

# YU Tingyang (Yist)

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## EDUCATION

**École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)** Sep. 2023 – Sep. 2027 (expected)  
*Ph.D. in Communication and Computer Sciences (EDIC)* Lausanne, Switzerland

- EDIC Computer Science Fellowship Recipient (Direct Doctorate).
- Advised by Prof. Maria Brbic at the MLBio Lab.
- Engaged in the advanced development of machine learning and AI models, focusing on single-cell analysis, including gene expression profiles, multi-omics data, and spatial transcriptomics, to extract critical biological insights.

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)** Aug. 2019 – July 2023  
*B.Sc. in Mathematics and Information Engineering (MIEG) With Honours, First Class* Hong Kong SAR, China

- Ranked among the **top 3** students among MIEG students admitted in 2019-20. (Exact rank is unavailable for students)
- **Winter semester exchange program in Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, University of Toronto (UoT), 2021-22.**
- Ranked **top 0.4%** among **163,000** science students in the National College Entrance Exam.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Subgraph Augmentation for Graph Neural Networks** Sep. 2022 – May, 2023  
*Final year project supervised by Professor Irwin King (CUHK)* Hong Kong SAR, China

- Conducted thorough experiments which showed that this strategy outperformed state-of-the-art sampling strategies published at ICLR 2022 on graph classification by 3% on TU datasets. It further reduced the space complexity up to 55% on dataset IMDB-MULTI and 10-20% training time on dataset NCI1 compared to the second best strategy.

**Projection Robust Unbalanced Optimal Transport** Feb. 2022 – Dec. 2022  
*Research Assistant to Professor Ma Shiqian (University of California, Davis)* California, USA

- Presented a new model called projection robust unbalanced optimal transport (PRUOT) to alleviate the curse of dimensionality for computing the Wasserstein distance between unbalanced distributions.
- Illustrated a Riemannian optimization algorithm RGAS-UOT for solving this new model and proved its non-trivial finite-time convergence guarantee to obtain the stationary point. Numerical experiments were given to demonstrate the advantages of the PRUOT model in high-dimensional cases. **The work was presented in Preprint [4]**

**Single-cell Multi-omics Integration with Random Walk and Graph Neural Network** April, 2021 – Sep., 2023  
*Research Assistant to Professor Li Yu (CUHK)* Hong Kong SAR, China

- Presented *scMinerva*, an unsupervised Graph Convolutional Network framework for single-cell multi-omics integration, which featured a novel algorithm *omics2vec* that enabled random walk algorithm for heterogeneous graphs.
- *scMinerva* achieved superior classification performance among 7 state-of-the-art methods on 6 real-world datasets and improved classification accuracy up to 20% on dataset GSE128639 when classifying to 27 classes.
- Won the Best Project Award for Summer Research Internship of CUHK, 2020-21 (**Top 10% out of 46 projects**).

**Zyablov Bound on General Adversarial Various Channels** June, 2020 – Sep. 2020  
*Research Assistant to Professor Sidharth Jaggi (CUHK)* Hong Kong SAR, China

- Worked on extending Zyablov Bound which is based on concatenated code to the general adversarial various channels.
- Revisited the basic assumptions for classic Zyablov Bound from coding theory and information theory and examined them from classic channels to general adversarial various channels, which are more practical in real-life transmissions.

## ACADEMIC AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

EDIC Computer Science Fellowship (54,000 CHF), 2023-24; *EDIC, EPFL*  
Academic Excellence Scholarship for Non-local Students (30,000 HKD), 2022-23; *Faculty of Science, CUHK*  
Professor Charles K. Kao Exchange Scholarship (50,000 HKD), 2021-22; *The Charles K. Kao Foundation*  
Dean's List (Top 10%) of 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23; *CUHK*  
ELITE Stream Scholarship (20,000 HKD) of 2019-20, 2020-21; *ELITE Stream*  
IE Award for Academic Exchange (30,000 HKD), 2021-22; *Dept. of Information Engineering, CUHK*  
Best Project Award for Summer Research Internship of CUHK, 2020-21; *Faculty of Engineering, CUHK*  
Morningside Academic Scholarship (10,000 HKD) of 2020-21; *Morningside College*  
Master's List of 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23; *Morningside College, CUHK*  
Morningside Admission Scholarship (12,000 HKD) of 2019-20; *Morningside College*  
Second Prize of Hua Xia Cup Mathematical Olympiad, 2018-19; *Asia Maths Alliance*  
Second Prize in National Physics Competition for Senior High, 2018-19; *National Physics Competition Committee*  
Second Prize in National Mathematics Competition for Senior High, 2018-19. *Chinese Mathematics Society*

## PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

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1. **scMinerva: an Unsupervised Graph Learning Framework with Label-efficient Fine-tuning for Single-cell Multi-omics Integrative Analysis** [paper]  
Tingyang Yu, Yongshuo Zong, Yixuan Wang, Xuesong Wang, Yu Li.  
*bioRxiv Preprint 2022 (Major revision at Advanced Science)*
2. **Contrastive Cycle Adversarial Autoencoders for Single-cell Multiomics Alignment and Integration** [paper]  
Xuesong Wang, Zhihang Hu, Tingyang YU, Ruijie Wang, Yumeng Wei, Juan Shu, Jianzhu Ma, Yu Li  
*Bioinformatics 2023*
3. **conST: an interpretable multi-modal contrastive learning framework for spatial transcriptomics** [paper]  
Yongshuo Zong, Tingyang YU, Xuesong Wang, Yixuan Wang, Zhihang Hu, Yu Li  
*bioRxiv Preprint 2021 (Major revision at Nucleic Acids Research)*
4. **Fool Your (Vision and) Language Model With Embarrassingly Simple Permutations.** [paper]  
Yongshuo Zong, Tingyang Yu Bingchen Zhao, Ruchika Chavhan, and Timothy Hospedales.  
*Preprint 2023 (Submitted to ICLR 2024)*
5. **Projection Robust Optimal Transport Between Unbalanced Distributions** [paper]  
Tingyang Yu\*, Yuxuan Wan\*, Shiqian Ma. *Preprint 2022*

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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Reviewer for RECOMB 2024 (1 paper).

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### Mandarin Debate Team of CUHK

Sep. 2019 – May, 2021

*Captain and Team Member*

Hong Kong SAR, China

- Prepared over 9 hours of weekly debate training material for 120+ team members and handled logistics for team registration and participation in 10+ international competitions.
- Launched the team PR group to advertise the competition results and liaise with other parties for collaborations. Fund-raised over 30,000 CNY from corporate sponsors for international competition trips and debate visits.

### Exemplar Tournament Freshman Mandarin Debate Competition

Mar. 2021 – May, 2021

*Founder and Contributor*

Hong Kong SAR, China

- Founded the "Exemplar Tournament" Freshman Mandarin Debate Competition as the first international Mandarin debate competition initiated by CUHK. The competition received more than 14,000 HKD as funding from CUHK.
- Drafted the Tournament Regulations, resolved multiple emergencies during the 2-month competition period, and organized team registration for more than 50 universities and debate clubs all over the world.

## COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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### Women in IC

Sep. 2023 - Present

*Committee Member*

Lausanne, Switzerland

- Pioneered the design of the organization's first logo, encapsulating themes of gender equality and social justice.
- Organize seminars and workshops, providing platforms for female researchers and engineers in communication and computer sciences to share their experiences and inspire others.

### Plast it Back, Zero Emission Group

Sep. 2023 - Present

*Group Member*

Lausanne, Switzerland

- Recycle plastics from material science and chemistry labs across EPFL and UNIL campuses to reduce plastic waste.
- Process recycled plastics for use as raw materials in 3D printing, contributing to sustainable product creation.

### Project Nous

May 2023 - August 2023

*Seminar leader and Contributor*

Harbin, China

- Brought liberal arts education and seminar-style learning to students from Harbin, China. Develop a 30-hour seminar series with ten sessions titled as *Understanding sets us free: modern society from the view of gender study*.
- Guided 14 high school students and undergraduate students through gender study and civic engagement activities. Encouraged discussion in seminars to think critically and forge connections between the self and the community.

### Hong Kong Dog Rescue

Jan. 2023 - Mar. 2023

*Part-time Volunteer*

Hong Kong SAR, China

- Clean the dog kennels, attend to dogs with health issues, invigorate and promote socialization among the 600 dogs of the Tai Po Homing Center.

- Help to facilitate Homing Center visits and advertise the work of HKDR with the objective of enhancing the understanding of dogs in Hong Kong and reducing the instances of pet abandonment.

### “WOMEN US” Girl Empowerment Project

Feb. 2021 – Feb. 2022

*Founder and Contributor*

Mainland, China

- Initiated the “WOMEN US” Girl Empowerment project, a mainland China based non-profit self-empowerment project for female high school students that provides reading material on the power of women to broaden their horizons.
- Collaborated with Fudan University’s iGEM team to introduce their projects to the students of No.1 Middle School in Qinghai Province to introduce the story of female scientists and germinate youth interest in STEM.
- Developed a WeChat mini-program to connect high-school students with undergraduates from diverse disciplines.

### SANGCHU Marmots Youth Hostel

June, 2021 – July, 2021

*Full-time Volunteer*

Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

- Worked on the daily affairs of the hostel, including cleaning, cooking, and social media advertisements.
- Participated in marmot protection activities, infectious diseases management and population control. Provided local and social culture immersion tours for international tourists.

## EXTRA-CURRICULUM AWARDS

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### 2020 HANGZHOU Mandarin Debate Grand Prix (256 teams)

Jan. 2020 - Mar. 2020

*“Best Debater Award Among All the Teams” in Hong Kong area.*

Virtual

### The 1st FENGYE Cup Mandarin Debate Competition (32 teams)

Mar. 2020 - May, 2020

*Champion; “Best Debater Award for the Competition”.*

Virtual

### The Thirteenth XINWEI-HUAXIA Mandarin Debate World Cup (48 teams)

Sep. 2020

*“Best Debater Award for the Competition”.*

The University of New South Wales

## SKILLS & MISC.

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- *Language* English (professional), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (fluent).
- *Programming* Matlab, Java, C, R, Python {Pytorch, Tensorflow, NetworkX, Pandas, Numpy, sklearn}.
- *Tools* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Linux, Anaconda, Git, MongoDB, Docker, WanDB, Abode Illustrator.
- *Hobbies* Writing, songwriting, swimming, running, bodybuilding, *etc.*