

Computer Science

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IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 University Offices Close at 5:00 pm for Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 5, 2025 Master's Completion Form Due for Fall Master's Candidates

Monday, December 8, 2025 Fall Exams begin

Monday, December 15, 2025 Grades due 3:00 PM

Friday, December 19, 2025 Fall 2025 Degrees Conferred

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 Winter Recess Starts - University Closed Through January 1st, 2026

We want to hear from you!

Please send any upcoming news and events to
news@cs.northwestern.edu to be included in future bulletins &/featured
on our socials/website.

Events for the bulletin must be emailed by Thursdays 12PM to be in that Friday's bulletin.

Missed a seminar? No worries!
View past seminars via the Northwestern CS Website
(northwestern login required).

[View Past Seminars »](#)

UPCOMING SEMINARS

November

17th - Shaddin Dughmi

19th - Robert Rand

January

5th - Ari Holtzman

12th - Rana Hanocka



A Combinatorial Lens on Supervised Learning

Shaddin Dughmi, USC

Abstract

I will describe some recent joint results on the theory of supervised learning which follow from surprising connections to combinatorial optimization. Most notably, by connecting learning to bipartite matching on infinite graphs we derive several algorithmic and structural characterizations of learning which hold somewhat broadly.

Biography

"**Shaddin Dughmi** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer

Science at USC and the Neild visiting professor at Northwestern University. He received a B.S. in computer science, summa cum laude, from Cornell University in 2004, and a Ph.D. in computer science from Stanford University in 2011. He is a recipient of the NSF CAREER award, the Arthur L. Samuel best doctoral thesis award, and the ACM EC best student paper award. Shaddin is broadly interested in questions that stimulate the development of new algorithmic techniques, and shed insight on the power and limitations of algorithms. Work in his group has investigated such questions in a variety of domains: game theory, mechanism design, multi-agent systems, persuasion and information design, delegation and contract theory, decision making subject to online or stochastic uncertainty, and the theory of machine learning."

🕒 **Monday, November 17, 2025**
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Lunch is available from 11:30AM

📍 **Mudd Hall, 3514,**
2233 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

[More Information »](#)



Quantum Programming in Qunity

Robert Rand, University of Chicago

Abstract

Qunity is a high-level functional language for writing quantum programs in the style of OCaml or Haskell. Qunity treats classical and quantum data equivalently, allowing us to run the same programs on classical data and quantum superpositions. It takes key concepts from classical programming, like pattern matching, try-catch blocks, and data duplication and lifts them to the quantum setting. In this talk, I will describe Qunity, along with recent extensions that enable easier classical and pure quantum programming, and its compiler to quantum circuits.

Biography

Robert Rand is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Chicago. His research focuses on programming languages and verification

for quantum computing and his main projects include the Qunity quantum programming language, the BellKAT DSL for quantum networking, and VyZX, a verified ZX calculus library. He also works on a range of verification projects, from adding automation to the Rocq proof assistant to developing quantum program logics. Robert developed and maintains the INQWIRE QuantumLib, an open-source library for verified quantum computing in Rocq, which underlies many of his projects including his online textbook, Verified Quantum Computing.

🕒 **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Lunch is available from 11:30AM

📍 **Mudd Hall, 3514,**
2233 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

[More Information »](#)

CS Department Events

CS STUDY ABROAD INFO SESSION

We'll be holding an info session on all things study abroad (and how it relates to CS requirements) on Tuesday, November 18th at 5:30 PM Central over Zoom. This is particularly targeted at students who might be interested in Study Abroad but don't know anything about it.

We'll have Sara McGuinn from the NU Global Learning Office with us, as well as a few of your peers who have studied abroad in the past to share their experiences with you.

You can get a preview of CS study abroad information here: <https://cs-nu.github.io/nu-cs-study-abroad/NU-CS-study-abroad-policy.pdf>

🕒 **Wednesday, November 18, 2025**
05:30 PM CT

📍 **Virtual via Zoom**

[Zoom Link »](#)

BAGEL THURSDAY

CS Community! Join us for our monthly free bagels and coffee while mingling with fellow faculty and students.

