CIS 519 TA Bios

Tongtong Liu (Frank)

Description: Hi everyone! I am one of the head TAs for this class and a second-year master's student in CIS. I am passionate about large-scale ML systems and have research experience in LLM chatbots and Reinforcement Learning. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or if you simply want to chat. I'm looking forward to working with you all!!! (liufrank@seas.upenn.edu)

Fun fact about me: My favorite dog is the Golden Retriever, but I haven't had the chance to get one yet

Favorite Olympic Sport: Basketball (big Warriors fan 🐕)

Interests: Video games (League and Valorant), basketball, F1, and milk tea

Zelong Wang

Description: I'm Zelong Wang, and I'm excited to be one of your head TAs this semester. I'm currently a first-year master's student in the Data Science program, with a focus on data mining and deep learning. Before this, I completed my undergraduate studies in Data Science and Applied Mathematics at UC San Diego. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about course material, data science, machine learning topics—or if you just want to chat!

Interest: tennis🎾, video games (used to play League, now playing Black Myth: Wukong🐒 and Red Dead Redemption 2), houseplants🪴, a little bit of cooking

Fun facts about me: we have a cat, but my mom and I are both allergic to her. Trying to overcome.😭

Favorite Olympic Sport: tennis

Harshwardhan Manoj Yadav (Hersh)

Description: I am a second-year Master's student in Computer and Information Science (CIS). This will be my second time TA'ing for this course. I have internship experience with NLP-based projects and enjoy solving machine learning problems from a theoretical and mathematical perspective. This interest in the foundational aspects of machine learning makes the subject both intriguing and enjoyable for me. I look forward to a great semester! Feel free to contact me at hyadav@seas.upenn.edu

Fun facts about me: I follow soccer(). I play FPS games. I like algorithms. I love cooking and banter with my friends.

Favorite Olympic Sport: Hockey & Badminton

Deeksha Sethi

Description: Hey! I'm a second-year Robotics master's student. I love applying ML & Perception to robots. I'm always here to help you with any course-work related doubts. Also, feel free to ask me anything related to job hunt, interview-preparation for ML/ Perception roles or cool projects ideas to fuse learning with robots. Sometimes, the semester can get overwhelming and I'm here to help you navigate through those tough weeks too, contact me at deesethi@seas.upenn.edu

Fun fact about me: I love John Mayer's music!

Favorite Olympic Sport: Swimming, Artistic Swimming, Hockey, Badminton, Breakdancing

Interests: Painting, Dancing, Swimming

Guangyao Dou

Description: Hi everyone! I am Guangyao, a second-year Data Science master's student. I am interested in AI safety problems and currently doing machine unlearning research for LLMs. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I'm looking forward to chatting with you all!

Fun facts about me: One of my dreams is to visit a McDonald's in every new country I travel to.

Favorite Olympic Sport: Basketball and 100-meter dash.
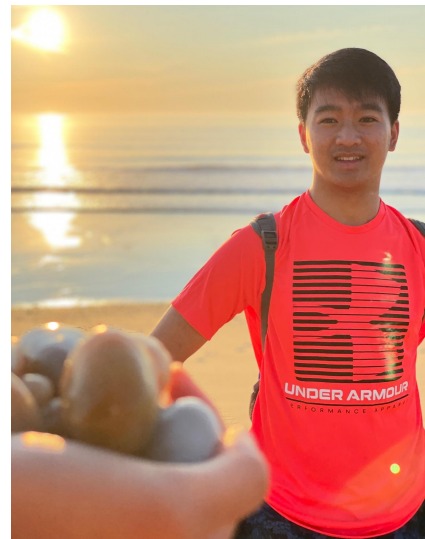
Chandler Cheung

Description: Hi everyone! I am a senior studying CIS and also doing an accelerated Master's in computer science. I am interested in applying machine learning models to various applications.

Fun facts about me: My 2 younger siblings and I were all born on a Wednesday

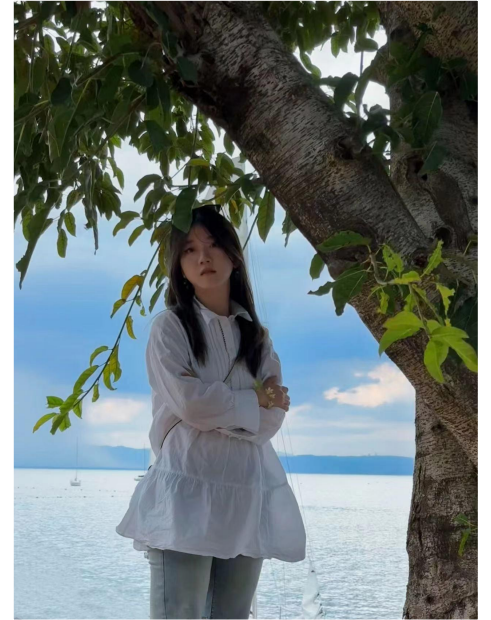**Favorite Olympic Sport:** Basketball 🏀 (NBA on top)

Jocelyn Gao

Description: Hi everyone! I am a second-year master's student in CIS. Looking forward to working with you all:)

