CIS 4190/5190 TA Bios

Spring 2025

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. This will be my third time TA'ing this course. 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. I'm looking forward to working with you all!!! (liufrank@seas.upenn.edu)

Fun fact about me: I love eating Chick-fil-A so much that I could eat it seven days in a row without getting tired of it.

Favorite Olympic Sport: Basketball (big Warriors fan)

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

Harshwardhan Manoj Yadav (Hersh)

Description: I am a second-year Master's student in Computer and Information Science (CIS). This will be my third 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

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. I have some experience in projects, research, and internship in ML and system area. I got my BS degree in CS from UMich. Looking forward to working with you all :)

Interests: guitar, tennis, movies, reality shows, hiking

Favorite Olympic Sport: tennis (Novak Djokovic fan)

Daniel Alexander

Description: Hi, I'm Daniel. I did my undergraduate in Indonesia majoring in Computer Science and now studying MSE in CIS! This is going to be my second time TAing this course. I'm excited about ML and its application in robotics!

Interests: Playing guitar, traveling, taking pictures, outdoor activities (hiking and biking). I love hanging out with new friends!
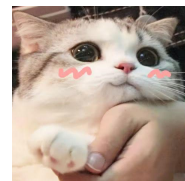
Favorite Olympic Sport: Tennis

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)

Annie Wang

Description: Hi everyone! I'm a senior studying statistics and finance with an accelerated masters in CIS. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions about the course, or would like to chat about anything else! Always happy to help and connect XD. Looking forward to meeting you all!

Interests: Piano, violin, drawing/painting, and figure skating

Fun Fact: I can play the marimba!

Favorite Olympic Sport: Gymnastics

Yue Wang

Description: Hi everyone! I am a first year master's student in Data Science and I'm excited to be your TA this sem:)

Fun facts about me: I once hiked up a mountain just to catch the sunrise, and it was totally worth the 3 AM wake-up:(

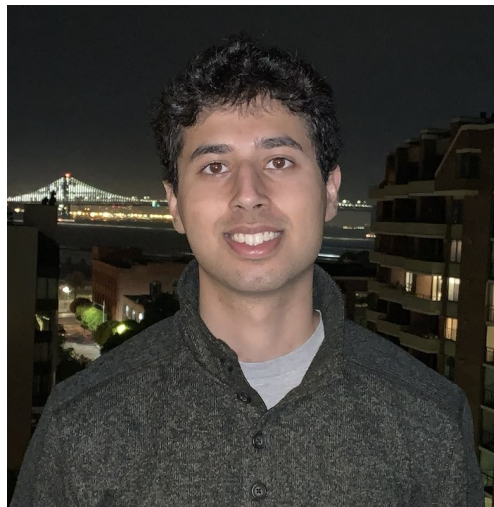**Favorite Olympic Sport:** Badminton

Aalok Patwa

Description: Hi everyone, I'm a senior studying CIS/Finance, also getting an Accelerated Masters in CS. Originally from San Jose, CA. Very passionate about deep learning, especially large transformer-based models in NLP and vision. Recently, I've been interested in LLM inference optimizations and reinforcement learning.

Fun facts about me: I've read all of JRR Tolkien's legendarium.

Favorite Olympic Sport: 4x400m

Jessica Liang

Description: Hi everyone, I'm a junior from Dallas, TX studying CIS and part of the ROBO Accelerated Master's program. I'm interested in machine learning research, primarily computer vision, NLP, and multimodal information processing.

Fun facts about me: I've played violin since I was 7 years old, and I'm President of Penn Society of Women Engineers this year!

Favorite Olympic Sport: Gymnastics

Joey Vitale

Description: Howdy, I'm from all over the place, born in the UK, raised around Europe and I am Arab Italian. I did my undergraduate studies in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Glasgow and I'm currently one credit away from my MSE in Scientific Computing.

Fun facts about me: I play the electric guitar (come see me in Penn Menagerie) and I can speak Greek

Favorite Olympic Sport: Football, the shooting is cool too
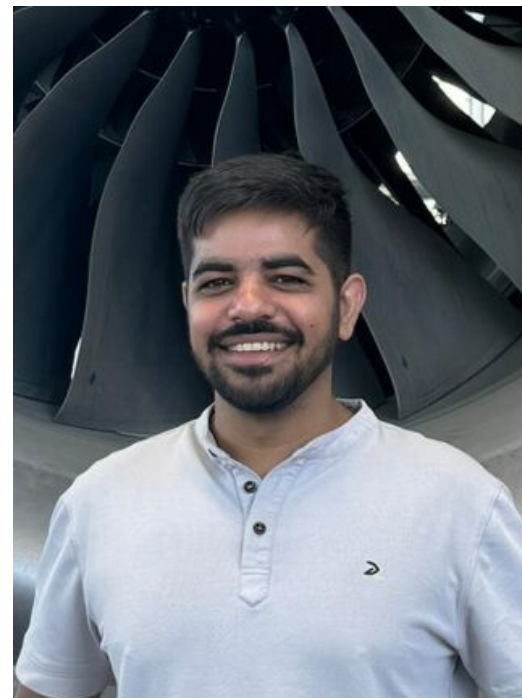
Manurag Khullar (Manu)

Description: Hi everyone! I'm a final year MSE Scientific Computing student and currently pursuing master's thesis in explainable machine learning at Shen Lab, University of Pennsylvania. Previously, I was a Data Science for Good fellow at the University of Washington in Seattle, where I conducted fairness evaluations of generative crowd flow models and also served as a technology policy analyst with the Government of India.

Fun facts about me: I love adventure water sports. I enjoy swimming, paddleboarding and river rafting.

Favorite Olympic Sport: Swimming

David Yang

Description: Hey everyone! I'm a junior in CIS and took 5190 last Spring. I'm originally from New Jersey but spend a lot of time in SF. My main interests in ML lie in optimizing datasets and distributed training. This is my first time as a TA for this class and am always excited to help!

Fun facts about me: I can cook a handful of chinese dishes almost as well as my mom (she approves of this message).

Favorite Olympic Sport: Basketball, Shot Put, eating McNuggets