Honors With Highest Distinction*  
**Advisor:** Prof. Alex C. Snoeren  
**Thesis:** Harnessing Highly Dynamic Datacenter Fabrics with TDTC  
B.S. Physics  
Minor in Mathematics

## Research Interest

I design and build adaptive network systems that harness structures in machine learning workloads to enable network-application co-optimization.

## Publications

- NSDI 2026 **Checkmate: Zero Performance Overhead Model Checkpointing via Network Gradient Replication**, Ankit Bhardwaj\*, **Weiyang Wang\***, Jeremy Carin, Adam Belay, Manya Ghobadi (\*: equal contribution), *Proceedings of the 23rd USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), Renton, WA, May 2026*
- IEEE Micro 2025 **Spine-Free Networks for LLM Training**, **Weiyang Wang**, Manya Ghobadi, *IEEE Micro*, vol. 45, no. 2, pp. 18-25, March-April 2025
- NSDI 2025 **Efficient Direct-Connect Topologies for Collective Communications**, Liangyu Zhao, Siddharth Pal, Tapan Chugh, **Weiyang Wang**, Prithwish Basu, Joud Khouri, Arvind Krishnamurthy, *Proceedings of the 22nd USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), Philadelphia, PA, April 2025*
- HotI 2024 **Rail-only: A Low-Cost High-Performance Network for Training LLMs with Trillion Parameters**, **Weiyang Wang**, Manya Ghobadi, Kayvon Shakeri, Ying Zhang, Naader Hasani, *Proceedings of IEEE Symposium on High-Performance Interconnects (HOTI), Online Conference, August 2024*  
*Supported by major network device vendors like Juniper and Broadcom*
- NSDI 2023 **TopoOpt: Co-optimizing Network Topology and Parallelization Strategy for Distributed Training Jobs**, **Weiyang Wang**, Moein Khazraee, Zhizhen Zhong, Zhihao Jia, Dheevatsa Mudigere, Ying Zhang, Anthony Kewitsch, and Manya Ghobadi, *Proceedings of the 20th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), Boston, MA, April 2023*  
*Being evaluated for deployment at Meta*
- SIGCOMM 2022 **Time-division TCP for Reconfigurable Data Center Networks**, Shawn Shuoshuo Chen\*, **Weiyang Wang\***, Christopher Canel, Srinivasan Seshan, Alex C. Snoeren, Peter Steenkiste (\*: equal contribution), *Proceedings of the ACM SIGCOMM 2022, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 2022*
- OptSys 2021 **IOI: In-network Optical Inference**, Zhizhen Zhong, **Weiyang Wang**, Manya Ghobadi, Alexander Sludds, Ryan Hamerly, Liane Bernstein, Dirk Englund, *Proceedings of the ACM SIGCOMM 2021 Workshop on Optical Systems (OptSys), Online Conference, August 2021*

NSDI 2020 **Adapting TCP for Reconfigurable Datacenter Networks**, Matthew Mukerjee, Christopher Canel, **Weiyang Wang**, Daehyeok Kim, Srinivasan Seshan, and Alex C. Snoeren, *Proceedings of the 17th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), Santa Clara, CA, February 2020*

## Honors and Awards

- Feb 2022 **Finalist**, *Meta PhD Research Fellowship Program in Computer Networks*
- Sep 2020 **Awardee**, *MIT Presidential Fellowship Award*
- Jun 2020 **Awards of Excellence**, *UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering, Award for Excellence in Computer Science and Engineering*
- Dec 2019 **Runners-Up**, *CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Awards*
- Dec 2018 **Winner**, *UCSD CSE Department, Computer Networking Espresso Prize*
- Dec 2016 – Jun 2020 **Provost Honors**, *UCSD*

## Press Releases

- Aug 2024 **This AI Network Has No Spine – And That's A Good Thing**, *The Next Platform*
- Apr 2023 **Meta, MIT, Others Test Robotic Arm in Optical AI Infrastructure**, *HPC Wire*
- Apr 2023 **Telescent and MIT CSAIL Collaborate to Accelerate Machine Learning Workflows**, *Business Wire*

## Posters

- Apr 2025 **Efficient Direct-Connect Topologies for Collective Communications**, Liangyu Zhao, Siddharth Pal, Tapan Chugh, **Weiyang Wang**, Jason Fantl, Prithwish Basu, and Joud Khouri, Arvind Krishnamurthy, *Poster Session at the 22nd USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), Philadelphia, PA, April 2025*
- Apr 2024 **Zero Buffer Optical Packet Switching Data Center Network**, Shawn Shuoshuo Chen, **Weiyang Wang**, Manya Ghobadi, Srinivasan Seshan, Peter Steenkiste, *Poster Session at the 21st USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), Santa Clara, CA, April 2024*

## Research Experiences

- Mar 2023 – Now **Student Research Scholar**, *Center for Ubiquitous Connectivity (CUBiC), SRC JUMP 2.0 Program*  
**Center Leader:** Prof. Keren Bergman, Columbia University
- Sep 2020 – Now **Graduate Research Assistant**, *MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab*  
**Advisor:** Prof. Manya Ghobadi
- Jan 2019 – Jun 2020 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, *UCSD CSE Department*  
**Advisor:** Prof. Alex C. Snoeren
- Jun 2018 – Sep 2018 **Undergraduate Researcher**, *UCSD CSE Department*  
**Mentor:** Prof. Yannis Papakonstantinou
- Aug 2018 **Visitor**, *The Cornell, Maryland, Max Planck Pre-doctoral Research School 2018*
- Feb 2017 – Jun 2018 **Undergraduate Researcher**, *UCSD Center of Astrophysics and Space Science*  
**Mentors:** Dr. Praween Siritanasak, Alex Zahn, and Prof. Brian Keating

