

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: 3.90/4; Rank: 5/316 (Top 2%)* Sep 2017 - Jun 2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Graph Machine Learning:** Develop robust, scalable and expressive graph machine learning techniques for broader real-world applications, including information retrieval, natural language processing and scientific discovery.
- **Trustworthy Machine Learning:** Investigate societal influence and limitations of cutting-edge machine learning systems like GNNs and LLMs; Improve fairness, transparency and privacy-preservation for existing algorithms; Explore new perspectives of trustworthy machine learning.

EXPERIENCE

- The Grainger College of Engineering, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** Remote
• *Research Intern, hosted by Prof. Hanghang Tong and Baoyu Jing* 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 GNN 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 TOIS

TALKS

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

HONORS AND AWARDS

- AAAI-24 Student Scholarship - 2024
- "Stars of Tomorrow" Excellent Intern Award, MSRA - 2022
- Honorable Mentions, Mathematical Contest In Modeling/Interdisciplinary Contest In Modeling (MCM/ICM) - 2020
- 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

SKILLS

- **English:** 110/120 TOEFL (R: 30; L: 29; S: 23; W: 28)
- **Software and Tools:** Python, PyTorch, Torch-Geometric, C++, Matlab

REFEREES

- Xiao Zhou, Assistant Professor, Renmin University of China, xiaozhou@ruc.edu.cn
- Chaozhuo Li, Associate Researcher, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, lichaozhuo@bupt.edu.cn
- Hanghang Tong, Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, htong@illinois.edu