

Wang Ma

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Summary

Ph.D. student specializing in **Uncertainty Quantification (UQ)** and **Bayesian Deep Learning**. Seeking a **Research Internship for 2026 Summer** to apply expertise in Bayesian Modeling to solve challenging real-world problems. Proven experience in developing novel algorithms from theory to implementation in vision and language tasks.

Education

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) <i>Ph.D. in Computer & System Engineering (Advisor: Prof. Qiang Ji)</i> Research Interests: Uncertainty Quantification, Bayesian Deep Learning, Knowledge-augmented AI	Aug 2024 – Present Troy, NY
Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) <i>B.S. in Data Science and Big Data Technology (Advisor: Prof. Chao Wang)</i>	Aug 2020 – July 2024 Shenzhen, China
University of California, Irvine (UCI) <i>Exchange Student (ASAP Program)</i>	Mar 2023 – July 2023 Irvine, CA

Publications & Manuscripts

1. **Towards Knowledge-augmented Bayesian Deep Learning For Computer Vision**
Wang Ma, Hanjing Wang, Yufei Zhang, Darsha Udayanga, Qiang Ji.
Accepted to IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2026.
2. **Causal Saliency Map For Post-hoc Model Explanation**
Hanjing Wang, Wang Ma, Naiyu Yin, Qiang Ji.
Accepted to IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2026 (Findings Track).
3. **Black-Box Uncertainty Quantification for Large Language Models via Ensemble-of-Ensembles**
Wang Ma, Debarun Bhattacharjya, Junkyu Lee, Nhan Pham, Harsha Kokel, Qiang Ji.
Submitted to International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2026.
(Preliminary version accepted to AAAI 2026 Workshop on Assessing and Improving Reliability of Foundation Models in the Real World)
4. **CURE: Counterfactual-guided Uncertainty Refinement to Break Uncertainty Entanglement**
Ali Najibi*, Wang Ma*, Naiyu Yin, Qiang Ji. (*Equal Contribution)
Submitted to International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2026.

Industrial Experience

IBM Research <i>Research Extern (Mentor: Dr. Debarun Bhattacharjya)</i>	Yorktown Heights, NY May 2025 – Aug 2025
• Developed a novel perturbation-based framework for UQ in black-box LLMs , enabling uncertainty decomposition without requiring access to model weights or intermediate results.	
• Introduced an “ensemble-of-ensembles” method to disentangle aleatoric and epistemic uncertainty , using input perturbations as a proxy for parameter variability.	
• Outcome: First-authored paper accepted to AAAI 2026 AIR-FM Workshop; Extended version was submitted to ICML 2026.	

Academic Experience

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) <i>Graduate Research Assistant (Advisor: Prof. Qiang Ji)</i>	Troy, NY Sept 2024 – Present
• Knowledge-Augmented Bayesian Deep Learning: Proposed a two-stage framework that learns a knowledge-induced prior and an adaptive knowledge likelihood . Demonstrated superior accuracy, robustness, and OOD detection under domain shifts.	
• Causal Saliency Maps: Led the implementation of core algorithms for a Causal Markov Blanket (CMB) detection method. Utilized label-wise mutual information to identify causally relevant features , effectively filtering out spurious correlations in vision models.	
• Semantic Uncertainty Disentanglement: Developed a contrastive learning framework to disentangle semantic and nuisance uncertainties, achieving state-of-the-art performance on multiple benchmarks. (Technical Report)	
• Efficient Single-Model UQ: Derived theoretical results from NTK theory to quantify regression uncertainty using only one auxiliary neural network. Implemented and advanced credal interval-based methods for practical uncertainty quantification. (Technical Report)	

SUSTech <i>Undergraduate Researcher (Advisor: Prof. Chao Wang)</i>	Shenzhen, China Mar 2024 – Aug 2024
• Hyperspectral Image Restoration: Designed and implemented a self-supervised way using a novel combination of Implicit Neural Representations (INR) and Diffusion Models .	
• Unpaired Image Denoising: Optimized a VAE from unpaired data, enhancing performance through Mutual Information maximization.	

Technical Skills

- **Languages:** Python (PyTorch, NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-learn), Java, MATLAB, LaTeX
- **Developer Tools:** Git, Docker, Linux environment
- **Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent), Japanese (Conversational)

Awards & Academic Engagement

- **SUSTech Excellent Undergraduate Graduation Project** (Thesis: End-to-end Unpaired Image Denoising) June 2024
- **Seminar Organizer: AI Optimization & Theory (SUSTech)**; led sessions on Bayesian Optimization & Bayesian Deep Learning 2024
- Second Prize in Guangdong Province, Mathematical Contest in Modeling 2021
- **Scholarships**: SUSTech Excellent Student Scholarship (2021, 2022)