Minh Nguyen

Institution: University of Bristol

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Education

PhD, Computer Science, University of Bristol (Ongoing)

2020-24

Supervisors: Meng Wang, Roly Perera

MEng, Computer Science, First Class Honours, University of Bristol

2015-19

2018-19 - 1st Class, (71) 2017-18 - 1st Class, (76) 2016-17 - 1st Class, (80) 2015-16 - 1st Class, (76)

Research Interests

My current research investigates the formalisation and implementation of algebraic effects and embedded probabilistic programming languages. My other interests include functional programming (in particular, Haskell), type-level programming, type theory, and design of embedded domainspecific languages (eDSLs).

Skills

Languages

Haskell

Scala, Idris, C, C++, C#, Javascript (Previous experience)

Technologies

I have thorough experience with a vast amount of web development frameworks and APIs. I also have experience in using data-science and machine learning libraries, concurrent and parallel multi-processing technologies, graphics engines, and language parsing libraries.

Projects

"Linked Visualisations via Galois Dependencies"

Jan, 2022

POPL '22

R.Perera, M.Nguyen, T.Petricek, M.Wang

This presents new language-based data provenance techniques for linking visualisations and other structured outputs to data in a fine-grained way, allowing a user to interactively explore how data attributes map to visual or other output elements by selecting (focusing on) substructures of interest. This builds on bidirectional program slicing techiques based on Galois connections.

"Composable, Modular Probabilistic Models"

Aug, 2021

ICFP '21, ACM Student Research Competition

M.Nguyen, R.Perera, M.Wang

This presents an effect-oriented embedded DSL in Haskell for modularly defining probabilistic models as first class citizens which can be reused for both simulation and inference. It is then demonstrated how simulation and inference can be expressed naturally as composable program transformations using algebraic effect handlers.

"Folding over Neural Networks"

Jul, 2019

Masters Dissertation

M.Nguyen, N.Wu

This presents novel research and implementation in Haskell, demonstrating that neural network training can be encoded as a recursion scheme system, specifically, a common property of being able to model forward and back propagation as compositions of catamorphisms (folds) and anamorphisms (unfolds). This is shown across a range of complex network types: fully-connected networks, convolutional networks, and deep LSTM networks.

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"Composable, Modular Probabilistic Models"

Sep, 2021 IFL '21

Teaching

PL Seminar Speaker

2019-21 University of Bristol

I occasionally give talks/seminars about Haskell, functional programming, or my own research, to the Programming Languages Research Group and undergraduates.

Dissertation Supervisor

2020-21

Main supervisor for a 4th year student on their masters dissertation, entitled "Deep Learning Architectures as Pure Functions".

University of Bristol

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Advanced Topics in Programming Languages Language Engineering

2020-21

Language Engineering (COMS22201) Development of lab worksheets and implementation of toy interpreters and compilers in Haskell, covering topics such as type checking, polymorphic types. and type inference.

Functional Programming

(COMS10016)

(COMSM0066)

2017, 2019-20

University of Bristol

Teaching assistant for the first year functional programming unit. Attending weekly two-hour lab sessions to mentor students in beginner-to-intermediate concepts and approaches to problem-solving in Haskell and functional programming. Marking exams.

Awards

ICFP '21, ACM Student Research Competition, 1st Place

Aug, 2021 ICFP '21

This corresponds to one of my PhD projects, entitled "Composable, Modular Probabilistic Models".

Best Final Year Machine Learning Project

This corresponds to my masters dissertation entitled "Folding over Neural Networks".

Jul, 2019 University of Bristol

Best Third Year Group Project

Jul, 2018

This comprised the development of a VR Horror Game, in which I was responsible for programming the player mechanics and enemy AI, and the game interaction/event system. This used C#, Unity, Oculus Rift and Touch, and a Bluetooth Heart Rate Monitor.

University of Bristol

Top Ten Achieving Second Year CS Students

Jul. 2017

University of Bristol