

# Rui Shu

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: [ruishu@stanford.edu](mailto:ruishu@stanford.edu)

Website: [ruishu.io](http://ruishu.io)

Github: [github.com/RuiShu](https://github.com/RuiShu)

## OVERVIEW

I am a CS Ph.D. student at Stanford University. My research focus has primarily been on domain adaptation, semi-supervised learning, and density estimation. I am interested in developing learning algorithms through the lens of regularization and seek to better understand the inductive bias of deep learning models.

## EDUCATION

**Stanford University, Ph.D.** (2017 – Present)

- Computer Science: Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence
- Advisor: Stefano Ermon

**Stanford University, M.Sc.** (2015 – 2017)

- Biomedical Informatics. GPA: 3.92.
- Selected coursework: Representation learning in computation vision · probabilistic graphical models · sequential decision making · convex optimization

**Dartmouth College, B.A.** (2011 – 2014)

- Chemistry, with Minor in Statistics. GPA: 3.95
- Selected coursework: Theoretical machine learning · communication protocols and complexity · probability and statistical inference

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**DeepMind for Google**, Mountain View, California USA

**Research Intern**, (2018)

In-progress. Currently developing new methods for domain adaptation and variational inference.

**Adobe Research**, San Jose, California USA

**Research Intern**, (2017 – 2018)

Developed a novel approach to unsupervised domain adaptation by leveraging the cluster assumption. Demonstrated that the model achieves state-of-the-art on several visual domain adaptation benchmarks. Work presented at the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).

**Adobe Research**, San Jose, California USA

**Research Intern**, (2016 – 2017)

Developed a novel framework for semi-supervised high-dimensional conditional density estimation by hybridizing joint and conditional variational autoencoders. Work presented at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML).

**Fliptop**, San Francisco, California USA (acquired by LinkedIn)

**Data Scientist Intern**, (2015)

Created a Python pipeline for large-scale feature extraction and model evaluation. Demonstrated that simpler, well-regularized models were able to achieve 5% predictive accuracy improvement in comparison to Fliptop's existing algorithms.

## PUBLICATIONS

**R. Shu**, H. Bui, S. Zhao, M. Kochenderfer, S. Ermon. Amortized Inference Regularization. In *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2018.

Y. Song, **R. Shu**, Nate Kushman, S. Ermon. Generative Adversarial Examples. In *Neural*

*Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2018.

**R. Shu**, H. Bui, H. Narui, S. Ermon. A DIRT-T Approach to Unsupervised Domain Adaptation. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2018.

S. Eismann, D. Levy, **R. Shu**, S. Ermon. Bayesian optimization and attribute adjustment. In *Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI)*, 2018.

E. Banijamali, **R. Shu**, M. Ghavamzadeh, H. Bui, and A. Ghodsi. Robust Locally-Linear Controllable Embedding. In *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2017.

**R. Shu**, H. Bui, M. Ghavamzadeh. Bottleneck Conditional Density Estimation. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2017.

J. Brofos, **R. Shu**, and F. Zhang. The Optimistic Method for Model Estimation. In *International Symposium on Intelligent Data Analysis (IDA)*, 2016.

J. Brofos, **R. Shu**. Parallelization of Minimum Probability Flow on Binary Markov Random Fields. In *IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)*, 2015. (Best poster award)

P. Gurel, M. A. B. Guo, **R. Shu**, D. Mierke, H. Higgs. Assembly and Turnover of Short Actin Filaments by the Formin INF2 and Profilin. In *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 2015.

B. Guo, P. Gurel, **R. Shu**, H. Higgs, M. Pellegrini, D. Mierke. Monitoring ATP hydrolysis and ATPase inhibitor screening using <sup>1</sup>H NMR. In *Chemical Communications*, 2014.

P. Gurel, P. Ge, E. Grintsevich, **R. Shu**, L. Blanchoin, H. Zhou, E. Reisler, H. Higgs. INF2-Mediated Severing through Actin Filament Encirclement and Disruption. In *Cell*, 2014.

A. Shcheglovitov, O. Shcheglovitova, M. Yazawa, T. Portmann, **R. Shu**, V. Sebastiano, A. Krawisz, W. Froehlich, J. Bernstein, J. Hallmayer, R. Dolmetsch. SHANK3 and IGF1 restore synaptic deficits in neurons from 22q13 deletion syndrome patients. In *Nature*, 2013.

#### WORKSHOPS

**R. Shu**, H. Bui, S. Ermon. AC-GAN Learns a Biased Distribution. In *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) Workshop on Bayesian Deep Learning*, 2017.

