

Tong Zhao

Final-year Ph.D. Student · University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

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Research Interests

Graph machine learning, Representation learning, Anomaly detection, and User modeling.

Education

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Aug. 2017 - May. 2022 (expected)

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (GPA:3.7/4.0) (ADVISOR: PROF. MENG JIANG)

Case Western Research University, Cleveland, OH

Aug. 2013 - May 2017

B.A. IN MATHEMATICS (GPA:3.6/4.0)

Professional Experience

Applied Scientist Intern

June 2020 - Sept. 2020

AMAZON

Palo Alto, CA

- Led a research project on automated graph data augmentation. The work is under review at TheWebConf (formerly WWW) 2022.

Research Intern

Jan. 2020 - Aug. 2020

SNAP INC.

Santa Monica, CA

- Led a research project on graph data augmentation for graph machine learning. The work is published at AAAI 2021 [C7].
- Co-developed a large scale graph neural network-based system for unsupervised user representation learning and supervised age/gender inference. (**Used in production**)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Aug. 2018 - Dec. 2019

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame, IN

- Data Science (Fall 2018, Fall 2019).

Peer Tutor

Sept. 2016 - May 2017

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Cleveland, OH

- Provided on-campus tutoring for undergraduate students in EECS courses.

Honors & Awards

- 2021 **Amazon Post-Intern Fellowship** Amazon.
- 2020 **Snap Research Fellowship** Snap Inc.
- 2020 **SIGIR Student Travel Grant** the 29th ACM CIKM.
- 2020 **Best Paper Award** DLG-KDD 2020.
- 2019 **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Honorable Mention** University of Notre Dame.

Publications

REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- [J4] Meng Jiang, Taeho Jung, Ryan Karl, and **Tong Zhao**. "Federated Dynamic Graph Neural Networks with Secure Aggregation for Video-based Distributed Surveillance." ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (**TIST**), 2021.
- [J3] **Tong Zhao**, Tianwen Jiang, Neil Shah, and Meng Jiang. "A Synergistic Approach for Graph Anomaly Detection with Pattern Mining and Feature Learning." IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems (**TNNLS**), 2021.
- [J2] Daheng Wang, Zhihan Zhang, Yihong Ma, **Tong Zhao**, Tianwen Jiang, Nitesh V. Chawla, and Meng Jiang. "Modeling Co-evolution of Attributed and Structural Information in Graph Sequence." IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (**TKDE**), 2021.

[J1] Tianwen Jiang, Qingkai Zeng, **Tong Zhao**, Bing Qin, Ting Liu, Nitesh Chawla, and Meng Jiang. “Biomedical Knowledge Graphs Construction from Conditional Statements.” *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (TCBB)*, 2020.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- [C11] Daheng Wang, **Tong Zhao**, Nitesh Chawla, and Meng Jiang. “Dynamic Attributed Graph Prediction with Conditional Normalizing Flows.” In *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)*. 2021.
- [C10] Wenhao Yu, Chenguang Zhu, **Tong Zhao**, Zhichun Guo, and Meng Jiang. “Sentence-Permuted Paragraph Generation.” In *Proceedings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. 2021.
- [C9] **Tong Zhao**^{*}, Bo Ni^{*}, Wenhao Yu, Zhichun Guo, Neil Shah, and Meng Jiang. “Action Sequence Augmentation for Early Graph-based Anomaly Detection.” In *Proceedings of ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM)*. 2021.
- [C8] Yao Ma, Xiaorui Liu, **Tong Zhao**, Yozen Liu, Jiliang Tang, and Neil Shah. “A Unified View on Graph Neural Networks as Graph Signal Denoising.” In *Proceedings of ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM)*. 2021.
- [C7] **Tong Zhao**, Yozen Liu, Leonardo Neves, Oliver Woodford, Meng Jiang, and Neil Shah. “Data Augmentation for Graph Neural Networks.” In *Proceedings of AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*. 2021.
- [C6] **Tong Zhao**, Chuchen Deng, Kaifeng Yu, Tianwen Jiang, Daheng Wang, and Meng Jiang. “Error-bounded Graph Anomaly Loss for GNNs.” In *Proceedings of ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM)*. 2020.
- [C5] Wenhao Yu, Mengxia Yu, **Tong Zhao**, and Meng Jiang. “Identifying Referential Intention with Heterogeneous Contexts.” In *Proceedings of the Web Conference (WWW)*. 2020.
- [C4] Tianwen Jiang, Zhihan Zhang, **Tong Zhao**, Bing Qin, Ting Liu, Nitesh V. Chawla, and Meng Jiang. “CTGA: Graph-based Biomedical Literature Search.” In *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedicine (BIBM)*. 2019.
- [C3] Tianwen Jiang, **Tong Zhao**, Bing Qin, Ting Liu, Nitesh V. Chawla, and Meng Jiang. “Multi-input Multi-output Sequence Labeling for Joint Extraction of Fact and Condition Tuples from Scientific Text.” In *Proceedings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. 2019.
- [C2] Tianwen Jiang, **Tong Zhao**, Bing Qin, Ting Liu, Nitesh V. Chawla, and Meng Jiang. “The Role of ‘Condition’: A Novel Scientific Knowledge Graph Representation and Construction Model.” In *Proceedings of ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)*. 2019.
- [C1] **Tong Zhao**, Matthew Malir, and Meng Jiang. “Actionable Objective Optimization for Suspicious Behavior Detection on Large Bipartite Graphs.” In *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Big Data (BigData)*. 2018. (Oral)

