

LEI ZHENG

625 W. Madison St. Chicago, IL, U.S. 60661

(+1) 312 918 0178 ◊ lzheng21@uic.edu

Homepage: <https://www.cs.uic.edu/~lzheng/>

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago
PhD Candidate, Computer Science

July 2014 - Present
Overall GPA: 3.66/4.0

Harbin Institute of Technology
M. Eng., Computer Science

2010 - 2013
Overall GPA: 3.11/4.0

Jilin University
B. S., Computer Science

2006 - 2010
Overall GPA: 3.50/4.0

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Pinterest Research Lab Intern, Pinterest Inc.
Mentors: Dan Xie, Jure Leskovec

May. 2018 - Aug. 2018

- **Project:** *User Profiling for Ads Ranking Models*

- Keywords: Ads Ranking, A/B Test

- Complexity and Technology: Python, JAVA, C++, GO, Hadoop, Cascading, Scala, A/B Test

- Details: We developed new ads ranking models and conducted A/B test on the platform of Pinterest. Five new models were shipped into production and lifted online performances from **0.3%** up to **4.29%** in terms of revenue, CTR and gCTR (varied for different models).

Research Assistant, UIC
Advisor: Philip S. Yu

Aug. 2014 - Present

- **Project I:** *Deep Learning Based Recommender Systems*

- Keywords: Deep Learning, Recommender Systems, TensorFlow and Theano

- Complexity and Technology: 5K lines of Python code.

- Details: We utilize deep learning models, such as CNN or RNN, to build hybrid recommender systems. In experiments, our models achieve state-of-the-art performances in a variety of datasets.

- **Project II:** *Deep Learning with Applications to Brain Disease Predictions.*

- Keywords: Deep Learning, Medical Data Mining

- Complexity and Technology: 1K lines of Python and Matlab code.

- Details: We develop state-of-the-art deep learning models for detecting human brain diseases, such as ADHD or Bipolar. Our models analyze keystroke dynamics data in order to infer a user's mood state using state-of-the-art RNN algorithms.

- Accomplishments: 1) Published two papers in KDD 2017 and SAC 2017; 2) **Winner of the Mood Challenge for ResearchKit.**

Research Assistant, Chinese Academy of Sciences

May 2013 - Feb. 2014

- **Project I:** *Topic Modeling for Academic Papers*

- Keywords: Topic Modeling, Gibbs Sampling, Variational Inference

- Complexity and Technology: 1K lines of C++ code.

- Details: Modeling researchers' interests from academic papers by leveraging topic modeling techniques.

- Accomplishments: 1) Published a paper in AIRS 2013; 2) Designed the model and implemented the entire data pipeline for the project.

• **Project I: Machine Translation**

- Keywords: MapReduce, BigData
- Complexity and Technology: 2K lines of Python code in Hadoop.
- Details: Since there exists a large amount of well translated bilingual sentences on Wikipedia, in order to enhance the performance of machine translation engine, we develop a system based on hadoop to mine bilingual sentences from Wikipedia.
- Accomplishment: Implemented a hadoop system to extract bilingual sentences from 100TG data.

PUBLICATIONS

- Fei Jiang, **Lei Zheng**, Fei Jiang, Jin Xu, and Philip S. Yu. *FI-GRL: Fast Inductive Graph Representation Learning via Projection-Cost Preservation*, In Proceedings of the the 2018 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (**ICDM 2018**).
- **Lei Zheng**, Chun-Ta Lu, Fei Jiang, Jiawei Zhang Philip S. Yu. *Spectral Collaborative Filtering*, In Proceedings of the 12th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (**RecSys 2018**).
- **Lei Zheng**, Bokai Cao, Vahid Noroozi, Philip S. Yu and Nianzu Ma. *Hierarchical collaborative embedding for context-aware recommendations*, In Proceedings of 2017 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (**BigData 2017**).
- Bokai Cao, **Lei Zheng**, Chenwei Zhang, Philip S. Yu, Andrea Piscitello, John Zulueta, Olu Ajilore, Kelly Ryan, Alex Leow. *DeepMood: Modeling Mobile Phone Typing Dynamics for Mood Detection*, In Proceedings of the 23rd ACM SIGKDD Conference of Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (**KDD 2017**).
- Vahid Noroozi, **Lei Zheng**, Sara Bahaadini, Sihong Xie, Philip S. Yu. *SEVEN: Deep Semi-supervised Verification Networks*, In Proceedings of the 26th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (**IJCAI 2017**).
- **Lei Zheng**, Vahid Noroozi, Philip S. Yu. *Joint deep modeling of users and items using reviews for recommendation*, In Proceedings of The Tenth ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (**WSDM 2017**).
- **Lei Zheng**, Jingyuan Zhang, Bokai Cao, Philip S. Yu, Ann Ragin. *A novel ensemble approach on regionalized neural networks for brain disorder prediction*, In Proceedings of the 32nd ACM SIGAPP Symposium On Applied Computing (**SAC 2017**).
- **Lei Zheng**, Kai Han. *Extracting Categorical Topics from Tweets Using Topic Model*, In Proceedings of the Ninth Asia Information Retrieval Societies Conference (**AIRS 2013**).

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Computer Languages	C/C++, Java, MySQL, MATLAB, Python
Software & Tools	TensorFlow, Theano, Hadoop, L ^A T _E X

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Reviewer of ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD), 2015-Present
- External Reviewer of ICDM (2017), WSDM (2016), WWW (2016), AAAI (2016), CIKM (2016), ICDM (2015),

AWARDS AND HONORS

- UIC Peter and Deborah Wexler Graduate Student Scholarship (2014)

TEACHING

- CS 109 C++ and Matlab
- CS 401 Algorithm Design
- CS 411 Artificial Intelligence