Henry W. Leung Ph.D.

Astronomy & Astrophysics Researcher at the University of Toronto

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• henrysky

in Henry Leung

Bilingual in English & Chinese

⟨/> Python & C

Canadian & Hong Konger

SUMMARY

I am a recent PhD graduate in Astronomy and a Data Science Institute doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto, applying deep learning methods behind **GenAI** to build **multi-modal foundation models for science**. My research presented at **NeurIPS** and **ICML**, involved analyzing multi-terabyte, cross-domain datasets of billions of stellar objects. Majority of my code and models being well-tested, well-documented, and open sourced. I am eager to apply my expertise in machine learning, data analysis, and software development to solve complex problems and drive innovation in industry.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto

Sept 2019 - Oct 2024

Graduate Researcher & Data Science Institute Doctoral Fellow

- Explore **GenAI** methods such as Transformers architecture, denoising diffusion probablistic models, and Large Language Models (LLMs) to develop multi-modal foundation models for astronomy. Built and optimized models using frameworks like PyTorch and TensorFlow, on large **multi-terabytes datasets** with billions of stellar objects, leveraging tools such as Docker and Postgresql. Training and deploying them on national supercomputer equipped with Nvidia A100 GPUs.
- Delivered talks and posters at major conferences like **NeurIPS**, **ICML**, and collaborated with community-led initiatives like the Multimodal Universe project. Created and maintained well-documented and thoroughly tested open-source software mainly written in **Python**, C and **SQL**, contributing both to personal projects and to the wider scientific community.
- Curated catalogues of stellar parameters and associated uncertainties derived with machine learning model for science, with more than 10% improvement on stellar parameters accuracy to **low signal-to-noise data** compared to traditional astrophysical driven pipeline.
- Serve as peer reviewer to peer-review articles in journals and mentored undergraduate students by providing guidance on data analysis, software development and scientific writing.

University of Toronto

Jan 2018 - Dec 2024

Teaching Assistant

- Developed Python assignment modules, grading codes and lab reports. Organized weekly tutorials and observation nights at the campus observatory. Answered students emails and discussion boards.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Toronto	2020 - 2024
Dissertation: "Exploring the Milky Way with Deep Learning" with Prof. Jo Bovy	
M.Sc. in Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Toronto	2019 - 2020
H.B.Sc. in Physics & Astronomy, University of Toronto	2014 - 2019

PUBLICATION OVERVIEW

I am the first/second author on **9 refereed papers** that have **560**+ citations. In total, I am an author on **14 refereed papers** that have **2660**+ citations (h-index=11). Details of my ORCID (0000-0002-0036-2752) associated publications can be accessed on Astrophysics Data System (ADS).

My research has been presented at international conferences and workshops. Here are some of the highlights (first-author unless noted as part of a collaboration):

NeurIPS (2024)

Collaboration poster on "The Multimodal Universe: Enabling Large-Scale Machine Learning with 100TBs of Astronomical Scientific Data"

ICML (2024)

Poster on "Estimating Probability Densities with Transformer and Denoising Diffusion"

NeurIPS (2023)

Talk on "Towards an Astronomical Foundation Model for Stars"

Debating the Potential of Machine Learning in Astronomical Surveys (2023)

Talk on "Towards an Astronomical Foundation Model for Stars with a Transformer-based Model"

Artificial Intelligence for Astronomy (2019)

Talk on "Mapping the Milky Way Galaxy with Deep Learning"

SOFTWARE OVERVIEW

I am comfortable programming in Python and C and familiar with tools around high performance computing and SQL databases. I am currently learning Rust and C++ by taking initiatives to implement wishlist features in other open source projects written in those languages.

Most of my research are open-sourced including codes for publications are hosted on my Github. This includes a few software packages used by the community that are well tested using continuous integration with GitHub Actions and well documented with docstrings and user guides, for example:

astroNN 🖸

Deep Learning for Astronomers with Keras

Galaxv10

A CIFAR10-like galaxy image dataset for educational and research purposes

milkyway plot 😯

A handy visualization tool ge for plotting face-on and all-sky MilkyWay with Matplotlib and Bokeh

MyGaiaDB 🜎

A data management package to setup local serverless multi-terabytes astronomical databases using SQLite and run query locally with Python