REFEREED WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

- [W5] **Tong Zhao**, Chuchen Deng, Kaifeng Yu, Tianwen Jiang, Daheng Wang, and Meng Jiang. “GNN-based Graph Anomaly Detection with Graph Anomaly Loss.” In *Workshop on Deep Learning on Graphs (DLG-KDD) at ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)*. 2020.
- [W4] **Tong Zhao**^{*}, Bo Ni^{*}, Wenhao Yu, and Meng Jiang. “Early Fraud Detection with Augmented Graph Learning.” In *Workshop on Deep Learning on Graphs (DLG-KDD) at ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)*. 2020.
- [W3] Daheng Wang, Zhihan Zhang, Yihong Ma, **Tong Zhao**, Tianwen Jiang, Nitesh V. Chawla, and Meng Jiang. “Learning Attribute-Structure Co-Evolutions in Dynamic Graphs.” In *Workshop on Deep Learning on Graphs (DLG-KDD) at ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)*. 2020. (**Best Paper Award**)
- [W2] Yang Zhou, **Tong Zhao**, and Meng Jiang. “A Probabilistic Model with Commonsense Constraints for Pattern-based Temporal Fact Extraction.” In *Workshop on Fact Extraction and Verification (FEVER) at Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2020.
- [W1] Tianwen Jiang, **Tong Zhao**, Bing Qin, Ting Liu, Nitesh V. Chawla, and Meng Jiang. “Constructing Information-Lossless Biological Knowledge Graphs from Conditional Statements.” In *International Workshop on Data Mining in Bioinformatics (BioKDD) at ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)*. 2019.

PREPRINTS

- [P3] **Tong Zhao**, Gang Liu, Daheng Wang, Wenhao Yu, and Meng Jiang. “Counterfactual Graph Learning for Link Prediction.” arXiv:2106.02172. Under review at ICLR 2022.
- [P2] Meng Jiang, Taeho Jung, Ryan Karl, and **Tong Zhao**. “Federated Dynamic GNN with Secure Aggregation.” arXiv:2009.07351.

[P1] Yihao Hu, **Tong Zhao**, Zhiliang Xu, and Lizhen Lin. “Neural Time-Dependent Partial Differential Equation.” arXiv:2009.03892.

Academic Experience

TALKS

2021 Invited speaker for A9 (Amazon Search & Ads) ML research talk.

SERVICE

2022 **Invited Conference PC member/Reviewer** WSDM, AAAI, ICLR, IJCAI-ECAI, SDM, KDD (meta-reviewer).

2021 **Conference Session Chair** ECML-PKDD.

2021 **Invited Journal Reviewer** TNNLS, TKDE, Frontiers in Big Data, Knowledge-Based Systems, Neurocomputing, Digital Signal Processing.

2021 **Invited Conference PC member/Reviewer** AAAI, IJCAI, ECML-PKDD, KDD, NeurIPS, CIKM.

2021 **Conference Subreviewer** WWW, WSDM, ICMD.

2020 **Invited Journal Reviewer** Frontiers in Big Data.

2020 **Invited Conference PC member/Reviewer** NeurIPS, LXAI at ICML.

2020 **Conference Subreviewer** BigCom, KDD, ICDM.

MENTORSHIP

2021 Mr. Gang Liu (CSE PhD student at University of Notre Dame)

2020 Mr. Bo Ni (CSE undergraduate student at University of Notre Dame)

2019 Mr. Chuchen Deng (visiting CSE student at University of Notre Dame)

2019 Ms. Kaifeng Yu (visiting CSE student at University of Notre Dame)