Jesus College, Oxford, OX1 3DW

Education

PhD in Machine Learning and Modern Statistics – University of Oxford

Sept 2022-2026

anya.sims@stats.ox.ac.uk

Member of the StatML CDT and OxCSML group

Supervised by Prof. Yee Whye Teh

MEng in Information and Computer Engineering – University of Cambridge

Sept 2018-2022

BEng First Class with Distinction (ranked 5/288)

Department prize for best 3rd year project

Top ranked final exam performance in Information Engineering Instrumentation and Control area

MEng First Class with Distinction (ranked 8/261)

Received Distinction for dissertation – Supervised by Prof. Phil Woodland

Several Engineering Department and Jesus College Cambridge awards/scholarships each year

Research Experience

PhD Publication Project

2023

"RAVL: Value Learning for the Edge-of-Reach Problem in Model-Based Offline Reinforcement Learning"

Supervised by Prof. Yee Whye Teh. In collaboration with Cong Lu.

NeurIPS 2023 Agent Learning in Open-Endedness Workshop

Under review at ICLR 2024

StatML CDT Mini-Project 1 of 2

2023

Investigating plasticity loss and the effects of non-stationary training in deep neural networks

Supervised by Prof. Yee Whye Teh and Chris Gamble (deepmind)

StatML CDT Mini-Project 2 of 2

2023

Sphering transformations for stable equivariant normalization in graph neural networks

Supervised by Prof. Yee Whye Teh. In collaboration with Sheheryar Zaidi.

Research Placement – University of Cambridge

Summer 2022 (8 weeks)

Identifiable variational autoencoders for disentangled causal representation learning

Supervised by Prof. José Miguel Hernández-Lobato. In collaboration with Wenlin Chen.

MEng Dissertation – University of Cambridge

Sept 2021-2022

End-to-End Speech Recognition using Neural Transducers

Developed more efficient method of graph-based decoding for speech recognition in transducer language models. Supervised by Prof. Phil Woodland. In collaboration with Tony Zheng.

Industry Experience

Software Engineering Intern - Graphcore

Summer 2021 (10 weeks)

Worked on a team within the AI Applications Group to implement an extensive codebase demonstrating several image recognition benchmarks on Graphcore's IPU in TensorFlow2. This involved coordinating loading of different stages of the model onto different IPU processing cores to maximize training and inference efficiency.

Machine Learning Mentorship – Featurespace

Summer 2020 (10 weeks)

Chose to work on abstract reasoning using deep learning (see Kaggle Abstraction and Reasoning Challenge)

Software Engineering Intern – Softwire

Dec 2019

Website development – Worked primarily on asynchronous API calls component (using Javascript and React)

Data Analytics Intern – Infosys

Summer 2019 (10 weeks)

Reproduced results from several recent papers on aspect-based sentiment analysis (using Tensorflow and Keras)

Other

Languages: Python, C++, Bash Frameworks: PyTorch, Tensorflow

Organizational/Teaching roles: Cambridge Windsurfing Secretary (2020-2022)

Volunteer secondary school maths tutor (2018-2019)