Yiorgos (Georgios) Chochlakis

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EDUCATION

University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA — Aug 2021 – Present (Expected: Aug 2026)
MSc & PhD in Computer Science
GPA: **4.0**/4.0, Advisor: Prof. Shri Narayanan

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Athens, Greece — Sep 2015 – Oct 2020
BSc & MEng in Electrical and Computer Engineering (5-year joint degree)
GPA: **9.56**/10.0 (98th percentile), Thesis advisor: Prof. Alexandros Potamianos

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Applied Science Intern, Amazon Web Services, Bellevue, WA — May 2024 – Aug 2024
- Proposed SOTA unified audio-textual model for missing modalities, with accuracy gains of up to 2.2% in all settings on MSP-Podcast, enabling efficient model compiling and deployment (IS 2025)

Applied Science Intern, Amazon Web Services, Santa Clara, CA — May 2023 – Aug 2023
- Innovated video representation learning methods for partially missing modalities, outperforming baselines by up to 5.6% in 10/12 cases, improving reliability in real-world noisy scenarios (IS 2024)

Machine Learning Engineer, Behavioral Signals, Los Angeles, CA — Dec 2020 – Jul 2021
- Built constrained optimization for call-center speaker ID/diarization, achieving 90%+ accuracy

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, SAIL, USC, Los Angeles, CA — Aug 2021 – Present
- Researching LLM handling of subjective tasks, focusing on bias, aggregation, and error correction
- Mentoring undergrads & masters to graduation and publications with 5 alumni and 3 current
- Discovered the interference of language modeling in classification in LLMs (Main EMNLP 2025)
- Initiated project on exploiting LLM biases to perform labeling error correction (Main EMNLP 2025)
- Exposed how subjective label aggregation obscures individual perspectives (Main NAACL 2025)
- Designed and executed studies on how LLMs prefer their own subjective priors over human opinions (ACII 2024 & ICASSP 2025), revealing a systematic bias in in-context learning and CoT prompting

Undergraduate Research Assistant, SLP group, NTUA, Greece — Mar 2020 – Nov 2020
- Advanced methods under limited supervision with visual zero-shot SOTA system in 2 settings.

Research Intern, IIT, NCSR Demokritos, Greece — Oct 2019 – Jun 2020
- Published on surface reconstruction from satellite & drone imagery with low-cost deep learning infra

PROJECTS

USC-Capital One CREDIF award, USC, Los Angeles, CA — Jan 2025 – Present
- Proposed and led annotation pipeline, scraped 4k+ video ads, organized focus groups
- Developing multimodal LLMs to distinguish between affect and reason in human decisions

LAPD Everyday Respect, LAPD & USC, Los Angeles, CA — Dec 2022 – Present
- Acquired 30k body-worn videos from LAPD, curating a separate open dataset for benchmarking
- Developed AI-enhanced private annotation pipeline for lower-cost annotations w/o privacy concerns
- Building multimodal models to measure and improve police communication in traffic stops

DARPA INCAS, USC & IndianaU & Notre Dame & UI Chicago, US — Sep 2021 – Dec 2024
- Led strategy on emotions; defined taxonomy as indicator to detect social media influence campaigns
- Engineered SOTA multilingual emotion recognition models with 6.5% IoU gains (2x ICASSP 2023)
- Dockerized to deploy at scale; performed 6M+ inferences within a day, in multiple evaluations
- Integrated with team's indicator system; achieved 0.7+ AUC campaign detection goal by Phase 2/3

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Technical Skills: Python, Pytorch, HuggingFace (training & inference), vLLM, sklearn, git
Open-source: `gridparse` (argparse for grid search w/o bash for loops), `legm` (detailed logging for ML)
Selected Awards: PhD Fellowship & Scholarship, NeurIPS top reviewer, Top GPA in NTUA 19-20