

Manqing Liu

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Summary

I am currently a 4th year PhD Candidate at Harvard studying causal machine learning. My research interests include using deep learning models to estimate causal effects, and how causality can be used to improve the **reasoning** capabilities and **safety** of multimodal LLMs. I am co-advised by Dr. Andrew Beam and Dr. James Robins. I am also a member of the Causal Lab.

Education

- 2021–Present **Ph.D. in Causal Machine Learning**, *Harvard University*
- 2022–Present **Secondary field in Computer Science and Engineering**, *Harvard University*
- 2021–Present **M.Sc in Biostatistics**, *Harvard University*
- 2017–2020 **Post-Baccalaureate Studies in Maths/Statistics**, *University of Pennsylvania*
- 2014–2016 **MHS in Epidemiology**, *Johns Hopkins University*

Relevant Coursework

- Causality Advanced Epidemiologic Methods, Models for Causal Inference
- Maths and Statistics (MIT) Matrix Methods in Data Analysis & Signal Processing, (MIT) Introduction to Functional Analysis, Probability, Statistical Inference, Advanced Regression and Statistical Learning, Bayesian Inference
- Computer Science Systems Development for Computational Science, High Performance Computing for Science and Engineering, Stochastic Methods for Data Analysis, Inference and Optimization
- Machine Learning (MIT) Machine Learning, (MIT) Quantitative Methods for NLP, Deep Learning for Biomedical Data, Geometric Methods for Machine Learning, Algorithms for Data Science

Research Experience

- Oct 2024 – **Doubly Robust MCTS for LLM reasoning**
Present Integrated doubly robust estimator into Monte Carlo Tree Search (MCTS), enabling large language models to perform complex, multi-step reasoning and planning with higher accuracy in real-world scenarios.
- June 2023 – **DAG aware Transformer**
Dec 2024 Engineered a novel DAG-aware transformer model to precisely estimate causal effects, addressing foundational challenges in unifying causal effect estimation under various scenarios.

Publications

- 2025 **Doubly Robust Monte Carlo Tree Search**, *Liu M.*, Beam A. Under review at ICML. Available at: [arXiv:2502.01672](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.01672)
- 2024 **DAG-Aware Transformer for Causal Effect Estimation**, *Liu M.*, Bellamy D., Robins J., Beam A. Causal Representation Learning workshop at NeurIPS 2024. Available at: [arXiv:2410.10044](https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.10044)
- 2022 **Development of Machine Learning Algorithms Incorporating Electronic Health Record Data, Patient-Reported Outcomes, or Both to Predict Mortality for Outpatients with Cancer**, Parikh R.B., Hasler J.S., Zhang Y., *Liu M.*, Chivers C., et al., *JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics*, 6.
- 2021 **Trajectories of Mortality Risk Among Patients with Cancer and Associated End-of-Life Utilization**, Parikh R.B., *Liu M.*, Li E., Li R., Chen J., *npj Digital Medicine*, 4(1):104.
- 2020 **Validation of a Machine Learning Algorithm to Predict 180-Day Mortality for Outpatients with Cancer**, Manz C.R., Chen J., *Liu M.*, Chivers C., Regli S.H., et al., *JAMA Oncology*, 6(11):1723-1730.
- 2019 **Assessment of Inpatient Time Allocation Among First-Year Internal Medicine Residents Using Time-Motion Observations**, Chaiyachati K.H., Shea J.A., Asch D.A., *Liu M.*, Bellini L.M., et al., *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 179(6):760-767.

Professional Experience

2024 summer **Technical AI safety Fellowship**, *AI safety student team*

Attended a 8-week reading group on AI safety, covering topics like neural network interpretability, learning from human feedback, goal misgeneralization in reinforcement learning agents, and eliciting latent knowledge.

2017–2021 **Biostatistician**, *Penn Medicine*

Collaborated with clinical researchers, biostatisticians, and data scientists to harness electronic health record (EHR) data for machine learning applications. Developed and deployed predictive models to forecast patient outcomes, enabling data-driven decision-making in healthcare settings. Led cross-functional efforts to integrate machine learning workflows into clinical practice, optimizing efficiency and enhancing patient care outcomes.

Skills

Programming Languages Python, C++, R, SAS, STATA

Libraries and Frameworks PyTorch, Tensorflow, Pandas, NumPy

Others Causal Inference, Machine Learning, Deep Learning