

Ke Zhai

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science, Department of Computer Science

University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2014

GPA: 3.9/4.0. Supervisor: Jordan Boyd-Graber and Jimmy Lin (co-supervised)

Research topic: Large Scale Inference for Probabilistic Bayesian Models

M.S. in Computer Science, Department of Computer Science

University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2011

GPA: 3.9/4.0. Supervisor: Jordan Boyd-Graber and Jimmy Lin (co-supervised)

Research topic: Variational Bayesian Inference of Latent Dirichlet Allocation in MapReduce

Master scholarly paper: Using Variational Inference and MapReduce to Scale Topic Modeling

B.Eng. in Computer Engineering with first class honor, School of Computer Engineering

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2009

GPA: 4.65/5.0. Supervisor: Wee Keong Ng

Research topic: Privacy-Preserving Data Mining

Undergraduate thesis: An Embedded Caching Framework for Privacy-Preserving Data Mining

EMPLOYMENT

Research Scientist, Yahoo! Labs, Sunnyvale, CA, Feb 2015 - present

- Research on query understanding and sequence tagging for online Ads serving system.
- Research on query classification and user intent prediction for mobile search product.

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Computer Science, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, Sep 2010 - Jun 2014

- Academic Advisor: Jordan Boyd-Graber
- Research Interest: Machine Learning, Non-parametric Bayesian Learning, Cloud Computing
- Design and implement online variational inference for latent Dirichlet allocation with infinite vocabulary.
- Design and implement variational inference for latent Dirichlet allocation in MapReduce.
- Design and implement variational inference for Indian buffet process in MapReduce.
- Enable variational inference for synthetic topic modelling system in MapReduce.

Research Intern Yahoo! Labs, New York City, NY, Jun 2014 - Aug 2014

- Large scale unsupervised nonparametric models for user behavior analysis.

Research Intern Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, May 2013 - Aug 2013

- Mentor: Jason D. Williams
- Design and implement three models in discovering latent structure in dialogues.
- Achieve comparably well results against many other models on real datasets.

Software Engineering Intern, comScore, Inc., Reston, VA, May 2010 - Aug 2010

- Implement data transfer and formatter block for new deployed Hadoop distributed file system.
- Research and develop cookie deletion and prediction system for comScore.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, Sep 2009 - May 2010

- CMSC 131: Object-Oriented Programming I, Fall 2009.
- CMSC 422: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Spring 2010.

Software Engineering Industrial Attachment, StarHub, Inc., Singapore, Jan 2008 - Jun 2008

- Study on customer service system and client feedback process.
- Develop data collection and analysing software for Customer Service.
- Develop high-efficiency data processing system.
- Database development and administration.
- Design and develop reliable database system in MySQL for Customer Service.
- Automate data processing and analysing system with Microsoft Office and VBA.

PUBLICATIONS (* indicates equal contributor)

Ke Zhai, Jordan Boyd-Graber and Shay B. Cohen. “Online Adaptor Grammars with Hybrid Inference”. *Transaction of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (TACL), Oct 2014.

Ke Zhai, and Jason D. Williams. “Discovering Latent Structure in Task-Oriented Dialogues”. *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (ACL), Jun 2014.

Ke Zhai*, Yuening Hu*, Vladimir Edelman, and Jordan Boyd-Graber. “Polylingual Tree-Based Topic Models for Translation Domain Adaptation”. *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (ACL), Jun 2014.

Ke Zhai, and Jordan Boyd-Graber. “Online Latent Dirichlet Allocation with Infinite Vocabulary”. *International Conference on Machine Learning* (ICML), Jun 2013.

Ke Zhai*, Yuening Hu*, Jordan Boyd-Graber, and Sinead Williamson. “Modeling Images using Transformed Indian Buffet Processes”. *International Conference on Machine Learning* (ICML), Jun 2012.

Ke Zhai, Jordan Boyd-Graber, Nima Asadi, and Mohamad Alkhoulja. “Mr. LDA: A Flexible Large Scale Topic Modeling Package using Variational Inference in MapReduce”. *ACM International Conference on World Wide Web* (WWW), Apr 2012.

Ke Zhai, Wee Keong Ng, Andre Ricardo Herianto and Shuguo Han. “Speeding Up Secure Computations via Embedded Caching”. *Proceedings of SIAM International Conference on Data Mining* (SDM), Apr 2009.

PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTION

Activate contributor for MapReduce library Cloud⁹ and Hadoop toolkit Ivory.
Online released code-base on GitHub, <https://github.com/kzhai>.

- MapReduce latent Dirichlet allocation (Variational Bayesian inference, with extension to informed prior and polylingual LDA).
- Latent Dirichlet allocation (Gibbs sampling, variational Bayesian inference and online version).
- Non-parametric Bayesian models (Indian buffet process, hierarchical Dirichlet process and infinite Gaussian mixture model).

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Java, Python, Matlab, MapReduce, Hadoop, Spark, SQL, C++/C, VBA
Linux, Windows, Mac OS X
Microsoft Office, Eclipse, NetBeans, Emacs, Photoshop