Winnie Xu

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Experience

Stanford University, Stanford AI Lab

Toronto, Canada

Visiting Research Scholar with Stefano Ermon

2021-06 - Present

Improve likelihood and sample quality of score-based generative models through general and efficient SDE optimization. Topics: Score-based generative models, SDEs, EBMs, diffusion probabilistic models, latent variable models

Cohere & Oxford University, Machine Learning Research

Toronto, Canada

Machine Learning Researcher with Nick Frost, Aidan Gomez, and Yarin Gal

2021-01 - 2021-06

Develop data efficient algorithms to improve training cost and personalization of billion parameter language models. Topics: Transformers, attention, distillation, curriculum learning, uncertainty

Nvidia, Simulations & Robotics Team

Toronto, Canada

Deep Learning Research Intern with Gavriel State and Animesh Garg

2020-08 - 2020-12

Build performant GPU-accelerated environments towards time / resource efficient reinforcement learning for robotics. Topics: Omniverse, IsaacGym, robotics, reinforcement learning

Google, Brain Team

Mountain View, CA, USA

Software Engineering Intern

2020-05 - 2020-08

Actualize state of the art pre-post-hoc pruning methods for easy experimentation and efficient hardware computation. Topics: lottery tickets, dynamic sparsity, Tensorflow Model Optimization Toolkit (top contributor)

Vector Institute & University of Toronto

Toronto, Canada

Undergraduate Researcher with Prof. David Duvenaud

2020-01 - Present

Improve generalization and robustness of Neural Ordinary Differential Equations by modelling uncertainty with SDEs. Topics: ordinary/stochastic differential equations, Bayesian neural networks, variational inference, JAX

FOR.ai

Toronto, Canada

Machine Learning Research Lead

2019-07 - Present

Explore sparsity and low-rank parameterizations to efficiently train heavily parameterized neural language models. Topics: progressive growth neural networks, low-rank factors, efficient network architectures

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

2017-2020, 2021-2022

BASc Candidate in Computer Science, Statistics, Math

Dean's List Scholar

Coursework (graduate-level): NLP, deep learning, probabilistic reasoning, stochastic processes Teaching Assistant: CSC258 (Intro. Computer Systems)

Publications

- Sören Mindermann*, Muhammed Razzak*, Winnie Xu*, Andreas Kirsch, Mrinank Sharma, Adrien Morisot, Aidan N. Gomez, Sebastian Farquhar, Jan Brauner, and Yarin Gal, "Prioritized training on points that are learnable, worth learning, and not yet learned", Workshop in Subset Selection in ML, ICML 2021.
- Winnie Xu, Ricky T.Q. Chen, Xuechen Li, and David Duvenaud, "Infinitely deep bayesian neural networks with stochastic differential equations", Workshop in Bayesian Deep Learning, NeurIPS 2020.

Honors, Awards, and Grants

Undergraduate Student Research Award, NSERC [declined]	2020
Axelrad Research Award (Best Project), Princess Margaret Cancer Research	2018
Summer Undergraduate Research Award, University of Toronto	2018
Top 15% Distinction, Canadian National Mathematics Contest	2015, 2016, 2017
1st Place Sanofi Biogenius & Silver Medal Canada-Wide Science Fair, Science Fairs	Canada 2017
Projects	
Computational Biology Research, Princess Margaret Cancer Research	2018-05 - 2018-09

HiRide Inc. (acquired by Facedrive)

2019-06 - 2020-01

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Golang, C/C++, Bash, Java, Javascript, R, LATEX

Tools: JAX, TensorFlow, Pytorch, Numpy, Linux, Docker, React, Google Cloud Platform, Slurm