

YU ZHANG

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EDUCATION

- 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

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign** 2017.08 - Present
Research Assistant, Data Mining Group, Database and Information System (DAIS) Lab
- Project: **Weakly Supervised Information Extraction from Massive Text Corpora**, Advisor: Prof. Jiawei Han
 - Integrated local information (patterns and dependency paths) and global information (embedding vectors of entities and relations) for entity recognition, relation classification, and open-domain information extraction
 - Conducted experiments on various social media datasets (e.g., New York Times, Wikipedia and Twitter) and outperformed several benchmark methods.
- 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
- 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
- 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

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).

Meng Qu, Xiang Ren, **Yu Zhang** and Jiawei Han. *Weakly-supervised Relation Extraction by Pattern-enhanced Embedding Learning*. Submitted to the 27th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW'18).

Qi Zhu, Xiang Ren, Jingbo Shang, **Yu Zhang**, Frank F. Xu and Jiawei Han. *Integrating Local and Global Information for Open Information Extraction*. Submitted to the 27th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW'18).

AWARDS

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

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

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