

CURRICULUM VITAE

Lingchao Mao

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Methodological developments in machine learning and deep learning:
 - Machine learning with limited supervision: Knowledge Informed Machine Learning, Self-supervised Learning, Weakly-supervised Learning
 - Multimodal learning with incomplete data
 - Data mining and subgroup identification
- Application domains: Healthcare Analytics, Medical Imaging, Biomedical Applications
 - Quantifying intratumoral heterogeneity for precision medicine of brain cancer
 - Data-driven biomarker discovery of post-traumatic headache
 - Early prediction for Alzheimer's Disease
 - Automated segmentation and diagnosis from medical images
 - AI-driven analysis of Molecular Dynamics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Machine Learning	2025
Georgia Institute of Technology, Advisor: Dr. Jing Li	
M.S. Computer Science	2024
Georgia Institute of Technology, GPA: 3.85/4.0	
B.S. Statistics, B.S. Industrial and Systems Engineering	2020
North Carolina State University, GPA: 4.0/4.0, Dean's List all semesters	

SELECTED AWARDS

- **Winner**, Data Analytics Competition, IISE DAIS, 2024.
- **Winner**, Mobile/Web App Competition, IISE DAIS, 2024.
- **Best Student Paper Award**, IISE DAIS, 2022
- **Finalist for Best Student Paper Award**, INFORMS Conference of Service Science, 2021
- **Runners up for Best Poster Competition**, Quality and Productivity Research Conference, 2021
- **George F. Fellowship**, H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, 2022-2024
- **Williams S. Green Fellowship**, H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, 2020-2022
- **Stewart Fellowship**, H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering, 2020
- **NSF Travel Scholarship**, Quality and Productivity Research Conference, 2021

- **Caldwell Fellowship**, North Carolina State University , 2016-2020
- **Edward P. Fitts Sholar**, North Carolina State University, 2019
- **ISE Faculty Senior Award** for Scholarly Achievement (one student selected per department), NC State University, 2019
- **CiMs-Cellex Scholarship**, Cellex Foundation, Spain, 2013-2015
- **Finalist**, Southeastern Regional Health Improvement Case Competition, Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), 2024.
- **1st place**, DiamondHacks for Women in Computer Science at NC State University, 2019
- **1st place**, Deloitte StartUp Innovation Competition at NC State University, 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Journals

- (P1) **Mao L**, Wang L, Hu L, Eschbacher J, Leon GD, Singleton K, Curtin W, Urcuyo A, Sereduk J, Tran L, Hawkins A, Swanson K, Li J. Weakly supervised transfer learning with application in precision medicine. *IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering*. doi:10.1109/TASE.2023.3323773.
- (P2) **Mao L**, Li J, Schwedt TJ, Berisha V, Nikjou D, Wu T, Dumkrieger GM, Ross KB, Chong CD. Questionnaire and structural imaging data accurately predict headache improvement in patients with acute post-traumatic headache attributed to mild traumatic brain injury. *Cephalalgia*. 2023 May; doi: 10.1177/03331024231172736. PMID: 37157808.
- (P3) **Mao L**, Dumkrieger G, Ku D, Ross K, Berisha V, Wu T, Schwedt TJ, Li J, Chong CD. Developing multivariable models for predicting headache improvement in patients with acute post-traumatic headache attributed to mild traumatic brain injury: A preliminary study. *Headache: The Journal of Head and Face Pain* 63(1). doi:10.1111/head.14450
- (P4) **Mao L**, Chu E, Gu J, Hu T, Weyner B, Su Y. A 4D theoretical framework for measuring topic-specific influence on Twitter: development and usability study on dietary sodium tweets *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. 2023. doi:10.2196/45897 <http://dx.doi.org/10.2196/45897>

Conference Papers

- (C1) Ku D, Zheng Z, **Mao L**, Chen RQ, Su Y, Chen K, Weidman D, Wu T, Lure F, Lo S and Li J. A high-dimensional incomplete-modality transfer learning method for early prediction of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimer's Dementia*, 19, p.e078606.. 2023, July. doi: 10.1002/alz.078606
- (C2) **Mao L**, Vahdat K, Shashaani S, Swann J. Personalized predictions for unplanned urinary tract infection hospitalizations with hierarchical clustering. *AI and Analytics for Public Health: Proceedings of the 2020 INFORMS International Conference on Service Science* (pp. 453-465) (pp. 453-465). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75166-1_34

