



## Education

### Georgia Institute of Technology

 Ph.D. in Computational Science and Engineering

Fall 2017 - present

 M.S. in Computational Science and Engineering

Fall 2015 - Spring 2017


▸ GPA: 3.91/4.0

▸ Advisor: Dr. Polo Chau

▸ Research interests: Adversarial ML, ML security, Explainability and Interpretability in Deep Learning

### Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology, University of Delhi

2010 - 2014

 B.E. in Instrumentation and Control Engineering

▸ Thesis: Automatic Speaker Recognition using Student's T-Mixture Model

## Industry Experience

### Alexa Brain, Amazon


May 2018 - Aug 2018

 Applied Scientist Intern

- Explored generative regularization and implemented several weakly supervised deep learning models for improving name-free skill invocation on the Alexa voice interface.
- Proposed an attention-based, low-rank approximation that learns a shared embedding space for high-level application domains and low-level word tokens.

### Alexa AI, Amazon

May 2017 - Aug 2017

 Software Development Engineer Intern

- Developed and evaluated semantic representations in knowledge graphs for improving automatic ontology alignment.

### Amazon Web Services, Amazon

May 2016 - Aug 2016

 Web Development Engineer Intern

- Developed a data pipeline to accelerate the execution time of CloudWatch Logs Search.
- Designed and integrated visualizations in the CloudWatch console to enable quick analysis of AWS metrics.

### Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (IIITD)

Sep 2013 - Aug 2015

 Research Associate

- Developed from ground-up, a platform for realtime tracking, analysis and visualization of social media data. This is actively being used by several federal and state security agencies in India.
- Developed the TweetCred credibility API and the TweetCred browser extension, which were also covered by popular news outlets including The Washington Post and The New Yorker.

### Google Summer of Code with ThinkUp

Jun 2013 - Sep 2013

 Software Developer Intern

- Developed the data model for analyzing and generating insights from social media data, designed visualizations.

### mLabs

Sep 2012 - May 2013

 Software Engineer

- Developed the complete software and hardware interface for a patented web-enabled electronic prototyping device.

## Publications

### **MLsploit: A Framework for Interactive Experimentation with Adversarial Machine Learning Research**

N. Das, S. Li, C. Jeon, J. Jung\*, S. T. Chen\*, C. Yagemann\*, E. Downing\*, H. Park, E. Yang, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, R. Sahita, D. Durham, S. Buck, D. H. Chau, T. Kim, W. Lee  
*KDD Workshop - Project Showcase*, 2019. 🌟 Oral

### **The Efficacy of SHIELD under Different Threat Models**

C. Cornelius, N. Das, S. T. Chen, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, D. H. Chau  
*KDD Workshop - Learning and Mining for Cybersecurity (LEMINGS)*, 2019. 🌟 Oral

### **GOGGLES: Automatic Training Data Generation with Affinity Coding**

N. Das, S. Chaba, S. Gandhi, D. H. Chau, X. Chu  
*arXiv preprint arXiv:1903.04552*, 2019.

### **MLsploit: A Cloud-Based Framework for Adversarial Machine Learning Research**

N. Das, S. Li, C. Jeon, J. Jung\*, S. T. Chen\*, C. Yagemann\*, E. Downing\*, H. Park, E. Yang, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, R. Sahita, D. Durham, S. Buck, D. H. Chau, T. Kim, W. Lee  
*Black Hat Asia - Arsenal*, 2019.

### **ADAGIO: Interactive Experimentation with Adversarial Attack and Defense for Audio**

N. Das, M. Shanbhogue, S. T. Chen, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, D. H. Chau  
*European Conference on Machine Learning & Principles & Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (ECML-PKDD)*, 2018.

### **SHIELD: Fast, Practical Defense and Vaccination for Deep Learning Using JPEG Compression**

N. Das, M. Shanbhogue, S. T. Chen, F. Hohman, S. Li, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, D. H. Chau  
*ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery & Data Mining (KDD)*, 2018.  
🏆 Audience Appreciation Award (runner-up)

### **Compression to the Rescue: Defending from Adversarial Attacks Across Modalities**

N. Das, M. Shanbhogue, S. T. Chen, F. Hohman, S. Li, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, D. H. Chau  
*KDD Workshop - Project Showcase*, 2018.

### **Defense against Adversarial Attacks using JPEG Compression**

N. Das, M. Shanbhogue, S. T. Chen, F. Hohman, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, D. H. Chau  
*NIPS Workshop - Women in Machine Learning (WiML)*, 2017.

### **Training a Generative Agent Grounded in Cooperative Visual Dialog with Deep Reinforcement Learning**

A. Kalia, N. Das, M. Shanbhogue, V. Parthasarathy  
*NIPS Workshop - Women in Machine Learning (WiML)*, 2017.

### **Keeping the Bad Guys Out: Protecting and Vaccinating Deep Learning with JPEG Compression**

N. Das, M. Shanbhogue, S. T. Chen, F. Hohman, L. Chen, M. E. Kounavis, D. H. Chau  
*arXiv preprint arXiv:1705.02900*, 2017.

### **PASSAGE: A Travel Safety Assistant with Safe Path Recommendations for Pedestrians**

M. Garvey, N. Das, J. Su, M. Natraj, B. Verma  
*ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI)*, 2016.

## Honors and Awards

### 🌟 **Invited Researcher, Student Immersion Program, Intel Labs**

For presentation, discussion and transfer of novel research thrusts

2019

### 🌟 **Audience Appreciation Award (runner-up) at ACM SIGKDD Conference**

For "SHIELD: Fast, Practical Defense and Vaccination for Deep Learning Using JPEG Compression"

2018

### 🌟 **KDD Student Travel Award**

For participation at the ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery & Data Mining.

