

Wei Fu

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EDUCATION

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC May. 2013 - May. 2018
Ph.D. Computer Science | Adviser: Dr. Tim Menzies

Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing, China Sep. 2009 - Mar. 2012
M.S. Electrical Engineering

Nanjing University of Technology, Nanjing, China Sep. 2005 - Jun. 2009
B.S. Electrical Engineering

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Interests: ML-based projects, include but not limited to computer vision, recommendation systems, NLP.
- ML development: data analysis/processing, algorithm research, model iteration, profiling and deployment.
- Tools and Frameworks: Python/C++, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, PyTorch, AWS, Docker, Jenkins.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Senior Machine Learning Engineer | NewsBreak, Mountain View, CA Feb. 2021 - Now
Recommendation System, ML Algorithm Exploration

- Lead engineering effort on NewsBreak related documents recommendation system: document retrievers, filtering pipeline, ranking & blending strategies, recommendation strategies, and product iteration. Improved the online metrics (user engagement) by 15%+.
- Lead effort to collaborate with other teams to analyze user feedback and improve NewsBreak App user engagement rate, satisfaction and user experience.
- Lead effort to design, implement, and deploy personalized local sports service into NewsBreak App, which serves millions of NewsBreak APP users with updated local sports news.

Machine Learning Engineer | Landing AI, Palo Alto, CA May. 2018 - Feb. 2021
Data Pipeline, ML Algorithm Exploration, Model Iteration/Optimization, Error Analysis

- Designed, implement, and deployed a computer vision-based software solution to a multinational electronics contract manufacturer to inspect visual defects on IC chips. Owned data pipeline, model iteration, and error analysis.
- Key contributor to design and implement AI-harvesters to enable automatic harvesting. My contributions include data labeling pipeline, building regression set, algorithm research, design, and implement the object detection component to detect the region of interests to solve the pain points of wheat harvesting.
- Drive to design, build, and implement an end to end object detection solution for a multinational biomedical company to do syringe quality control. The system greatly helps the client to reduce the false positive of the existing AVI system.
- Other stuff: converting models to TensorRT engines to reduce the inference time and decreased the memory footprint; Building labeling pipeline with SageMaker.

Research Intern | ABB, Raleigh, NC May. 2016 - Aug. 2016
Software Project Data Visualization and Exploration

- Collected and preprocessed software process data and issue/bug reports data from 1300+ projects in ABB.
- Built a machine learning tool to classify reports into different categories based on the extracted key words and features.
- This tool achieved 0.9 F1 score on test set and can easily help software developers understand software issues.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

NSF Funded: Search-based Software Engineering Research Sep, 2014 - May, 2018
Research Assistant Under Dr. Tim Menzies, North Carolina State University, USA

- **Hyper-parameter Tuning for Software Analytics:** Software researchers and practitioners routinely use machine learning to explore software project data. However, they rarely tune hyper-parameter of their learners. By applying *Differential Evolution* on defect predictors, we find it (DE) can quickly find tunings that alter detection precision from 0% to 60%; DE can dramatically reduce clustering instability for LDA.
- **Differential Evolution v.s. Grid Search:** Grid search has become a de-facto hyper-parameter tuning technique for machine learning algorithms over years. However, for software analytics, we show that Differential Evolution as a tuner has better performance than grid search and also 210X faster.
- **Supervised v.s. Unsupervised Learning:** There's a debate about choices of defect predictors. In this project, we show that, in practice, unsupervised learning is not stable for deploying defect prediction, some supervised data is required to prune weaker models when building effort-aware just-in-time defect predictors.
- **Simple Techniques for Software Analytics:** *Deep Learning* has become a buzzword in both academia and industry. It seems that every single task should be solved by deep learning. In this project, we revisited a SE task recently solved by deep learning. However, after applying differential evolution-based parameter tuning on SVM, our results outperform the deep learning method in terms of performance metrics and also 84X faster.

- **Heterogeneous Defect Prediction:** For new software projects, historical data is missing. To build defect predictors, we proposed that historical data with different metrics from different projects can be used to build software quality models to predict quality of the target project. By using the mathematical models, we identify categories of data sets as few as 50 instances are enough to build a defect prediction model.
- **Bellwether Effect in Software Analytics** We find a “bellwether” effect in software analytics. Given N data sets, we find there always one data set produces the best predictions on all the others. This “bellwether” data set then can be used for all subsequent predictions.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- A. Agrawal, **W. Fu**, D. Chen, X. Shen, and T. Menzies. *How to “DODGE” Complex Software Analytics?*. **TSE**, 2019. [↗](http://tiny.cc/Dodge)→<http://tiny.cc/Dodge>.
- D. Chen, **W. Fu**, R. Krishna, and T. Menzies. *Applications of psychological science for actionable analytics*. **FSE’18**. [↗](http://tiny.cc/wfufft)→tiny.cc/wfufft.
- **W. Fu** and T. Menzies. *Easy over Hard: A Case Study on Deep Learning*. **FSE’17**. [↗](http://tiny.cc/wfuDL)→tiny.cc/wfuDL.
- **W. Fu** and T. Menzies. *Revisiting Unsupervised Learning for Defect Prediction*. **FSE’17**. [↗](http://tiny.cc/wfuOneWay)→tiny.cc/wfuOneWay.
- JC Nam, **W. Fu**, S. Kim, T. Menzies, and L. Tan. *Heterogeneous Defect Prediction*. **TSE**, 2017. [↗](http://tiny.cc/wfuHDP)→tiny.cc/wfuHDP.
- **W. Fu**, T. Menzies, X. Shen, *Tuning for Software Analytics: is it Really Necessary*. **IST**, 2016. [↗](http://tiny.cc/wfuTuning)→tiny.cc/wfuTuning.
- R. Krishna, T. Menzies, and **W. Fu**. *Too Much Automation? the Bellwether Effect and Its Implications for Transfer Learning*. **ASE’16**. [↗](http://tiny.cc/wfuBellwether)→tiny.cc/wfuBellwether.