

# YU ZHANG

Room 1117, Siebel Center for Computer Science, 201 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

yuz9@illinois.edu | yuzhimanhua.github.io | <https://github.com/yuzhimanhua>

## EDUCATION

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**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign** 2017.08 - 2019.05

M.S. in Computer Science (Expected), Advisor: Prof. Jiawei Han

**Peking University** 2013.09 - 2017.07

B.S. in Computer Science, *With Honors*, Advisor: Prof. Yan Zhang

Thesis: Mining Social Network Structure and Influential Nodes from Text-Based Cascades, *Best 10 Undergraduate Theses of PKU EECS (10/315)*

## EXPERIENCE

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**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign** 2017.08 - Present

*Research Assistant, Data Mining Group, Database and Information System (DAIS) Lab*

- Project: **Entity and Relation Mining from Massive Text Corpora**, Advisor: Prof. Jiawei Han
- Modifying a BiLSTM-CNNs-CRF framework for multi-task entity recognition
- Integrating pattern-based approach (MetaPAD) and embedding-based approach (TransE) together for relation extraction
- Targeting a paper for WWW'18

**Peking University** 2015.07 - 2017.06

*Research Assistant, Data Analysis and Intelligent Retrieval Lab*

- Project: **Influential Nodes Mining in Social Networks**, Advisor: Prof. Yan Zhang
- Combined Hawkes Processes and Latent Dirichlet Allocation together to infer social network structure from text-based cascades
- Proposed a coordination game model to characterize information propagation in social networks
- Obtained several theoretical results, accelerated the algorithm using some heuristics and improved the experimental results
- Published a paper at SIGIR'17

**Carnegie Mellon University** 2016.06 - 2016.09

*Research Intern, Computational Analysis of Social and Organizational Systems (CASOS) Lab*

- Project: **Location Inference of Social Media Users**, Advisor: Prof. Kathleen M. Carley
- Extracted tweets and Twitter users profile information through the Twitter Streaming API
- Presented a Bayesian graphical model that combines text features and user features in real-time location estimation
- Published a paper at CIKM'17

**Peking University** 2015.09 - 2016.06

*Teaching Assistant*

- Course 1: **Data Structure and Algorithms**, Fall 2015, Instructor: Prof. Haiyan Zhao
- Course 2: **Algorithm Design and Analysis**, Spring 2016, Instructor: Prof. Haiyan Zhao

## PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

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**Yu Zhang**, Wei Wei, Binxuan Huang, Kathleen M. Carley and Yan Zhang. *RATE: Overcoming Noise and Sparsity of Textual Features in Real-Time Location Estimation*. The 26th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM'17).

**Yu Zhang** and Yan Zhang. *Top-K Influential Nodes in Social Networks: A Game Perspective*. The 40th ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR'17).

## AWARDS

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<b>2017</b>	Best 10 Undergraduate Theses of PKU EECS (Top 3%)
<b>2017</b>	Outstanding Graduates of Peking University
<b>2017</b>	SIGIR 2017 Student Travel Grants
<b>2016</b>	Kwang-Hua Scholarship
<b>2015</b>	May 4th Scholarship
<b>2014</b>	National Scholarship (Top 2%)
<b>2011/2012</b>	First Prize, National Olympiad in Informatics in Provinces (NOIP)

## TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

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<b>Programming Languages</b>	Proficient with C/C++, Python, MATLAB, Java
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Git, Gephi, PyTorch, Scikit-learn
<b>English Skills</b>	TOEFL 106 (Reading 29, Listening 26, Speaking 26, Writing 25)