

YI ZHANG

Minneapolis, MN, 55414 ◊ Email: yi.zhang@vanderbilt.edu ◊ Website: yizhan2854.github.io

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University

PhD in Computer Science

Starting Aug. 2022

Supervisor: Dr. Tyler Derr [Profile Link]

Research Group: Network and Data Science (NDS) [Group Link]

Research Interest: Artificial Intelligence | Graph Neural Networks | NLP | Recommender Systems

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (UMTC)

Bachelor in Computer Science (Distinction)

May 2022

CS Major GPA: 3.97/4

CS Major Courses: Calculus | Linear Algebra and Differential Equations | Multi-Variable Calculus | Applied Linear Algebra | Analysis of Numerical Algorithms | Sparse Matrix Computations | Probability and Statistics | Machine Learning | Computational Genomics | C/C++ | Intro to Algorithms and Program Development | Discrete Structures | Machine Architecture and Organization | Algorithm and Data Structure | User Interface Design | Operating Systems | Program Design and Development | Advanced Programming Principles | CS Research | Directed Math Research | Directed CS Research

Other Degrees: Bachelor in Chemical Engineering | Bachelor in Chemistry

AWARDS

1. **Vanderbilt Dean's Graduate Fellowship** (2022)
2. Vanderbilt Engineering Graduate Fellowship (2022)
3. Vanderbilt Russell G. Hamilton Scholar (2022)
4. UMTC Maroon Global Excellence Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

1. **Zhang, Y.**, Boley, D., Harwell, J., & Gini, M. (2022) A Correlated Random Walk Model to Rapidly Approximate Hitting Time Distributions in Multi-Robot Systems. *17th International Conference on Intelligent Autonomous Systems*
2. **Zhang, Y.**, & Boley, D. (2022). Nonlinear Multi-Objective Flux Balance Analysis of the Warburg Effect. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtbi.2022.111223>
3. Wang, Y., Zhao, Y., **Zhang, Y.**, & Derr, T. (2022). Collaboration-Aware Graph Convolutional Networks for Recommendation Systems. *arXiv*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.06221>
4. **Zhang, Y.** (2021). An In-depth Summary of Recent Artificial Intelligence Applications in Drug Design. *arXiv*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.05478v1>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Mathematics, UMTC

May 2021 – Jan. 2022

Supervisor: Dr. Jeff Calder

Keywords: Semi-Supervised Learning, Graph Neural Networks, Stochastic Processes, Network, Active Learning

- Proposed Poisson Learning with Discounted Return (DR-PoiLea) that consistently outperformed the current state of art, vanilla PoiLea, by 1-2% classification accuracy at extremely low label rates using 3 common datasets (FashionMNIST, MNIST, PUBMED).

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, UMTC

Apr. 2021 – Feb. 2022

Supervisors: Dr. Daniel Boley, Dr. Maria Gini

Keywords: Swarm Robot, Stochastic Processes, Network, Sparse Matrix

- Developed a computation model that can efficiently approximate the HT distributions for multi-robot searching processes.

Supervisor: Dr. Daniel Boley

Keywords: Biological Modeling, Nonlinear Programming, Multi-Objective Optimization

- Developed a multi-objective non-linear flux balance analysis model of a significant biological phenomenon, Warburg Effect, in different cell types.

INTERNSHIP

Lattix, Inc, North Reading, MA

Summer 2021

Keywords: Dependence Structure Matrix, Software Engineering, System Engineering

- Modeled the automobile manufacturing process in SysML, leveraged the software Lattix Architect to analyze the resulted source code, reduced the system cyclicity, and demonstrated the utility of Lattix Architect in System Engineering.

EXTERNAL SERVICE

1. Conference Sub-Reviewer of NeurIPS (2022).