

Zirui (Ray) Liu

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RESEARCH INTEREST

Machine Learning Algorithm & System

- LLM efficiency & scalability
- Large-scale graph learning

Core problems in LLMs

- Retrieval augmented generation and long-context ability
- LLM safety

EDUCATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rice University | Houston, TX |
| • Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science, Co-advised by Dr. Xia (Ben) Hu and Prof. Vladimir Braverman | <i>Aug. 2021 – May. 2024 (Expected)</i> |
| Texas A&M University (Transfer Out) | College Station, TX |
| • Ph.D. Student in Computer Science, Advised by Dr. Xia (Ben) Hu | <i>Aug. 2019 – Aug. 2021</i> |
| Harbin Institute of Technology | Harbin, China |
| • Electrical Engineering, Master of Engineering | <i>Sep. 2016 – Jun. 2018</i> |
| Harbin Institute of Technology | Harbin, China |
| • Electrical Engineering, Bachelor of Science | <i>Sep. 2012 – Jul. 2016</i> |

PUBLICATION

- [ICML'24] **Zirui Liu**, Jiayi Yuan, Hongye Jin, Shaochen Zhong, Zhaozhao Xu, Vladimir Braverman, Beidi Chen, Xia Hu “KIVI: A Tuning-Free Asymmetric 2bit Quantization for KV Cache”, [PDF](#)
- [ICML'24] **Zirui Liu**, Zhaozhao Xu, Beidi Chen, Yuxin Tang, Jue Wang, Kaixiong Zhou, Xia Hu, Anshumali Shrivastava “Compress, Then Prompt: Improving Accuracy-Efficiency Trade-off of LLM Inference with Transferable Prompt”, [PDF](#)
- [ICML'24] Hongye Jin, Xiaotian Han, Jingfeng Yang, Zhimeng Jiang, **Zirui Liu**, Chia-Yuan Chang, Huiyuan Chen, Xia Hu “LLM Maybe LongLM: Self-Extend LLM Context Window Without Tuning”, [PDF](#)
- [ICML'24] Shaochen Zhong, Duy Le, **Zirui Liu**, Zhimeng Jiang, Andrew Ye, Jiamu Zhang, Jiayi Yuan, Kaixiong Zhou, Zhaozhao Xu, Jing Ma, Shuai Xu, Vipin Chaudhary, Xia Hu “GNNs Also Deserve Editing, and They Need It More Than Once”
- [ICML'24] Duy Le, Shaochen Zhong, **Zirui Liu**, Shuai Xu, Vipin Chaudhary, Kaixiong Zhou, Zhaozhao Xu “Knowledge Graphs Can be Learned with Just Intersection Features”
- [ICML'24] Guanchu Wang, Yu-Neng Chuang, Fan Yang, Mengnan Du, Chia-Yuan Chang, Shaochen Zhong, **Zirui Liu**, Zhaozhao Xu, Kaixiong Zhou, Xuanning Cai, Xia Hu “TVE: Learning Meta-attribution for Transferable Vision Explainer”, [PDF](#)
- [NeurIPS'23] **Zirui Liu**, Guanchu Wang, Shaochen Zhong, Zhaozhao Xu, Daochen Zha, Ruixiang Tang, Zhimeng Jiang, Kaixiong Zhou, Vipin Chaudhary, Shuai Xu, and Xia Hu “Winner-Take-All Column Row

Sampling for Memory Efficient Adaptation of Language Model”, The 37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2023, [PDF](#)