Working Papers / Under Review

- (W1) **Mao L***, Wang H*, Li J. Knowledge-informed machine learning for cancer prognosis and predictions: a review. arXiv preprint arXiv:2401.06406.
- (W2) **Mao L**, Wang Q, Su Y, Lure F, Li J. Supervised multi-modal fusion learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.20559.
- (W3) Kwak M, **Mao L**, Su Y, Chen K, Weidman D, Wu T, Lure F, Li J. A mutual knowledge distillation-empowered AI framework for early detection of Alzheimer's Disease using incomplete multi-modal images (*major revision at IEEE TASE*).

- (W4) **Mao L**, Li J, Schwedt T, Wu T, Ross K, Dumkrieger G, Smith D, Chong C. Identifying and Predicting Headache Trajectories Amongst Those with Acute Post-Traumatic Headache. (*major revision at Headache*).
- (W5) Lewis E, **Mao L**, Wang L, Swanson L, Li J, Tran N, Leland Hu, Plaisier C. Revealing the biology behind MRI signatures in high grade glioma. medRxiv, 2023-12. doi: 10.1101/2023.12.08.23299733
- (W6) Montoya A*, **Mao L***, Drewnowski A, Chen J, Shi E, Liang A, Weiner B, Su Y. Tracking influencers in policy field on social media: a global longitudinal study of dietary sodium reduction tweets, 2006-2022. (*major revision at JMIR*).

* co-first author

CONFERENCE TALKS

- (T1) Identifying and Predicting Headache Trajectories Amongst Those with Acute Post-Traumatic Headache. *American Headache Society 66th Annual Scientific Meeting*, June 13, 2024, San Diego, California (**selected oral presentation**)
- (T2) Physical and emotional symptoms are associated with improvement of acute post-traumatic headache attributed to mild traumatic brain injury. *American Headache Society 66th Annual Scientific Meeting*, June 13, 2024, San Diego, California (poster)
- (T3) A Holistic Weakly Supervised Approach for Liver Tumor Segmentation. *IISE Annual Conference*, May 19, 2024, Montreal, Canada (**DAIS Data Analytics competition winner**).
- (T4) MMTrip: a Personalized Multi-modal Trip Planner. *IISE Annual Conference*, May 19, 2024, Montreal, Canada (**DAIS Mobile/Web Application competition winner**).
- (T5) Multi-modal Fission Learning. *IISE Annual Conference*, May 19, 2024, Montreal, Canada.
- (T6) Baseline Questionnaires and Longitudinal Headache Diary Data Predict Headache Improvement in Patients with Acute Post-Traumatic Headache Attributed to Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Balancing Prediction Accuracy and Patient Burden. *5th Annual NIH HEAL Initiative Investigator Meeting*, February 8, 2024, Bethesda, Maryland (**selected oral presentation**)
- (T7) Predicting Headache Improvement in Patients with Acute Post-traumatic Headache Attributed to Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Using Imaging, Clinical, and Speech Data: a Multi-Modality Machine-Learning Study. *American Headache Society Annual Scientific Meeting*, June 15, 2023, Austin, TX (**selected oral presentation**).
- (T8) A Machine Learning Model Including Questionnaire and Structural Imaging Data Predicts Headache Improvement in Patients with Acute Post-traumatic Headache Attributed to Mild Traumatic Brain Injury. *American Academy of Neurology 2023 Annual Meeting*, April 25, 2023, Boston, MA (poster).
- (T9) Questionnaire and Structural Imaging Data Predict Headache Improvement in Patients with Acute Post-traumatic Headache Attributed to Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: A Machine-Learning Study. *Fourth Annual NIH HEAL Initiative Investigator Meeting*, February 21, 2023, Bethesda, Maryland (**selected oral presentation**)
- (T10) Predicting Headache Persistence in Patients with Acute Post-traumatic Headache Attributed to Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: a Preliminary Study. *American Headache Society Annual Scientific Meeting*, June 9, 2022, Denver, CO (poster)
- (T11) Weakly Supervised Transfer Learning with Application in Precision Medicine. *IISE Annual Conference*, May 21, 2022, Seattle, WA. (**DAIS Best student paper**)
- (T12) Multivariate models for predicting headache improvement in patients with acute post-traumatic headache attributed to mild traumatic brain injury using baseline clinical data: a preliminary study. *Third Annual NIH HEAL Initiative Investigator Meeting*, April 11, 2022 (poster).

