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Associate Director, MS Analytics
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Georgia Tech
POLO CHAU
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POSITIONS

May 2014 -
Associate Director
MS in Analytics, Georgia Tech

Aug 2018 -
Associate Professor
School of Computational Science & Engineering, Georgia Tech

Aug 2012 - Aug 2018
Assistant Professor
School of Computational Science & Engineering, Georgia Tech

Dec 2012 - Dec 2015
Adjunct Assistant Professor
School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech

Students (see all)
Austin Wright, ML PhD
Zijie (Jay) Wang, ML PhD
Haekyu Park, CS PhD
Scott Freitas, ML PhD
Nilaksh Das, CSE PhD
Fred Hohman, CSE PhD
Shang-Tse Chen, CS PhD
Minsuk (Brian) Kahng, CS PhD
Siwei (Bob) Li, CS UG
Angel (Alex) Cabrera, CS UG
Joon Kim, CS UG
Sudeep Agarwal, CS UG
Kristina Marotta, CS OMS
Matthew Keezer, MS CS

Recent Alumni (see all)
How to address Polo?

Grammatically **correct**

Prof. Chau

Dr. Chau

Grammatically **incorrect**, but popular

Prof. Polo

Dr. Polo
Course Registration

This class room seats 300. If you are on the waitlist, please wait for seats to released (some students typically “drop” after today). I’ll also increase the cap to close to 300.

CSE 6242 A

236/250 seats filled
102/250 waitlist slots taken

CSE 6242 Q (distance-learning): 6 students
Course TAs  Be very very nice to them!

Priyank  Madria
Anmol  Chhabria
Aastha  Agrrawal
Haekyu  Park
Hanna  Kim
Sharmila  Baskaran

Office hours and locations (TBD) on course homepage
poloclub.gatech.edu/cse6242
Scalable. Interactive. Interpretable.

At Georgia Tech, we innovate scalable, interactive, and interpretable tools that amplify human's ability to understand and interact with billion-scale data and machine learning models. Our current research thrusts: human-centered AI (interpretable, fair, safe AI; adversarial ML); large graph visualization and mining; cybersecurity; and social good (health, energy).
We work with (really) large data.
Internet
50 Billion Web Pages
Facebook
2 Billion Users
Citation Network

250 Million Articles
Many More

Twitter
Who-follows-whom (500 million users)

Amazon
Who-buys-what (120 million users)

AT&T Cellphone Network
Who-calls-whom (100 million users)

Protein-protein interactions
200 million possible interactions in human genome

"Big Data" Analyzed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graph</th>
<th>Nodes</th>
<th>Edges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YahooWeb</td>
<td>1.4 Billion</td>
<td>6 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symantec Machine-File Graph</td>
<td>1 Billion</td>
<td>37 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>104 Million</td>
<td>3.7 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone call network</td>
<td>30 Million</td>
<td>260 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also work with small data. Small data also needs love.
7±2

Number of items an average human holds in working memory

George Miller, 1956
Data Insights
How to do that?

**COMPUTATION** + **HUMAN INTUITION**
Or, to ride the AI wave...

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

+ **HUMAN INTELLIGENCE**
How to do that?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>COMPUTATION</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automatic</td>
<td>User-driven; iterative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarization, clustering, classification</td>
<td>Interaction, visualization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;Millions of nodes</td>
<td>Thousands of nodes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both develop methods for making sense of network data
How to do that?

**COMPUTATION** | **INTERACTIVE VIS**
---|---
Automatic
Summarization, clustering, classification
>Millions of nodes
How to do that?

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- Automatic
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How to do that?

**COMPUTATION**

- Automatic
- Summarization, clustering, classification

**INTERACTIVE VIS**

- User-driven; iterative
- Interaction, visualization
- Thousands of nodes
Our Approach for Big Data Analytics

**DATA MINING** | **HCI**
---|---
Automatic | User-driven; iterative
Summarization, clustering, classification | Interaction, visualization
>Millions of items | Thousands of items

Our research combines the **Best of Both Worlds**
Our mission & vision:

Scalable, interactive, usable tools for big data analytics
“Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid.

Human beings are incredibly slow, inaccurate, and brilliant.

Together they are powerful beyond imagination.”