**R. Shu**, J. Brofos, F. Zhang, M. Ghavamzadeh, H. Bui, and M. Kochenderfer. Stochastic Video Prediction with Conditional Density Estimation. In *European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV) Workshop on Action and Anticipation for Visual Learning*, 2016.

J. Brofos, **R. Shu**, M. Jinn, and M. Downs. Leveraging Deep Neural Networks as Kernels for Survival Analysis. In *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) Workshop on Machine Learning in Healthcare*, 2015.

#### REVIEW

Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS). Top-218 reviewer. (2018)

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Advances on Approximate Bayesian Inference (AABI) (2017)

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) (2017)

OPEN-SOURCE  
PROJECTS  
Available on github

**Tensorbays.** A light-weight extension of TensorFlow designed to be an analog to Lasagne's Parmesan. Applied to several downstream generative model and deep learning projects.

**ACGAN-Biased.** Showed that the AC-GAN objective is a Lagrangian to an objective that constrains the generator from placing density near the decision boundary of the auxiliary classifier. Empirically verified that AC-GAN learns a biased distribution.

**VAE-Clustering.** Showed that M2 model can be reparameterized as a Gaussian Mixture Variational Autoencoder. Showed that, by constraining the generator and/or changing the variational inference procedure, the model can learn better clusters.

**Fast-Style-Transfer.** Yet another amortized style transfer implementation in TensorFlow. Improved upon Logan Engstrom's awesome repository by replacing transpose convolutions and adding TensorBoard visualizations.

**Variational-Autoencoder** Provided a design paradigm for the training of variational autoencoders in Torch. Applied framework to experiments on video prediction and multi-modal density estimation.

**Automated-Statistician.** Leveraged Gaussian Processes and reinforcement learning to build an automated system that performed predictive model and hyperparameter selection in a multiple-model setting.

**Minimum-Probability-Flow-Learning.** Extended Sohl-Dickstein's work on minimum probability flow by incorporating the use of graph factorization/auxiliary Markov random fields for parameter-estimation in binary pair-wise Markov random fields.

**Neural-Net-Bayesian-Optimization.** Implemented a distributed version of a Bayesian optimization framework that used a deep neural network as the surrogate model (based on Ryan Adams' work on scalable Bayesian optimization).

MASTERS AND  
UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE

**Stanford Intelligent Systems Laboratory**

**Independent researcher, (2016)**

Applied conditional variational autoencoders to video prediction. Improved performance by using mixture of Gaussians as the latent variable distribution. Presented as a workshop contribution at ECCV Action and Anticipation for Visual Learning.

**Stanford University**

**Research Assistant, (2015 - 2017)**

Applied variational autoencoders and generative adversarial networks to semi-supervised anomaly detection of bone microfractures in radiology images. Demonstrated that semi-supervised deep generative models can be successfully applied to radiology image classification.

**Dartmouth College**

**Research Assistant, (2013 - 2014)**

Discovered unique response of the protein INF2 to the energy-storage molecule ATP. Demonstrated that the actin protein can either be assembled or disassembled using INF2 by changing the concentration of ATP. Work presented in Cell.

**Stanford University, Stanford, California USA**

**Research Assistant, (2012)**

Correlated gene expression with cellular and electrophysiological features in neurons from Phelan-McDermid syndrome patients. Work presented in Nature.

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| TEACHING<br>EXPERIENCE | <p><b>Dartmouth College</b><br/> <b>Teaching Science Fellow</b>, (2014 – 2015)<br/> Applied machine learning techniques to predict student performance in science classes based on prior academic indices. Provided resources for general chemistry education in the Dartmouth Chemistry Department. Managed a site devoted to correspondence between the Academic Skills Center, Dean’s Office, and Teaching Science Fellows.</p> |
| PROGRAMMING<br>SKILLS  | <p>Deep learning software: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, Torch, Theano<br/> Languages: Python, Java, C<br/> Scientific computing: R, MATLAB</p>  |
| HONORS AND<br>AWARDS   | <p>John G. Kemeny Computing Prize—honorable mention (2015)<br/> Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society—associate member. Membership based on GPA (2014)<br/> Duke Data Science Competition—honorable mention (2014)<br/> Rofus Choate Scholar Award. Membership based on GPA (2012, 2013)<br/> Dartmouth Presidential Scholarship Award (2013)</p>   |
| GRANTS                 | <p>Stanford Biomedical Informatics Travel Grant (2015)<br/> Neukom Institute Travel Grant (2014)<br/> Dartmouth Presidential Scholarship Award (2013)<br/> Dartmouth Undergraduate Leave Term Research (2013)<br/> Dartmouth Research Fellowship (2012)</p>  |