Shichang Zhang

EXPERIENCE

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WORK Harvard University

Postdoctoral Fellow Aug. 2024 - Present

EDUCATION University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA

Ph.D. in Computer Science June 2024

Stanford University Stanford, CA

M.S. in Statistics Apr. 2019

University of California, Berkeley Berkeley, CA

B.A. in Statistics May 2017

Honors: Honors in Statistics, High Distinction

RESEARCH Explainable AI, Data Attribution, Mechanistic Interpretability, Large Language Models, Interests Graph Data Mining, Model Efficiency

Honors and Awards

KDD Outstanding Reviewer (Top 10%)	2025
Amazon PhD Fellowship	2023
J.P.Morgan Chase AI PhD Fellowship	2023
KDD Excellence in Reviewing (30 in 1551)	2023
Snap Research Fellowship Honorable Mention	2022
ICML Top Reviewer (Top 10%)	2022
UCLA Graduate Division Fellowship	2021

Publications

Conference Papers:

- 1. Automated Molecular Concept Generation and Labeling with Large Language Models Zimin Zhang*, Qianli Wu*, Botao Xia*, Fang Sun, Ziniu Hu, Yizhou Sun, **Shichang Zhang** (*equal contribution)
 - International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING), 2025
- 2. FUSE: Measure-Theoretic Compact Fuzzy Set Representation for Taxonomy Expansion Fred Xu, Song Jiang, Zijie Huang, Xiao Luo, **Shichang Zhang**, Yuanzhou Chen, Yizhou Sun
 - Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL Findings), 2024
- 3. Predicting and Interpreting Energy Barriers of Metallic Glasses with Graph Neural Networks
 - Haoyu Li*, **Shichang Zhang***, Longwen Tang, Yizhou Sun (*equal contribution) International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**), 2024
- 4. SciBench Evaluating College-Level Scientific Problem-Solving Abilities of Large Language Models

Cambridge, MA

Xiaoxuan Wang*, Ziniu Hu*, Pan Lu*, Yanqiao Zhu*, Jieyu Zhang, Satyen Subramaniam, Arjun R Loomba, **Shichang Zhang**, Yizhou Sun, Wei Wang (*equal contribution)

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2024

- Laplacian Score Benefit Adaptive Filter Selection for Graph Neural Networks Yewen Wang, Shichang Zhang, Junghoo Cho, Yizhou Sun SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM), 2024
- PaGE-Link: Graph Neural Network Explanation for Heterogeneous Link Prediction Shichang Zhang, Jiani Zhang, Xiang Song, Soji Adeshina, Da Zheng, Christos Faloutsos, Yizhou Sun The Web Conference (WWW), 2023
- 8. GStarX: Explaining Graph Neural Networks with Structure-Aware Cooperative Games Shichang Zhang, Yozen Liu, Neil Shah, Yizhou Sun Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022
- 9. Graph-less Neural Networks, Teach Old MLPs New Tricks via Distillation **Shichang Zhang**, Yozen Liu, Yizhou Sun, Neil Shah International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**), 2022
- Graph Condensation for Graph Neural Networks
 Wei Jin, Lingxiao Zhao, Shichang Zhang, Yozen Liu, Jiliang Tang, Neil Shah.
 International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2022

Journal Papers:

- An Explainable AI Approach using Graph Learning to Predict ICU Length of Stay Tianjian Guo, Indranil Bardhan, Ying Ding, Shichang Zhang Information Systems Research (ISR), Oct. 2024
- 2. Motif-driven Contrastive Learning of Graph Representations Shichang Zhang*, Ziniu Hu*, Arjun Subramonian, Yizhou Sun (*equal contribution) IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE), Feb. 2024

Workshop Papers and Pre-prints:

- Building Bridges, Not Walls Advancing Interpretability by Unifying Feature, Data and Model Component Attribution
 Shichang Zhang, Tessa Han, Usha Bhalla, Himabindu Lakkaraju (Pre-print)
- Generalized Group Data Attribution
 Dan Ley, Suraj Srinivas, Shichang Zhang, Gili Rusak, Himabindu Lakkaraju (AT-TRIB@NeurIPS), 2024
- 3. Hierarchical Compression of Text-Rich Graphs via Large Language Models **Shichang Zhang**, Da Zheng, Jiani Zhang, Qi Zhu, Xiang Song, Soji Adeshina, Christos Faloutsos, George Karypis, Yizhou Sun (pre-print)
- Self-Control of LLM Behaviors by Compressing Suffix Gradient into Prefix Controller Min Cai, Yuchen Zhang, Shichang Zhang, Fan Yin, Difan Zou, Yisong Yue, Ziniu Hu (MI@ICML), 2024

- 5. Parameter-Efficient Tuning Large Language Models for Graph Representation Learning Qi Zhu, Da Zheng, Xiang Song, **Shichang Zhang**, Bowen Jin, Yizhou Sun, George Karypis (Pre-print)
- Efficient Ensembles Improve Training Data Attribution
 Junwei Deng*, Ting-Wei Li*, Shichang Zhang, Jiaqi Ma (*equal contribution),
 (DMLR@ICML), 2024
- 7. A Survey on Graph Neural Network Acceleration: Algorithms, Systems, and Customized Hardware