Fun facts about me: I can binge-watch 20 episodes of TV shows in a single day.
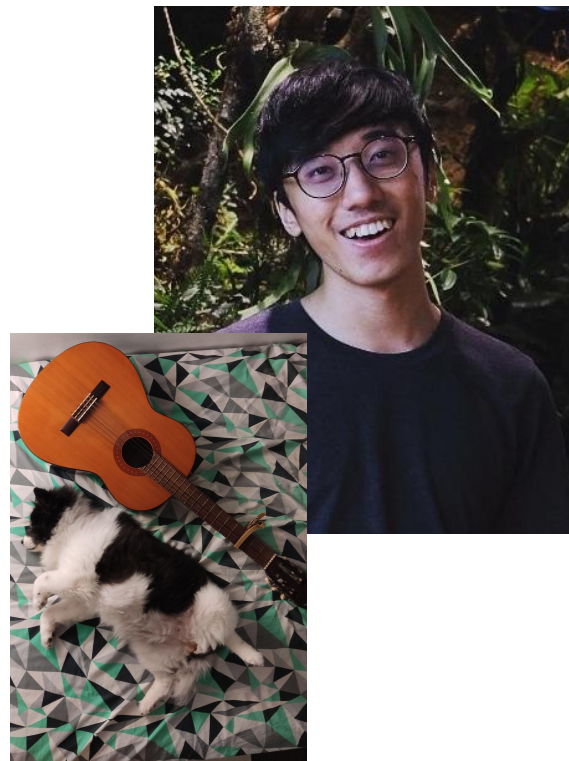
Favorite Olympic Sport: tennis

Daniel Alexander

Description: Hi! I'm Daniel from Indonesia and a first year in CIS/MSE! (alexdan@seas.upenn.edu)

Interests: Guitar 🎸 (I play fingerstyle guitar in which bass lines, melody, and percussion are played at the same time), gaming 🎮 (used to play Valorant, now leaning into more single player / story-rich games like Firewatch and Stray). occasional photography 📷 (I own a film camera but won't get it developed until end of the year due to budget constraints)

Fun facts about me: I have a dog called Mochi, and I'm from Bandung, Indonesia (hmu if you're ever in that part of Indo)
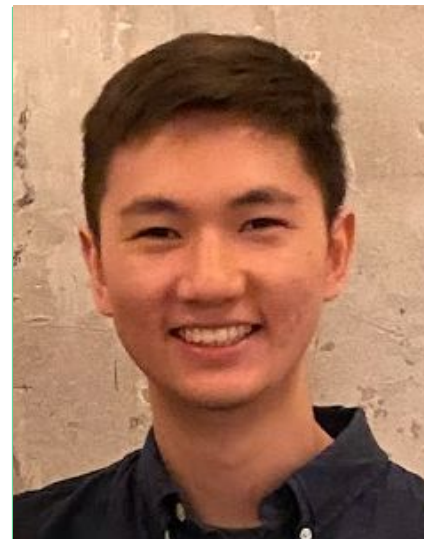
Favorite Olympic Sport: Shooting

Edward Hu

Description: I am a PhD student researching robotics, reinforcement learning, and perception.

Fun facts about me: I can eat a lot

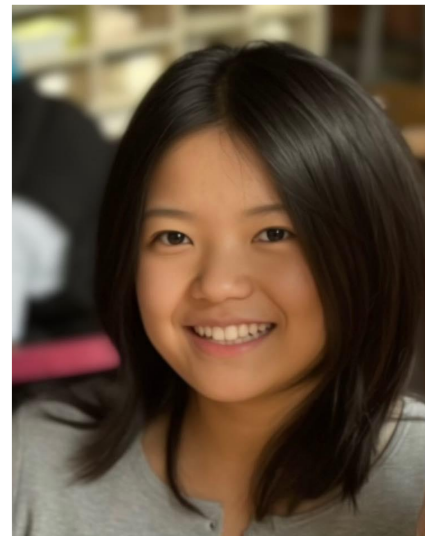**Favorite Olympic Sport:** Basketball / Badminton

Aurora Qian

Description: Hi everyone! I am a PhD student in CIS. My main research focus is robot perception, imitation learning and reinforcement learning.

Fun facts about me: I didn't know you could drift in mario kart for four years.

Favorite Olympic Sport: table tennis and weightlifting

Helen Nguyen

Description: Hi! I'm a second-year master's student in Scientific Computing.

Fun facts about me: I won the Vietnam Youth Chess Championship three consecutive times.
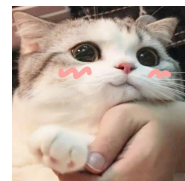
Favorite Olympic Sport: Shooting

Haorui Li

Hi folks! I'm Haorui Li. It's excited to be one of your TAs this semester. I am a second-year master's student in the DATS program, with a focus on ML. Before coming here, I got my BA and BS degrees in Math and Econ with minors in CS and Stat at UMN. So if you especially meet some problems with Math or Stat, I might help you, lol. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about this course, DS, ML, your careers, or just about your life/feelings after coming here!

Interest: Video games, music, running, dancing, and ... just watching cats?

Fun Fact: I really love cats, but I haven't had one yet. So I am petting cats online (´▽`)

Favorite Olympic Sport: Swimming?

Paofu (Puff)

Haoyun Deng (Wendy)

Description: Hi everyone! I'm a senior studying Comp Bio and CIS, and I'm excited to be your TA this sem :)) My research interest broadly involves structural biology and NLP, feel free to reach out to me for a chat or anything regarding the course at haoyund@sas.upenn.edu. Looking forward to meeting you all!

Fun facts about me: I loveeeee cats but currently don't have one :(

Favorite Olympic Sport: diving