8. [KDD MLG’23] **Zirui Liu**, Zhimeng Jiang, Shaochen Zhong, Kaixiong Zhou, Li Li, Rui Chen, Soo-Hyun Choi and Xia Hu. “*Editable Graph Neural Network for Node Classifications*”, The 26th ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery & Data Mining on Mining and Learning with Graphs Workshop, 2023. [PDF](#)
9. [TMLR’23] **Zirui Liu**, Kaixiong Zhou, Zhimeng Jiang, Li Li, Rui Chen, Soo-Hyun Choi, and Xia Hu. “*DSpar: Embarrassingly Simple Strategy for Efficient GNN training and inference via Degree-based Sparsification*”, Transactions on Machine Learning Research, 2023. [PDF](#)
10. [ICML’23] **Zirui Liu**, Shengyuan Chen, Kaixiong Zhou, Daochen Zha, Xiao Huang, and Xia Hu. “*RSC: Accelerating Graph Neural Networks Training via Randomized Sparse Computations*”, The 40th International Conference on Machine Learning, 2023. [PDF](#)
11. [NeurIPS’23] Ruixiang Tang, Jiayi Yuan, Yiming Li, **Zirui Liu**, Rui Chen, and Xia Hu “*Setting the Trap: Capturing and Defeating Backdoor Threats in PLMs through Honeypots*”, The 37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2023. [PDF](#)
12. [NeurIPS’23] Shaochen Zhong, Zaichuan You, Jiamu Zhang, Sebastian Zhao, Zachary LeClaire, **Zirui Liu**, Vipin Chaudhary, Shuai Xu, and Xia Hu “*One Less Reason for Filter Pruning: Gaining Free Adversarial Robustness with Structured Grouped Kernel Pruning*”, The 37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2023. [PDF](#)
13. [TMLR’23] Xiaotian Han, Zhimeng Jiang, Hongye Jin, **Zirui Liu**, Na Zou, Qifan Wang, Xia Hu. “*Retiring ΔDP : New Distribution-Level Metrics for Demographic Parity*”, Transactions on Machine Learning Research, 2023. [PDF](#)
14. [ICML’23] Guanchu Wang, **Zirui Liu**, Zhimeng Jiang, Ninghao Liu, Na Zou, and Xia Hu. “*DIVISION: Memory Efficient Training via Dual Activation Precision*”, The 40th International Conference on Machine Learning, 2023. [PDF](#)
15. [MLSys’23] Daochen Zha, Louis Feng, Liang Luo, Bhargav Bhushanam, **Zirui Liu**, Yusuo Hu, Jade Nie, Yuzhen Huang, Yuandong Tian, Arun Kejariwal, and Xia Hu. “*Pre-train and Search: Efficient Embedding Table Sharding with Pre-trained Neural Cost Models*”, The 6th Conference on Machine Learning and Systems, 2023. [PDF](#)
16. [ICLR’22] **Zirui Liu**, Kaixiong Zhou, Fan Yang, Li Li, Rui Chen, and Xia Hu. “*EXACT: Scalable Graph Neural Networks Training via Extreme Activation Compression*”, The 10th International Conference on Learning Representations, 2022. [PDF](#)
17. [NeurIPS’22] Daochen Zha, Louis Feng, Qiaoyu Tan, **Zirui Liu**, Kwei-Herng Lai, Bhargav Bhushanam, Yuandong Tian, Arun Kejariwal, and Xia Hu. “*DreamShard: Generalizable Embedding Table Placement for Recommender Systems*”, The 36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2022. [PDF](#)
18. [NeurIPS’22] Keyu Duan, **Zirui Liu**, Wenqing Zheng, Peihao Wang, Kaixiong Zhou, Tianlong Chen, Zhangyang Wang and Xia Hu. “*A Comprehensive Study on Large-Scale Graph Training: Benchmarking and Rethinking*”, The 36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2022. [PDF](#)
19. [IJCAI’22] Kaixiong Zhou, **Zirui Liu**, Rui Chen, Li Li, Soo-Hyun Choi, and Xia Hu. “*Table2Graph: Transforming Tabular Data to Unified Weighted Graph*”, The 31st International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, 2022. [PDF](#)

20. [ICLR'22] Zhimeng Jiang, Kaixiong Zhou, **Zirui Liu**, Li Li, Rui Chen, Soo-Hyun Choi, and Xia Hu. “*An Information Fusion Approach to Learning with Instance-Dependent Label Noise*”, The 10th International Conference on Learning Representations, 2022. [PDF](#)
21. [WWW'21] Ruixiang Tang, Mengnan Du, Yuening Li, **Zirui Liu** and Xia Hu. “*Mitigating Gender Bias in Captioning Systems*”, The 32nd Web Conference, 2021. [PDF](#)
22. [ICCV'21] **Zirui Liu**, Haifeng Jin, Ting-Hsiang Wang, Kaixiong Zhou and Xia Hu. “*DivAug: Plug-in Automated Data Augmentation with Explicit Diversity Maximization*”, The 18th International Conference on Computer Vision, 2021. [PDF](#)
23. [NeurIPS'21] **Zirui Liu**, Qingquan Song, Kaixiong Zhou, Ting-Hsiang Wang, Ying Shan, and Xia Hu. “*Detecting Interactions from Neural Networks via Topological Analysis*”, The 35th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2021. [PDF](#)
24. [RecSys'21] Ting-Hsiang Wang , Qingquan Song, Xiaotian Han, **Zirui Liu**, Haifeng Jin, and Xia Hu. “*AutoRec: An Automated Recommender System*”, The 15th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (Demo track), 2021. [PDF](#)

