Davin Choo

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EDUCATION

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Singapore

Aug 2021 – Ongoing

Computer Science PhD

- AI Singapore (AISG) PhD Fellow
- Awarded NUS School of Computing Research Achievement Award

ETH ZÜRICH

Computer Science MSc

Zürich, Switzerland

Jul 2020

• Focus track: Theoretical Computer Science

• Masters Thesis: Studied the statistical-computational gap of sparse tensor PCA, and designed distinguishing & recovery algorithms

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Singapore May 2016

Computer Science and Mathematics Double Degree Programme

- Computer Science: Completed focus areas in "Algorithms & Theory" and "Artificial Intelligence"
 Mathematics: Majored in Applied Mathematics with additional Mathematics courses such as graduate Recursion Theory
- Honours: First Class Honours in Computer Science, First Class Honours in Applied Mathematics, and Dean's List (top 5%)
- Computer Science Thesis: Designed methods to maintain dynamic maximal independent sets
 Nominated for NUS Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize (an annual, university-wide competition)
- Mathematics Thesis: Studied notions of Kolmogorov complexity of binary strings in automata theory and CFGs
- University Scholars Programme: A selective (180 students) multidisciplinary academic programme for undergraduates Awarded President's Honour Roll which recognizes outstanding academic accomplishments and student-led co-curricular activities

Awards

- NUS School of Computing Research Achievement Award: Awarded in 2023
- AISG PhD Fellowship: Awarded in 2021
- President's Honour Roll, USP Scholar: Awarded in 2016
- DSTA-DSO Undergraduate Scholarship: Awarded in 2011

Visits

- Visiting PhD student of Bernhard Schölkopf at Empirical Inference group of Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems: Summer 2023
- Visiting graduate student to the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing under the Causality programme: Spring 2022

Publications

- 1. Yuval Dagan, Constantinos Daskalakis, Anthimos-Vardis Kandiros, <u>Davin Choo</u>. Learning and Testing Latent-Tree Ising Models Efficiently. Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), 2023.
- 2. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Kirankumar Shiragur. Adaptivity Complexity for Causal Graph Discovery. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI), 2023.
- 3. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Kirankumar Shiragur. New metrics and search algorithms for weighted causal DAGs. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2023.
- 4. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Themistoklis Gouleakis, Arnab Bhattacharyya. Active causal structure learning with advice. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2023.
- 5. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Kirankumar Shiragur. Subset verification and search algorithms for causal DAGs. Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2023.
- 6. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Kirankumar Shiragur, Arnab Bhattacharyya. Verification and search algorithms for causal DAGs. Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022.
- 7. Arnab Bhattacharyya, <u>Davin Choo</u>, Rishikesh Gajjala, Sutanu Gayen, Yuhao Wang. Learning Sparse Fixed-Structure Gaussian Bayesian Networks. Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2022.
- 8. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Tommaso d'Orsi. The Complexity of Sparse Tensor PCA. Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021.
- 9. Mélanie Cambus, <u>Davin Choo</u>, Havu Miikonen, Jara Uitto. Massively Parallel Correlation Clustering in Bounded Arboricity Graphs. International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC), 2021.
- 10. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Christoph Grunau, Julian Portmann, and Václav Rozhoň. k-means++: few more steps yield constant approximation. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2020.

- 11. <u>Davin Choo</u>, Mate Soos, Kian Ming A Chai, and Kuldeep S Meel. Bosphorus: Bridging ANF and CNF Solvers. Design, Automation & Test in Europe Conference & Exhibition (DATE), pages 468–473. IEEE, 2019.
- 12. Jing Lim, Joshua Wong, Minn Xuan Wong, Lee Han Eric Tan, Hai Leong Chieu, <u>Davin Choo</u>, and Neng Kai Nigel Neo. Chemical Structure Elucidation from Mass Spectrometry by Matching Substructures. Machine Learning for Molecules and Materials (NeurIPS Workshop), 2018.

WORK EXPERIENCE

ETH ZÜRICH Zürich, Switzerland

Post-diplomand (Post-graduate research position under David Steurer)

Aug 2020 - Mar 2021

DSO NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Singapore

Research Scientist — Information Exploitation Lab (IEL)

Jun 2016 – Sep 2018

• Applied AI techniques to security related problems, including cryptanalysis, SAT solving and reverse engineering

DSO NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Singapore

Research Intern — Cognitive Fusion Lab (CFL)

May 2013 – Jul 2013

• Worked on a research project to improve the performance of speech-to-text recognition

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Singapore

Research Assistant — SeSaMe (Augmented Reality Library)

Aug 2012 – Dec 2012

• Developed an algorithm that identifies spatial coordinates and orientation of user within a building using visual landmarks

DEFENCE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (DSTA)

Singapore

Research Intern — C4I development (PC8)

Feb 2011 - May 2011

• Designed an in-house Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) algorithm that maps image points to actual geolocation coordinates

TEACHING AND SERVICE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Singapore

Teaching Assistant — GET1031, GEI1000

Aug 2021 – Dec 2021

- Collaborated with 2 faculty members on refining teaching materials and pedagogies to suit student needs
- Led discussion groups for a total of 64 students on the topic of computational thinking

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Singapore

Teaching Assistant — CS1101S, CS1231, CS2020, CS3230, CS4344, GET1031 Aug 2012 - May 2016

- Collaborated with over 8 faculty members on refining teaching materials and pedagogies to suit student needs
- Led discussion groups for a total of 86 students across 6 different courses on topics including programming methodology, computational thinking, data structures and algorithms, design and analysis of algorithms, and discrete structures
- Averaged a feedback score of 4.7/5 across all tutored courses (faculty average: 4.16/5) with 15 nominations for Best Teaching

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Singapore

University Scholars Programme (USP) Mentor

Aug 2012 - May 2016

• Set up a cohesive network for Computer Science students in the USP to help juniors navigate through a variety of academic concerns

TEMASEK JUNIOR COLLEGE

Singapore

Course Instructor

Jan 2014 – May 2014

• Initiated a student outreach programme to encourage young students to explore the field of Computer Science

AWARDS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Languages/Technologies: Java, C++, Python, Javascript, MiniZinc, C, C#, Scheme (Basic), Prolog (Basic)
- Computer Science UROP: Worked on a reductionist approach to computer vision with applications in robot grasping with uncertainty
- (Class project) RoCoCo: Used constraint programming to design a web-based round robin tournament scheduling algorithm
- (Class project) Poker AI Bot: Implemented a 2 Player Limit Texas Hold 'em Poker bot using Monte Carlo Tree Search techniques
- (Class project) Robust Airport Scheduling: Devised and analysed algorithms for airport gate scheduling. Solution was robust enough to minimise collisions when random delays were introduced to perturb a dataset of actual departure and arrival times