(Einstein might or might not have said this.)
Logistics

Course website
(policies, syllabus, schedule, etc.)
https://poloclub.github.io/cse6242-2019fall-campus/
(link also available on Canvas)

Discussion, Q&A, find teammates
Piazza
(link/tab available on Canvas)

Assignment Submission
Canvas

Make sure you’re in the right Piazza!
(CSE-6242-O01, CSE-6242-OAN have their Piazza forums too)
Course Homepage

For syllabus, schedule, projects, datasets, etc.

If you Google “cse6242”, you will see many matches. Make sure you click the correct site!
Join Piazza ASAP  
(via canvas.gatech.edu)

Announcements and Discussion

We use Piazza for all announcements and discussion. Everyone must join this class's Piazza (link available on Canvas). Double check that you are joining the correct Piazza! There are multiple concurrent course sections with the same name and course number taking place, e.g., online for OMSA and OMSCS, and campus for Atlanta-based students.

The fastest way to get help with homework assignments is to post your questions on Piazza. That way, only our TAs and instructor can help, your peers can too.

If you prefer that your question addresses to only our TAs and the instructor, you can use the private post feature (i.e., check the "Individual Students(s) / Instructors(s)" radio box).

While we welcome everyone to share their experiences in tackling issues and helping each other out, but please do not post your answers, as that may affect the learning experience of your fellow classmates.
Important to join Piazza because...

- Polo will announce events related to this class and data science in general
  - Distinguished lectures
  - Seminars
  - Hackathons (free food, prizes)
  - Company recruitment events (free food, swag)
Course Goals
What is Data & Visual Analytics?
What is Data & Visual Analytics?

No formal definition!
What is **Data & Visual Analytics**?

No formal definition!

Polo’s definition:
the *interdisciplinary* science of combining computation techniques and interactive visualization to transform and model data to aid discovery, decision making, etc.
What are the “ingredients”?
What are the “ingredients”?

Need to worry (a lot) about: storage, complex system design, scalability of algorithms, visualization techniques, interaction techniques, statistical tests, etc.

Wasn’t this complex before this big data era. Why?
The World of Data

Number of Emails Sent Every Second: 2.9 Million
Data Consumed by Households Each Day: 375 Megabytes
Video Uploaded to YouTube Every Minute: 20 Hours
Data Per Day Processed by Google: 24 Petabytes

Tweets Per Day: 50 Million
Total Minutes Spent on Facebook Each Month: 700 Billion
Data Sent and Received by Mobile Internet Users: 1.3 Exabytes
Products Ordered on Amazon Per Second: 72.9 Items

In the 21st century, we live a large part of our lives online. Almost everything we do is reduced to bits and sent through cables around the world at light speed. But just how much data are we generating? This is a look at just some of the massive amounts of information that human beings create every single day.

Sources: Cisco, comscore, MapR, Rackspace, Adobe, GroupLy, TelsaMote, YouTube

A collaboration between Good and Oliver Munday

http://spanning.com/blog/choosing-between-storage-based-and-unlimited-storage-for-cloud-data-backup/
What is **big data**? Why care?

Many businesses are based on big data.

**Search engines**: rank webpages, predict what you’re going to type

**Advertisement**: infer what you like, based on what your friends like; show relevant ads

**E-commerce**: recommends movies/products (e.g., Netflix, Amazon)

Health IT: patient records (EMR)

Finance
Good news! Many jobs!

Most companies are looking for “data scientists”

The data scientist role is critical for organizations looking to extract insight from information assets for ‘big data’ initiatives and requires a broad combination of skills that may be fulfilled better as a team

- Gartner (http://www.gartner.com/it-glossary/data-scientist)

Breadth of knowledge is important.
This course helps you learn some important skills.
Course Schedule
(Analytics Building Blocks)

- Collection
- Cleaning
- Integration
- Analysis
- Visualization
- Presentation
- Dissemination
Building blocks. Not Rigid “Steps”.