Shichang Zhang, Atefeh Sohrabizadeh, Cheng Wan, Zijie Huang, Ziniu Hu, Yewen Wang, Yingyan (Celine) Lin, Jason Cong, Yizhou Sun (pre-print)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Conference Area Chair:

ACL ARR - Association for Computational Linguistics Rolling Review

2025

Conference Reviewer/Program Committee:

KDD - ACM SIGKDD Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining	2020, 2023 - 2025
NeurIPS - Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems	2021 - 2025
ICML - International Conference on Machine Learning	2022 - 2025
ICLR - International Conference on Learning Representations	2024 - 2025
AAAI - AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence	2023 - 2025
WSDM - ACM International Web Search and Data Mining Conference	2023 - 2025
SDM - SIAM International Conference on Data Mining	2024
CIKM - ACM Conference on Information and Knowledge Management	2022 - 2023
LOG - Learning on Graphs Conference	2023
ICDM - IEEE International Conference on Data Mining	2021

Journal Reviewer:

TPAMI - IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence

TKDD - ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data

TKDE - IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering

TNNLS - IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems

TAI - IEEE Transactions on Artificial Intelligence

Workshop Organizer:

Workshop on Regulatable Machine Learning @ NeurIPS

2024

Reading Group Organizer:

UCLA Data Mining Reading Group

2022 - 2024

Conference Volunteer:

KDD - ACM SIGKDD Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining

2023

INVITED TALKS Explainable AI for Graph Data and More

AI4LIFE Group at Harvard

Feb 2024

Graph Neural Network Explanation for Heterogeneous Link Prediction

Amazon Trans. AI Research Talks	July 2023
International World Wide Web Conference	May 2023

Structure-Aware Graph Neural Network Explanation

AI Time NeurIPS Talk Series

Graph-less Neural Networks NVIDIA GNN Reading Group

May 2022

Feb 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE Instructor, University of California, Los Angeles

CS97: Introduction to Data Science

Summer 2024

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Los Angeles

CS145: Introduction to Data Mining Fall 2020, Fall 2021 CS32: Introduction to Computer Science II Spring 2021

MENTORSHIP

Arjun Subramonian (UCLA undergrad \rightarrow UCLA PhD) Mar. 2020 - Mar. 2021 Qianli Wu (UCLA undergrad \rightarrow Amazon SDE) Mar. 2023 - Mar. 2024 Haoyu Li (UCLA undergrad \rightarrow UIUC PhD) Mar. 2023 - July 2024 Oct. 2023 - June 2024 Gaotang Li (UMich undergrad \rightarrow UIUC PhD) Botao Xia (UCLA undergrad \rightarrow UCLA Master) Oct. 2023 - Aug 2024 Zimin Zhang (UCLA undergrad \rightarrow UIUC Master) Oct. 2023 - Present Min Cai (Shenzhen University master) Nov. 2023 - Present Hongzhe Du (UCLA master) Mar. 2024 - Present Karim Saraipour (UCLA master) Apr. 2024 - Present Weikai Li (UCLA Ph.D.) Sept. 2024 - Present Dan Ley (Harvard Ph.D.) Sept. 2024 - Present

Industry Work Experience

Amazon Web Service (AWS)

Applied Scientist Intern, Graph Machine Learning Team

Santa Clara, CA June 2023 - Nov. 2023

- Proposed a framework for applying LLMs to text-rich graph data with hierarchical neighborhood compression, which allows LLMs to leverage the graph structure and handle long input text features gathered in a rich neighborhood.
- The proposed method outperformed traditional graph ML models on node classification benchmarks and will be incorporated into the Amazon DGL project.

Amazon Web Service (AWS)

Santa Clara, CA

Applied Scientist Intern, Graph Machine Learning Team

June 2022 - Oct. 2022

- Proposed a new framework to explain GNN link prediction for recommendation on graph data, which improves user trust in the model and helps developers debug the model. Work published in WWW 2023.
- The implemented framework will be incorporated into the Amazon Neptune ML project in production.

Snap Research

Los Angeles, CA

Research Intern, Computational Social Science Team

June 2021 - Sept. 2021

- Proposed a cross-model distillation framework to transfer knowledge from GNNs to MLPs, which speeds up model inference by 179 times and facilitates model deployment on latency-constraint applications. Work published in ICLR 2022.
- Worked on condensing large-scale training graphs to small synthetic graphs by over

90% reduction rate while maintaining competitive model performance for GNNs trained from scratch, which significantly saves storage space and achieves efficient continue learning. Work published in ICLR 2022.

WeWork Inc.

Palo Alto, CA

Data Scientist Intern, Research and Applied Science Team

June 2019 - Sept. 2019

- Implemented a data processing pipeline in SQL and Python for data querying, data cleaning, and feature engineering.
- Trained a Gradient Boosted Tree model on two million customer data to predict occupancy rate for WeWork buildings and achieved 0.093 MAE on the test set.
- Presented the pricing model as a selected outstanding project to the Research and Applied Science team including the VP.

SKILLS Programming: Python (PyTorch, Hugging Face, DGL), C++, R, Java, Linux, Git Natural Language: Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Proficient)