Xueqi Cheng

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: xc25@fsu.edu | Personal Homepage: https://xueqic.github.io
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Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=MWnSFPMAAAAJ&hl=en

BIOGRAPHY

Xueqi Cheng is a Ph.D. student in Computer Science at Florida State University, advised by Dr. Yushun Dong, and a member of the Responsible AI (RAI) Lab. His research focuses on machine learning and data mining, with emphasis on knowledge extraction, network analysis, and the development of secure, efficient, and serviceable ML systems. His work spans large language models, graph neural networks, and classical ML techniques, with applications in security, socially beneficial computing, and infrastructure systems. Additional information is available at https://Xueqic.github.io.

EDUCATION

Florida State University
Doctor of Philosophy (**Ph.D.**) in Computer Science — 2025 – present

Vanderbilt University
Doctor of Philosophy (**Ph.D.**) in Computer Science (transfer out) — 2023 – 2025
Master of Science (**M.S.**) in System Engineering — 2021 – 2023

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Master of Science in Engineering (**M.S.E.**) in Civil Engineering — 2018 – 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Responsible AI Lab, Florida State University
Ph.D. Student — Aug 2025 – present
- Research areas: Trustworthy AI, LLM, Geometric deep learning
- Advisor: Dr. Yushun Dong

Chief Data Office, AT&T Lab
Research Intern — Jun 2025 – Aug 2025
- Research Topic: Efficient LLM Serving for Multi-Turn Interaction
- Manager: Dr. Divesh Srivastava; Mentors: Dr. Qiong Wu, Dr. Zhengyi Zhou

Network and Data Science Lab, Vanderbilt University
Ph.D. Student — Aug 2023 – May 2025
- Thesis: Edge-centric Network Analytics
- Research areas: Geometric deep learning, social network analysis, AI for social good
- Advisor: Dr. Tyler Derr

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- Dean's Doctoral Student Award @ Florida State University — Aug 2025
- Engineering Graduate Fellowship @ Vanderbilt University — Aug 2023
- IBM PhD Fellowship @ Vanderbilt University — Aug 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Papers (acceptance based on peer review of full paper):

[C03] **Xueqi Cheng**, Catherine Yang, Yuying Zhao, Yu Wang, Hamid Karimi, Tyler Derr. BTS: A Comprehensive Benchmark for Tie Strength Prediction. In Proceedings of the 31st ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD), Toronto, ON, Canada, August 3-7, 2025. (**Oral**; acceptance rate 22%)

[C02] **Xueqi Cheng**, Yu Wang, Yunchao (Lance) Liu, Yuying Zhao, Charu C. Aggarwal, Tyler Derr. Edge Classification on Graphs: New Directions in Topological Imbalance. In Proceedings of the 18th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM), Hannover, Germany, March 10-14, 2025. (acceptance rate 17.3%)

[C01] Yu Wang, Tong Zhao, Yuying Zhao, Yunchao Liu, **Xueqi Cheng**, Neil Shah, Tyler Derr. A Topological Perspective on Demystifying GNN-based Link Prediction Performance. In Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), Vienna, Austria, May 7-11, 2024. (acceptance rate 31%)

Journal Papers:

[J02] Yi Zhang, Yuying Zhao, Zhaoqing Li, **Xueqi Cheng**, Yu Wang, Olivera Kotevska, Philip S. Yu, and Tyler Derr. A Survey on Privacy in Graph Neural Networks: Attacks, Preservation, and Applications. IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE), 2024. (impact factor 8.9)

[J01] Yuying Zhao, Yu Wang, Yunchao Liu, **Xueqi Cheng**, Charu Aggarwal, and Tyler Derr. Fairness and Diversity in Recommender Systems: A Survey. ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST), 2024. (impact factor 7.2)

Workshop and Symposium Papers:

[W02] **Xueqi Cheng**. Edge-centric Network Analytics. In Proceedings of the 18th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM) Doctoral Consortium, 2025.

[W01] **Xueqi Cheng**, Yan Zhang, Sining Lu, Yinqiao Zhu, Wei He. Urban Bridge Conceptual Design Based on Virtual Reality Graphic Engine. In IABSE Symposium Report, International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE), Bath, UK, April 19-20, 2017.

Preprints:

[P03] **Xueqi Cheng**, Minxing Zheng, Shixiang Zhu, Yushun Dong. MISLEADER: Defending against Model Extraction with Ensembles of Distilled Models. arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.02362.

[P02] Yuying Zhao, Yu Wang, **Xueqi Cheng**, Anne Marie Tumlin, Yunchao Liu, Damin Xia, Meng Jiang, and Tyler Derr. Amplifying Your Social Media Presence: Personalized Influential Content Generation with LLMs. arXiv preprint arXiv:2505.01698.

[P01] Bo Ni, Zheyuan Liu, Leyao Wang, Yongjia Lei, Yuying Zhao, **Xueqi Cheng**, Qingkai Zeng, Luna Dong, Yinglong Xia, Krishnaram Kenthapadi, Ryan Rossi, Franck Dernoncourt, Md Mehrab Tanjim, Nesreen Ahmed, Xiaorui Liu, Wenqi Fan, Erik Blasch, Yu Wang, Meng Jiang, Tyler Derr. Towards Trustworthy Retrieval Augmented Generation for Large Language Models: A Survey. arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.06872 2025.

MENTORING

Network and Data Science Lab, Vanderbilt University

Ph.D. Students

- Qinwen Ge, Ph.D. Computer Science — Spring 2025 – Present
  -Research topics: Social Network Analysis
- Bo Ni, Ph.D. Computer Science — Spring 2024 – Present
  -Research topics: Trustworthy in Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG)

Former M.S. Students

- Catherine Yang, M.S. Computer Science — Spring 2025 – Fall 2024
  -Research topics: Social network analysis
  -Next Position: Software Engineer at Microsoft

TALKS

Guest Lectures:

[L01] Introduction to Python/ PyG — Oct 2023
CS 4352: Social Network Analysis, Computer Science Department, Vanderbilt University

Industry Presentations:

[I01] Efficient Multi-turn LLM Serving — Jun 2025
AT&T Labs

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University
Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science — Aug 2023 – May 2025

- CS 4252: Social Network Analysis
- CS 4260: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- CS 5892: Project in Data-Centric AI

SERVICES

Publicity Chair

- The 5th International Workshop on Machine Learning on Graphs (MLoG) at WSDM'24

Conference Reviewer/PC Member

- NeurIPS, KDD, ICWSM, WSDM, AAAI, WWW, SDM, IEEE Big Data, CIKM, etc

Journal Reviewer

- Pattern Recognition, TKDD