🕒 **Thursday, November 20, 2025**
09:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

📍 **Mudd Hall, 3514,**
2233 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

[More Information »](#)

Other Events

ECE "MEET-THE-FACULTY" SEMINAR - DONGNING GUO

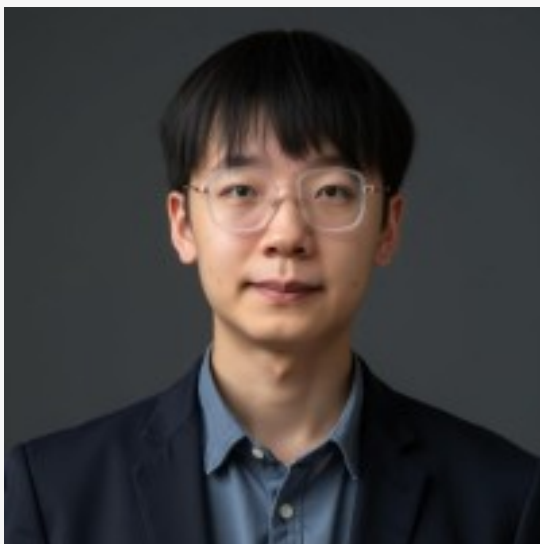
Next Wednesday, November 19th, we have an ECE “Meet-the-Faculty” Seminar on “ **Engineering Bitcoin: Trade-Offs, Optimizations & Challenges**” with Dongning Guo from Northwestern University in Tech L440 at 10:00am.

Coffee and cookies will be served 10 min before the seminar!

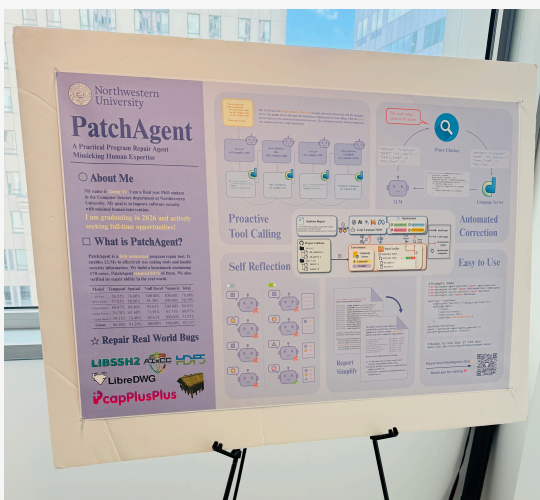
🕒 **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CT

📍 **Electrical and Computer Engineering Conference Room Tech L440**

Awards



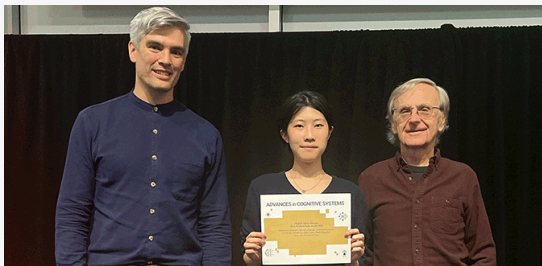
**PhD Student Zhenyu Pan Wins
2025 NeurIPS Scholar Award
& Lambda's Research Grant
Program**



**PhD Student Zheng Yu Wins
CSAW Applied Research
Competition 2025 - Runner-up
in Technical Impact**

Award Details

CS News



PhD Student Kexin Zhao Wins Best Student Paper Award at ACS 2025

Zhao and Professor Ken Forbus demonstrated the effectiveness of combining symbolic and neural methods for word sense disambiguation.

[*Read More*](#)



Northwestern Department of Computer Science
Mudd Hall, 2233 Tech Drive, Third Floor
Evanston, Illinois 60208

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