

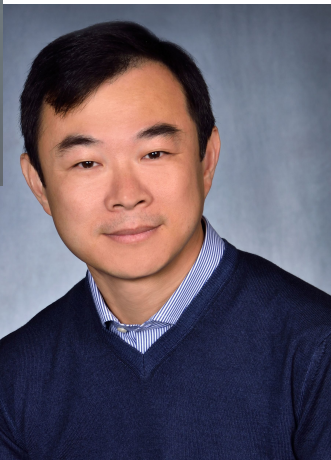
Finding and maintaining a supportive community as an ML researcher

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Research-based mentoring

- Advisors, committee members, team leads
- What if you need additional advice?
- What if you don't have a built-in mentor?

Finding Research Mentors

Dear Dr [REDACTED],

I am very interested in your research. I have read your paper "Bayesian dynamic double-forgetting networks" and enjoyed it very much. I would love to have the opportunity to work with you.

[REDACTED]

Finding Research Mentors

Lacks specifics

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Lacks specifics

Broad scope

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[REDACTED]

Lacks specifics

Broad scope

Large time commitment

Finding Research Mentors

Dear Dr [REDACTED],

I'm a PhD student working on disease transmission. I have been reading some of your work on networks, and I'm really interested in figuring out whether you can translate your Bayesian dynamic double-forgetting network model to a disease transmission setting. It seems like your double-forgetting mechanism could perhaps capture the fact that once a patient has recovered from the flu, they have immunity until the virus mutates. However, I don't have much experience in Bayesian methods. I saw that you will be giving a talk at the Fancy Network Conference next week. I will also be at that conference, would it be possible to schedule a meeting to discuss the paper and get your opinion on its applicability to disease transmission?

[REDACTED]

Finding Research Mentors

** Familiar with research*

** Clear why you chose this professor*

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** Clear request* ** Small time commitment*

Research-based mentoring programs

- Mentoring events through affinity groups, eg WiML, BAI, QAI, LXAI
- Mentoring events through workshops, e.g. ICLR Climate Change Workshop
- Deep Learning Indaba: AI4D-IndabaX
- Berkeley AI4ALL camp
- Summer fellowships such as Data Science for Social Good
- Internships are research-heavy labs and companies

Add suggestions in the rocket chat!

Defined-scope mentoring

- Mentoring related to a specific, time-boxed task:
 - PhD applications, salary negotiations, conflict resolution, interview prep...
- Apply to existing programs such as Black in AI
- Apply to programs at conferences and workshops
- Ask colleagues and networks
- Ask people at networking events
- Use university and company resources

Be **specific about goals** and **clear about expectations**

Being a good mentee

- Be clear about goals, expectation, and duration
- Be respectful of your mentor's time. Remember they are a volunteer.
- Develop trust with your mentor
- Be honest, and provide feedback
- Listen to criticism

Building a peer community

- Conferences! Talk to presenters, ask questions, attend socials.
- Online conferences: Use break-out rooms, socials, messaging services.
- Attend workshops: Both in your field and different fields.
- Summer schools
- University-based events
- Local Machine Learning/Data Science meetups and networking events

Make the effort to talk to new people, and include new people in your conversations

Mentor others

- A rewarding way to help others and have a positive impact
- Mentees often become friends, collaborators and even mentors
- You can mentor at every career stage!

Being a good mentor

- Be clear about goals
- Be clear about expectations
- Avoid overcommitting
- Work to build trust. Be honest, open and empathetic
- Don't be afraid to offer criticism

Thanks!

- To all of you
- To Zhen Xu, Zhengying Liu and Sparkle Russell for organizing this workshop
- To everyone who has mentored me in my career
- To everyone I've had the privilege to mentor