## Industry Experiences

- May 2024 – Aug 2024 **Research Intern**, *Microsoft Research*, Improving Speed and Robustness of ML Training  
**Mentor:** Dr. Srikanth Kandula
- Jun 2023 – Aug 2023 **Research Intern**, *Google Cloud*, Topology Engineering and Traffic Engineering under Demand Uncertainty  
**Mentor:** Dr. Anny Xijia Zheng

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## Teaching Experiences

- Fall 2024 **Guest Lecturer, MIT EECS Department, Computer Networks (6.5820)**  
Delivered a full lecture on distributed machine learning
- Fall 2023 **Guest Lecturer, MIT EECS Department, Computer Networks (6.5820)**  
Delivered part of a lecture on networks for machine learning
- Fall 2022 **Teaching Assistant, MIT EECS Department, Computer Networks (6.5820)**
- Winter 2020 **Tutor, UCSD CSE Department, Introduction to Programming II (CSE8B)**
- Fall 2018 – Fall 2019 **Tutor, UCSD CSE Department, Database Principles (CSE132A)**

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## Mentoring Experiences

- Fall 2024 – Now **Jeremy Carin, Ph.D. Student with Prof. Manya Ghobadi, MIT CSAIL**  
With Jeremy, we explored the mismatch of increasing functionalities of today's eBPF applications and Linux's existing eBPF implementation. This research led to a submission for HotNets 2025.
- Fall 2023 – Now **Anton Zabreyko, Ph.D. Student with Prof. Manya Ghobadi, MIT CSAIL**  
With Anton, we are investigating network optimization that combines placement, routing, and flow scheduling in multitenant ML training clusters.
- Spring 2024 – Now **Om Chabra, Ph.D. Student with Prof. Hari Balakrishnan, MIT CSAIL**  
I provided project feedback and writing guidance to Om on his projects about training ML models in space, and distributed fallback networks.
- Spring 2023 **Natalie Muradyan, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), B.S. Computer Science and Engineering, MIT**  
Natalie developed a demonstration website of TopoOpt with me. She went on to pursue an M.Eng. with the Microarchitecture ATtacks and CHAllenges (MATCHA) research group at MIT with Prof. Mengjia Yan.

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## Invited Talks

### **A Tale of Two Networks: Defining Network Infrastructure for Deep Neural Network Training**

- Oct 2025 Computer Science Colloquia, Tufts University, *Medford, MA*
- Mar 2025 ELEN E9403: Seminar in Photonics, Columbia University, *New York, NY*
- Jan 2024 Networking Lecture Series, Microsoft Research, *Online*

### **Reconfigurable Network Architecture for DNN Training**

- Jun 2025 Workshop on Reconfigurable Networks, Cornell University, *Ithaca, NY*
- May 2024 SRC JUMP 2.0 CUbiC Liaison Presentation, *Online*

### **Zero-Overhead Model Checkpointing via Network Gradient Replication**

- Apr 2025 Distributed Systems Laboratory (DSL) Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, *Online*

### **Rail-only: A Low-Cost High-Performance Network for Training LLMs with Trillion Parameters**

- Aug 2025 MIT / Jane Street Research Symposium, Jane Street Capital, *New York, NY*
- Sep 2024 HPC Applications, SW, and HW Sync Seminar, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (AMD), *Online*
- Aug 2024 MLSys Seminar, University of Washington, *Seattle, WA*

### **TopoOpt: Co-optimizing Network Topology and Parallelization Strategy for Distributed Training Jobs**

- Feb 2023 Network Research Group Seminar, Carnegie Mellon University, *Pittsburgh, PA*
- Oct 2022 S2Infra Talks, Google Inc., *Online*
- Dec 2021 MSR Cambridge, Lecture Series, Microsoft Research, *Online*
- Jan 2021 Internal Presentation, Telescent Inc., *Online*

## Patent

Jul 2024 **In-network Optical Inference**, Manya Ghobadi, Zhizhen Zhong, **Weiyang Wang**, Liane Bernstein, Alexander Sludds, Ryan Hamerly, Dirk Robert Englund, *US Patent Application Number 18561985*

## Professional Services

- 2025 **Reviewer**, *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking (ToN)*
- 2025 **Reviewer**, *IEEE Open Journal of the Solid-State Circuits Society (OJ-SSCS)*
- 2025 **Reviewer**, *Elsevier Computer Networks (COMNET)*
- 2025 **External Reviewer**, *IEEE International Conference on Network Protocols (ICNP)*
- 2025 **External Reviewer**, *ACM Asia-Pacific Workshop on Networking (APNet)*
- 2025 **External Reviewer**, *IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM)*

## Other Services

- Sep 2022 – Now **Member**, *MIT EECS REFS*  
Served as a peer mediator to support the graduate community and serve as a first point of contact in dealing with stress
- Sep 2022 – Now **Web Chair**, *Sidney-Pacific Student Government, MIT*  
Served as Web Chair to maintain and develop the administration system for MIT's Sidney-Pacific graduate housing
- Sep 2020 – Now **System Administrator**, *Network and Mobile Systems Research Group, MIT*  
Constructed and managed a 24-node GPU cluster, with electrical and optical networking, from scratch