RESEARCH & INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES

- Research Intern at LinkedIn**

• *Advertisement AI team, advised by Mr. Aman Gupta.*

 - Improving the inference efficiency of language models via dynamic sparsity.

Sunnyvale, CA

May. 2023 – Aug. 2023
- Research Intern at Meta**

• *Capacity Engineering and Analysis team.*

 - Incorporating semi-supervised learning for improving advertisement models.

Sunnyvale, CA

May. 2022 – Aug. 2022
- Research Intern at Samsung Research America**

• *Advertisement AI team, advised by Dr. Li Li and Dr. Rui Chen.*

 - Incorporating the graph structure into the App embeddings for improving the click-through-rate.

Remote

May. 2021 – Aug. 2021
- Research Intern at 4Paradigm**

• *Advised by Mr. Xiawei Guo.*

 - Developed the automated machine learning system for tabular data.

Beijing, China

Mar. 2019 – Aug. 2019

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- Rice Graduate Fellowship 2021
- The GMCC's Scholarship (Corporation Scholarship) 2015
- The MOONS' Scholarship (Corporation Scholarship) 2013
- First Prize of Excellent Student Scholarship of HIT 2012, 2013

INVOLVED RESEARCH GRANTS

NSF Medium: Towards Effective Detection and Mitigation for Shortcut Learning: A Data Modeling Framework

\$1200,000, Lead PI: Xia (Ben) Hu, Jun. 2022

Led the research proposal writing on the research objectives of “Shortcut Detection via A Data-centric Framework”, which is directly based on my NeurIPS paper.

NSF FAI: Towards Fairness in Deep Neural Networks with Learning Interpretation

\$900,000, Lead PI: Xia (Ben) Hu,

Sep. 2021

Led the research proposal writing on the research objectives of “Enhancing Fairness via Feature Interpretation”, which is directly based on my WWW paper.

Visa Research Award: Scalable Representation Learning Frameworks To Model Sophisticated Interactions In Large-Scale Graph And Tabular Data

\$100,000, Lead PI: Xia (Ben) Hu,

Jun. 2022

Led the research proposal writing on the research objectives of “Very Large-Scale Graph Training”, which is directly based on my ICLR & TMLR paper.

TEACHING

- Guest Lecturer, COMP 640: Graduate Seminar In Machine Learning, Rice University 2023
- Guest Lecturer, COMP 631: Introduction to Information Retrieval, Rice University 2023
- Teaching Assistant, COMP 631: Introduction to Information Retrieval, Rice University 2022, 2023

SELECTED MENTORSHIP

- **Keyu Duan** **Fall 2021 – Present**
Ph.D. Student, National University of Singapore *Large-Scale Machine Learning, Neurips 2022*
- **Guanchu Wang** **Fall 2021 – Present**
Ph.D. Student, Rice University *Memory-Efficient Machine Learning, ICML 2023*
- **Shengyuan Chen** **Summer 2022 – Present**
Ph.D. Student, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University *Efficient Machine Learning, ICML 2023*
- **Henry Zhong** **Fall 2022 – Present**
Ph.D. Student, Rice University *Efficient Machine Learning, NeurIPS 2023*
- **Jiayi Yuan** **Fall 2022 – Present**
Ph.D. Student, Rice University *Machine Learning for Healthcare, AMIA*
- **Duy Le** **Fall 2023 – Present**
Undergraduate, Case Western Reserve University *Large-Scale Machine Learning, SDM’24 in submission*

SERVICE

- **Program Committee Member:** NeurIPS, ICML, ICLR, KDD, ICCV
- **Journal Reviewers:** TPAMI, TKDD, TMLR