

Yijun Ma

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EDUCATION

- **Renmin University of China** Beijing, China
Master of Engineering - Artificial Intelligence; Advisor: Prof. Xiao Zhou Sep 2021 - Jun 2024
- **Wuhan University** Hubei, China
Bachelor of Engineering - Software Engineering; GPA: 3.91/4; Rank: 5/316 (Top 2%) Sep 2017 - Jun 2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Responsible Recommender System:** Explore more kinds of fairness and explainability definition in recommender systems, and improve algorithmic fairness and transparency.
- **Applicable Graph Mining:** Explore applications of graph machine learning in recommender systems, social networks and other interdisciplinary fields

EXPERIENCE

- **The Grainger College of Engineering, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** Remote
Research Intern, hosted by Prof. Hanghang Tong Jun 2022 - Apr 2023
 - **Research Topic - Next POI Recommendation:** Developed a heterogeneous spatial-temporal graph learning method HoST for next POI recommendation, which proposed a novel user-POI graph construction method to capture fine-grained users' general mobility patterns, and proposed a novel spatial-temporal-aware graph neural network to generate time-dependent user preference encoding.
- **Social Computing Group, Microsoft Research Asia** Beijing, China
Research Intern (Full-time), hosted by Dr. Jianxun Lian and Dr. Chaozhuo Li Dec 2021 - Jun 2022
 - **Research Topic - Fairness-Aware Friend Recommendation:** Developed a novel self knowledge distillation enhanced self-training framework Tail-STEAK to improve the degree-based fairness in GNN-based friend recommendation, which is free of additional model parameters and external data.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Tail-STEAK: Improve Friend Recommendation for Tail Users via Self-Training Enhanced Knowledge Distillation**
Yijun Ma, Chaozhuo Li, Xiao Zhou AAAI 2024
- **HoST: Exploiting Heterogeneous Spatial-Temporal Graph for Next POI Recommendation**
Yijun Ma, Baoyu Jing, Yuchen Yan, Hanghang Tong under review
- **SoREX: Towards Self-Explainable Social Recommendation with Relevant Ego-Path Extraction**
Yijun Ma, Xiao Zhou submitted to TKDE

TALKS

- **Towards Expressive Tail Node Embedding for Link Prediction on Networks** Beijing, China
Social Computing Group Seminar, MSRA Aug 2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

- AAAI-24 Student Scholarship - 2024
- "Stars of Tomorrow" Excellent Intern Award, MSRA - 2022
- 1st Class Outstanding Student Scholarship, Top 5% in Distinguished Engineer Class, Wuhan University - 2020
- 2nd Class Outstanding Student Scholarship, Top 10% in Distinguished Engineer Class, Wuhan University - 2018-2019

REFEREES

- Prof. Xiao Zhou, Gaoling School of Artificial Intelligence, Renmin University of China – xiaozhou@ruc.edu.cn
- Dr. Chaozhuo Li, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications – lichaozhuo1991@gmail.com