- (T13) Weakly Supervised Transfer Learning with Application in Precision Medicine. *INFORMS Workshop on Data Mining and Decision Analytics*, October 23, 2021 (poster).
- (T14) A Hybrid Regression-Ranking Model with Application in Personalized Radiomics. *Quality and Productivity research Conference*, 2021 July 27, virtual. (**Best student poster runner-up**)
- (T15) Personalized Predictions for Unplanned Urinary Tract Infection Hospitalizations with Hierarchical Clustering. *INFORMS Conference of Service Science*, 2020 December 20, virtual. (**Best student paper finalist**)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant , Georgia Institute of Technology	2020 - present
Machine Learning Software Engineer Intern Meta	May - Aug 2024
Industrial Engineering Co-op , Hafele America Co.	Aug - Dec 2018 and 2019
System Operations and Data Analysis Intern , FORT Capital Resources	May - Aug 2019

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **Precision medicine of brain cancer.** This research aims to develop personalized machine learning models to predict regional tumor cell density from MRI. My contributions included: 1) developing a novel weakly-supervised transfer learning (WS-TL) model that leverages domain knowledge about the tumor, which addresses the small sample problem and outperforms existing models, 2) an active sampling algorithm to select informative pairs of weakly labeled samples, 3) a GUI for non-technical users to run pre-operative and post-operative model to assist cancer treatment.

This research is in collaboration with Drs. Kristin Swanson and Leland Hu at Mayo Clinic.

- **Prognosis of persistent post-traumatic headache.** This research develops predictive machine learning algorithms for the prognosis of post-traumatic headache based on neuroimaging (MRI, fMRI, DTI), clinical questionnaires, and mobile-collected speech data. My contributions include: 1) implemented a dimension reduction and classification pipeline to predict patient's headache improvement from multi-modality data, and 2) applied functional regression and tensor decomposition to analyze the temporal trend of headache evolution.

This research is in collaboration with Drs. Catherine D. Chong and Todd Schwedt at Mayo Clinic.

- **Early prediction of Alzheimer's Disease.** This research aims to do early prediction of AD conversion from incomplete multi-modality neuroimaging and genetics data (MRI, PET, SNP). My contribution include: 1) implemented a state-of-the-art model for comparison on ADNI benchmark dataset, 2) developing a new Supervised Multi-modal Fission Learning (MMFL) model that can decompose multi-modality data into globally joint, locally joint, and individual components while handling incomplete-modality data, and 3) developing a new mutual student-teacher multi-modal learning model with theoretical analysis of the knowledge distillation effectiveness.

This research is in collaboration with Drs. Catherine D. Chong and Todd Schwedt at Mayo Clinic.

- **Analyzing Influence of Public Health Organizations on Twitter.** This project aims to develop methodologies to quantify user influence on social media. We designed a four-dimensional framework to analyze topic-specific influence on Twitter. We applied this framework to 1M+ tweets from health organizations and analyzed their influence about sodium intake, one of the risk factors of cardiovascular diseases. We also compiled a database of national, state-level, and local sodium-reduction policies across the U.S. from 1965-2010 to correlate the policy data with social media patterns.

I mentored a masters, an undergraduate, and three high school students in this project.

- **Prediction of Unplanned Hospitalization of Medicare Patients.** This project developed machine learning models to predict unplanned hospitalization of eight types of common diseases and four type of adverse events by analyzing over 15M Medicare claims and various public datasets. My methodological contributions included co-developing a multi-layered feature selection and dynamic personalized scoring algorithm to predict monthly hospitalization risk for individual patients.

Team selected top 25 out of 300+ teams into Stage I of the \$1M CMS AI Health Outcomes Challenge.

SIDE PROJECTS

- **MedAssist-Liver: an AI-powered Tool for Automated Liver Tumor Analysis** ([link](#)). This web application has two main features: (i) automated liver tumor segmentation from CT scans using deep learning, and (ii) automated diagnosis report generation using large language models (LLM).
- **Mendel AI, a LLM Assistant for Bioinformatics Data Analysis and Visualization.** ([link](#)) I created a chat model that generates an analysis plan, python code, and output figures from single cell RNA-seq data given users' biological question. The model was implemented using Langchain with vector database and document database integrations and Chanlit for interactive UI.

