Daniel Israel

Website: danielmisrael.github.io Cell: (408)-966-7131 Email: disrael@ucla.edu

Education

UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
PhD in Computer Science, September 2022 - Present

- Advisors: Aditya Grover, Guy Van den Broeck
- Computer Science Department Scholar Award
- Completed coursework to obtain Master of Science

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Pasadena, CA
B.S. in Computer Science, Minor in Information and Data Science

- Advisors: Anima Anandkumar, Pietro Perona, Frederick Eberhardt
- GPA: 4.0

Research Experience

UCLA
Graduate Research Student, September 2022 – Now

- Efficient LLM systems
  - Adaptive Parallel Decoding [1]: Accelerating diffusion LLM parallel generation
  - Prepacking [2]: Efficient and exact speedup for LLM prefilling
  - MARIA [3]: Autoregressive text infilling made fast and scalable

- AI For Science
  - MedMax [4]: Multimodal training of LLM-based biomedical assistants
  - VBA [5]: A variational approach to high dimensional causal queries

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY
Research Assistant, June 2025 - Now

- Working with Sandeep Madireddy and chemistry team to use AI for catalysis
- Training a multimodal foundation model with autoregressive and diffusion objective

ANIMA LAB
Research Assistant, October 2021 – June 2022

- Project with Professor Anima Anandkumar implementing model based reinforcement learning to control Cassie bipedal walking

PERONA LAB
Research Assistant, March 2021 – June 2021

- Worked under Professor Pietro Perona to model the development of number sense in the human brain using computer vision models

Other Experience

UCLA CS DEPARTMENT / CALTECH CMS DEPARTMENT
Teaching Assistant

- TA for CS81: Introduction to Computer Science by Professor Stahl
- TA for CS161: Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence by Professor Guy Van den Broeck
- TA for CS M146: Introduction to Machine Learning by Professor Aditya Grover
- TA for ACM 116: Introduction to Probability Theory taught by Professor Kostia Zuev
- TA for CS 155: Machine Learning and Data Mining taught by Professor Yisong Yue
- Hosted weekly office hours and helped grade problem sets

SPLUNK, INC.
Intern, June 2020 – August 2020

- Worked with Splunk Security Analytics team and updated architecture to support asynchronous processing using Apache Pulsar
- After conducting performance tests, established 4x improvement in throughput

Skills

- Ability to devise and implement novel methods to improve training and inference
- Experience with modern ML frameworks: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Huggingface, Wandb
- Strong understanding of probabilistic inference algorithms in graphical models
- Analytical skills and ability to visualize and present research
- Strong mathematical background in probability theory, linear algebra, and discrete math
- Thorough understanding of modern deep generative model landscape

Selected Works

[1] Israel, Daniel, Guy Van den Broeck, and Aditya Grover. "Accelerating Diffusion LLMs via Adaptive Parallel Decoding." arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.00413 (2025).

[2] Siyan Zhao, Daniel Israel, Guy Van den Broeck and Aditya Grover. Prepacking: A Simple Method for Fast Prefilling and Increased Throughput in Large Language Models, In Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2025

[3] Israel, Daniel, Aditya Grover, and Guy Van den Broeck. "Enabling Autoregressive Models to Fill In Masked Tokens." arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.06901 (2025).

[4] Bansal, H., Israel, D., Zhao, S., Li, S., Nguyen, T., & Grover, A. (2024). MedMax: Mixed-Modal Instruction Tuning for Training Biomedical Assistants. arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.12661.

[5] Israel, D., Grover, A., & Broeck, G. V. D. (2023). High Dimensional Causal Inference with Variational Backdoor Adjustment. arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.06100.