Henry (Hoang) Chu

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EDUCATION

Pitzer College Claremont, CA
Bachelor's Degree, Joint Computer Science and Mathematics (Honors) Expected May 2024

- GPA: 3.7 / 4.0 (Math and CS classes cross-registered at Harvey Mudd College).
- **Classes**: Data Structures and Algorithms **(TA)**, Advanced Probability **(TA)**, Neural Networks **(TA)**, Abstract Algebra **(TA)**, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Statistics, Linear Models, Mathematics of Data Science, Logic and Computational Theory, Advanced Linear Algebra, Programming Languages, Computer Systems.

AWARDS

- 9 / 82 teams - Southern California ICPC Contest
- Gold Medal (9 / 382): National Math Olympiad
- 3rd Ranked: National Math Modeling Olympiad
- Silver Medal: Asian Physics Olympiad
- Codeforces Master (2147 rating - Top 3%)
- Top 1% (Round 3) Google Code Jam 2022
- 4th Place - Citadel Terminal Algorithm Contest
- 1st Place - Citadel Summer Invitational Datathon

WORK EXPERIENCE

Periwinkle Trading (periwinkletrading.com) August 2023 - Present
Quantitative Researcher - Contract (report to the CEO) *Technologies:* ***Pandas, Numpy, Scikit-learn, Apache Spark***

- Ideated using a Support Vector Regression to predict 1-day Equities prices and developed a custom NLP-based feature selection from **20GB of alternative data** to generate trading signals, **improving the Sharpe ratio from 1.3 to 2.1**.
- **Improved** weighted correlation coefficient **from .64 to .81** with **45% reduced features** by utilizing geometry, linear algebra, and binary search algorithm to find LASSO penalty term that max(VIF score) < 3 and minimizes AIC.
- **Reduced model runtime by 60%** when training **gigabytes of data** by leveraging QR Decomposition to avoid matrix inversion when finding optimal coefficients and translating dataframe operations from Pandas searches to Spark joins.
- Analyzed generative properties of Neural Networks and feasibility of parameter tuning with Bayesian Optimization.

University of Southern California June 2023 - August 2023
Undergraduate Research Intern *Technologies:* ***Pandas, Numpy, Scikit-learn, OR-Tools***
Topic: *"Solving the Vehicle Routing Problem with Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)"*

- **Tackled neglection of real-time factors** (e.g traffic jam) in the Traveling Salesman shortest-Path (TSP) algorithm by proposing and developing from scratch a customized attention-based Recurrent Neural Network model in C++.
- **Solved seq2seq's adaptability issue** with unordered sequences by convincing the team to use LSTM encoder-decoder (capture global instead of local information) with **a model built in Python** that **saved 15% time** on average than TSP.
- Proved convergence to suboptimal loss of incremental gradient method techniques in network optimization, and **utilized past research** in Group Theory to avoid RNN's vanishing and exploding gradients in model deployment.

Meta May 2022 - August 2022
Engineering Intern *Technologies:* ***PyTorch, Pandas, Numpy, Scikit-learn, Hadoop (MapReduce), kDB***

- Researched Vision Transformer (ViT) papers and delivered in Python a working model to replace Meta's ResNet50
- Resolved ViT's Time Limit Issue in hyperparameter tuning by designing, discussing, and implementing independently a new Window Selection Optimization algorithm that **helped Vision Transformers compute 30% faster**.
- **Improved label accuracy by 2%** on **100,000,000+** Marketplace training data after researched, pre-trained in Python, and proposed Google's Contrastive Captioners encoder-decoder (arxiv.org/abs/2205.01917) in lieu of Meta's CLIP.

Cohost.ai (cohost.ai) June 2021 - August 2021
Engineering Intern *Technologies:* ***gRPC, PostgreSQL, Apache Kafka, kDB***

- **Prevented message loss** by building **in C++** an IPC message queue (self-studied Systems) for the company's chat bot.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Independent Research in Mathematics January 2022 - May 2022
Topic: *"Explore Constraints on Unitary Recurrent Neural Networks (uRNN)"* (**paper**) *Python*

- Proved that the norm of Unitary Matrices are bounded, thus they can prevent RNN vanishing and exploding gradients.
- Leveraged Hermitian matrices' orthogonality properties to **present a new gradient update rule**, ensuring subsequent weight matrices being unitary by complex spectral theorem and efficiently computed by eigen-decomposition.