Subject: Guidelines & Expectations for Prospective MPhil Students

Dear Prospective MPhil Students,

Thank you for your interest in joining our research group! RBM Students in my group can choose between two broad directions based on their interests and career goals:

1. Research-Oriented Track

Focus: Advancing fundamental research in Agentic AI, reasoning LLMs, spatiotemporal foundation models, and urban intelligence.

Expectations: Dedicate the majority of time to cutting-edge research, including literature review, problem formulation, and experimentation. Aim for high-impact publications in top-tier conferences (e.g., KDD, NeurIPS, ICML, VLDB, AAAI). Research experience and strong analytical skills are preferred.

2. Engineering-Oriented Track

Focus: Developing real-world AI applications, open-source projects, and participating data science/machine-learning competitions.

Expectations: Strong programming skills (Python, PyTorch, distributed systems, or LLM frameworks). Willingness to work on large-scale model deployment, system optimization, or competition-driven projects (e.g., Kaggle, KDD Cup). Contributions to open-source projects or industry collaborations are encouraged.

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