- Collection
- Cleaning
- Integration
- Analysis
- Visualization
- Presentation
- Dissemination

Can skip some

Can go back (two-way street)

- **Data types** inform **visualization** design
- **Data size** informs choice of **algorithms**
- **Visualization** motivates more **data cleaning**
- **Visualization** challenges algorithm assumptions
e.g., user finds that results don’t make sense
Course Goals

• Learn visual and computation techniques and use them in complementary ways

• Gain a breadth of knowledge

• Learn practical know-how by working on real data & problems
Grading

- [50%] 4 homework assignments
- End-to-end analysis
- Techniques (computation and vis)
- “Big data” tools, e.g., Hadoop, Spark, etc.
- [50%] Group project -- 4 to 6 people
- [Tentative bonus points] In-class pop quizzes
  - Each quiz is worth 1% course grade
- No exams
Policies
On website; we go through them now

Grading, plagiarism, collaboration, late submission, and the “warnings” about the difficulty this course
From Previous Classes…

- Class projects turned into papers at top conferences (KDD, IUI, etc.)
- Projects as portfolio pieces on CV
- Increased job and internship opportunities
- Former students sent me “thank you” notes
Aurigo: An Interactive Tour Planner for Personalized Itineraries

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Georgia Institute of Technology
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ABSTRACT
Planning personalized tour itineraries is a complex and challenging task for both humans and computers. Doing it manually is time-consuming; approaching it as an optimization problem is computationally NP hard. We present Aurigo, a tour planning system combining a recommendation algorithm with interactive visualization to create personalized itineraries. This hybrid approach enables Aurigo to take into account both quantitative and qualitative preferences of the user. We conducted a within-subject study with 10 participants, which demonstrated that Aurigo helped them find points of interest quickly. Most participants chose Aurigo over Google Maps as their preferred tools to create personalized itineraries. Aurigo may be integrated into review websites or social networks, to leverage their databases of reviews and ratings and provide better itinerary recommendations.

Author Keywords
User Interfaces; Visualization; Recommendation; Tour itinerary planning

ACM Classification Keywords
(e.g. HCI): User interfaces
ISPARK: Interactive Visual Analytics for Fire Incidents and Station Placement

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Georgia Tech
Atlanta, GA, USA
{das, andream, jminieri, nandita, sriramp, polo}@gatech.edu

ABSTRACT

In support of helping to reduce the response time of firefighters, and thus deaths, injuries, and property loss due to fires, we introduce ISPARK. The ISPARK system determines where fire stations should be located, analyzes the primary causes of fires, the existing infrastructure, and response times, by using visualizations which show the GIS mapping of fire stations on a dashboard. Incidents and response times are shown as additional layers, with clustering of fire incidents to determine predicted fire station locations, forecasting of fire incidents using regression, causal, infrastructure, and personnel analysis, creating an interactive, multi-faceted method for locating fire stations. A comparison of urban and rural fire incident response times is another dimension of this study. We demonstrate ISPARK’s usage and benefits using a publicly available dataset describing 300,000 fire incidents in the states of Massachusetts and Maine. ISPARK is generalizable to other geographic areas.

Figure 1: Screenshot of ISPARK showing actual (pink) and predicted (green) fire station locations in Maine determined by our approach, using coordinates with actual driving distances from fire stations to actual fire incidents. Fire incidents are shown as small yellow dots. ISPARK reduces the average
PASSAGE: A Travel Safety Assistant With Safe Path Recommendations For Pedestrians

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Abstract
Atlanta has consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous cities in America with over 2.5 million crime events recorded within the past six years. People who commute by walking are highly susceptible to crime here. To address this problem, our research group has developed a mobile application, PASSAGE, which uses crime data to find "safe path" recommendations for Atlanta pedestrians.

Figure 1: Paths recommended by PASSAGE
“I feel like the concepts from your class are like a **rite of passage for an aspiring data scientist**. Assignments lead to feelings of accomplishment and truly progressing in my area of passion.”

“I really get more intuition about how to **deal with data with some powerful tools in HW3** [uses AWS]. That feeling is beyond description for me.”

“I would like to say thank you for your class! Thanks to the skills I got from the class and the project, **I got the offer**.”
What Polo expects from you

• Actively participate throughout the course!
• Ask questions during class and on Piazza
• Help out whenever you can, e.g., help answer questions on Piazza
• Polo reserves last few minutes of every class for Q&A
FREE After-class Coffee

- After (some) classes, Polo randomly selects 5 students (+2 volunteers) for FREE after-class coffee.
- Polo’s treat. You can order coffee, tea, pastries — whatever you want.
- Very casual — you can ask me ANYTHING.
- Will try doing this starting next week!