This project is lead by Dr. Assaf Magen, former Assistant Professor at Precision Immunology Institute.

- **Segmentation of Retinal Layers from OCT Images.** This research develops deep learning models to segment retinal nerve fiber layer from OCT images for eye disease diagnosis. My contribution involved implementing a customized U-Net that outputs predictive uncertainty along the segmentation maps. Our model achieved 0.86 DICE on a pre-clinical dataset, comparable to the state-of-the-art.

This research used data from Feola Lab from Wallace H. Coulter Dept. of Biomedical Engineering.

- **Self-supervised Reconstruction of MRI.** This research develops deep learning models that can reconstruct fully-sampled brain MRI from under-sampled, accelerated MRI. My contribution involve implementing a a self-supervised learning pre-training strategy that relies on none or few paired fully-sampled images. The framework is model-agnostic and efficient. Our model achieved similar performance as its supervised counterpart using only 20% of labeled samples on the IXI dataset.
- **MMTrip, a Personalized Multi-modal Routing Planner.** ([link](#)) We are building a multi-modal trip planning application with the following capabilities: 1) Door-to-door routes considering all multi-modal combinations of flights, public transit, driving, biking, and walking, 2) Personalization via user-defined trip details/preferences/constraints, 3) Accurate prediction of taxi fare via based on Uber's surge pricing model, and 4) Interactive map visualization of routes. My contribution involves overseeing product design and implementing the backend routing algorithm.

This project is winner of the 2024 IISE DAIS Mobile/Web App Competition.

GRANT WRITING EXPERIENCE

Helped Ph.D. advisor in preparation of the following grant applications. My involvement included literature review and participating in component section writing.

- NIH-NCI, "The Coordinating and Data Management Center for PDAC Stromal Reprogramming Research," unfunded, 2022 – 2027, \$1,856,218 (GT share)
- NSF, "Collaborative Research: CPS: Medium: The Internet of Greens: A AI simulation platform to maximize crop productivity, resource use efficiency and sustainability in indoor farming," unfunded, 2023 – 2016, \$800,000
- NIH-NIA, "STTR Phase IIB: Multi-Modality Image Data Fusion and Machine Learning Approaches for Personalized Diagnostics and Prognostics of MCI due to AD," unfunded, 2023 – 2016, \$2,500,000

TEACHING

- H. Milton Stewart Ph.D. Student Teaching Fellow
- Tutor, ISYE4031 Regression and Forecasting, the Center for Academics, Success, and Equity at Georgia Institute of University
- Teaching Assistant, ISE110 Computer-Based Modeling for Engineers, North Carolina State University
- Tutor, PY205 & PY208 Physics for Engineers I & II, the University Tutorial Center at North Carolina State University ((College Reading & Learning Association Level II))

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- Reviewer
 - IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering (IEEE-TASE)
 - INFORMS Journal on Computing
 - International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)
 - BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making
 - Journal of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Executive Board Member
 - Editor, INFORMS ORMS Tomorrow Magazine, 2024 - present
 - Advisory Committee, Caldwell Fellows at NC State University, 2023 - present
 - President, INFORMS Chapter at Georgia Tech, 2024 - present
 - Treasurer, INFORMS Chapter at Georgia Tech, 2023 - 2024
(Chapter won the INFORMS chapter Summa Cum Laude Award)
 - Project Manager, Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) Chapter at NC State University, 2019 - 2020
 - Student HR Lead, Project Management Lite Internship program at the Office of Information Technology at NC State University, 2019 - 2020
 - Treasurer, IT Club at NC State University, 2018-2020
- Volunteering
 - Business Analyst, Consult Your Community (CYC) Chapter at NC State University, 2019
 - Geographic Information System Analyst, Habitat for Humanity, 2018
 - Guatemala Water Systems Team, Engineers Without Borders, 2018
 - Thailand Permaculture Project, GIVE Volunteers, 2018
- Professional Memberships
 - Member, Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE)
 - Member, Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS)
 - Member, International Headache Society (IHS)