2018

## Grants and Funding

- ★ **DARPA Guaranteeing AI Robustness against Deception (GARD) Research Grant** 2019  
Co-authors: J. Martin, C. Cornelius, D. H. Chau, S.T. Chen, S. Freitas
- ★ **Amazon AWS Research Grant** 2018  
*Adversarial Re-Training and Model Vaccination for Robust Deep Learning*  
Co-authors: H. Park, S. Freitas, D. H. Chau  
Awarded \$5,000 in AWS cloud credits
- ★ **NVIDIA GPU Grant** 2018  
*Defending Adversarial Attacks by Robust, Inference-time Local Linear Approximation*  
Co-authors: S.T. Chen, S. Freitas, F. Hohman, D. H. Chau  
Awarded NVIDIA Titan V GPU worth \$3,000

## Invited Talks and Presentations

- The Efficacy of SHIELD under Different Threat Models**  
► Intel Labs, Portland, OR, USA (Invited Research Talk, Host: Scott Buck) Jul 30, 2019
- Secure and Interpretable AI**  
► Intel Labs, Portland, OR, USA (Invited Research Talk, Host: Li Chen) Jun 28, 2019
- Defending Deep Learning from Adversarial Attacks**  
► Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA (PhD Qualifier Presentation) Nov 27, 2018
- Compression to the Rescue: Defending from Adversarial Attacks Across Modalities**  
► Amazon, Seattle, WA, USA (Research Presentation, Host: Y.B. Kim) May 30, 2018
- PASSAGE: A Travel Safety Assistant**  
► Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA (CSE 6242 Invited Talk, Host: Polo Chau) Spring & Fall of 2016-2019

## Professional Service

### Program Committee

- ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management, Demo Track (CIKM)** 2019
- KDD Workshop on Learning and Mining for Cybersecurity (LEMINGS)** 2019

### Reviewer

- European Conference on ML & Principles & Practice of KDD, Demo Track (ECML-PKDD)** 2019
- ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)** 2019
- Deep Learning and Security Workshop at IEEE S&P (DLS)** 2018

## Teaching

- CSE 6242: Data & Visual Analytics** Georgia Institute of Technology
- Graduate Teaching Assistant (451 students) Fall 2018
- Head Teaching Assistant (215 students) Fall 2016
- Graduate Teaching Assistant (187 students) Spring 2016

## Press

Jun 28, 2019 **IC, Georgia Tech.** “MLsploit Tackles Machine Learning Security with a Cloud-based Platform”  
Jun 01, 2018 **CoC, Georgia Tech.** “Georgia Tech Teams up with Intel to Protect AI from Malicious Attacks Using SHIELD”  
May 05, 2014 **The New Yorker.** “Can an Algorithm Solve Twitter’s Credibility Problem?”  
May 02, 2014 **The Washington Post.** “Lies are everywhere on the Internet. But this free tool could potentially fight them.”  
May 01, 2014 **The Daily Dot.** “TweetCred Chrome extension tells you which tweets to trust”

## Open-source Projects and Other Works

**GOGGLES: Learning Interpretable Representations of Semantic Concepts** [[github.com/chu-data-lab/GOGGLES](https://github.com/chu-data-lab/GOGGLES)]

*Class project for GaTech CS 8803: Data Management for Machine Learning*

Fall 2018

- Proposed a novel learning framework that encapsulates high-level semantic concepts as visually grounded prototype embeddings, which serve as labelling functions for inferring class labels for image datasets.

**Image Segmentation using CRFs and Conditional Image Generation using VAE**

*Class project for GaTech CS 8803: Probabilistic Graphical Models*

Spring 2018

- Experimented with CNNs and CRFs to evaluate DeepLab, a state-of-the-art model in image segmentation.
- Given image segmentation and class labels for the segments, implemented a conditional generative model using VAE.

**Neuroevolutionary Gait Simulation of Quadruped Robots** [[bit.ly/cse6730-gait-videos](https://bit.ly/cse6730-gait-videos)]

*Class project for GaTech CSE 6730: Modeling and Simulation*

Spring 2016

- Developed a simulation framework wherein quadruped robots were evolved to learn walking gaits through a neuroevolutionary mechanism using a genetic algorithm.

**baudcast** [[github.com/nilakshdas/baudcast](https://github.com/nilakshdas/baudcast)]

*Independent open-source project*

2014

- Developed a socket-based, realtime messaging library for the internet of things paradigm.
- This has been downloaded and used in over 1,000 Node.js projects.

## Technical Skills

**Programming:** Python, Java, C++, C, Matlab, Scala, SQL

**Big Data:** Apache Storm, Apache Hadoop and MapReduce, Apache Spark, Pig, Apache Lucene

**Machine Learning:** TensorFlow, PyTorch, DyNet, Caffe, scikit-learn, Weka, Microsoft Azure ML Studio

**Web Development:** JavaScript ES7, Node.js, Ruby on Rails, PHP, Django, D3, jQuery

## References

**Dr. Polo Chau**, Associate Professor

School of Computational Science and Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology

[cc.gatech.edu/~dchau/](http://cc.gatech.edu/~dchau/)

**Dr. Xu Chu**, Assistant Professor

School of Computer Science

Georgia Institute of Technology

[cc.gatech.edu/~xchu33/](http://cc.gatech.edu/~xchu33/)

**Dr. Ponnurangam Kumaraguru (PK)**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Student Affairs

Computer Science and Engineering Department

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