

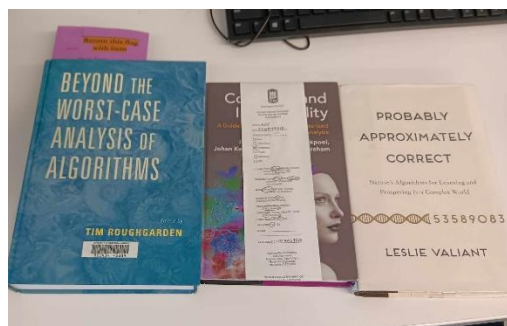
Participating in this program is really a cool experience for me!

Let me talk about the research part first. I stayed at the SIGMA lab of UChicago this summer, and the research direction of the lab is pretty theoretical, focusing on the intersection of economics, algorithms, and machine learning. However, the project that I was working on is pretty much purely designing and analyzing algorithms (and also proving hardness results). I worked with my advisor and three other PhD students on the problem, and we had a regular meeting each week. In general, I think my advisor was not very pushing, so it was basically up to me to decide how much time I wanted to dedicate to this project. At first, I didn't have much of a feeling about this research question, but as time went on, I started to find it somewhat interesting and spent more time thinking about it.

Another thing worth mentioning is that my advisor was participating in many conferences all over the world in July, so I didn't have a lot of interaction with him during the first half of the program.

Is there anything else besides conducting research? I believe I also did many other interesting things during the program.

1. The lab members have lunch together each Thursday. After finishing eating, one of the lab members would give a 1.5-hour talk on a paper or some interesting topics. I also gave a talk during the last week of my stay. This was the first time I spoke English in front of so many people, and I felt the talk was far from perfect. However, one of the lab members still told me that he thought it was great, which made me feel a bit relieved.
2. I like to use the library system. There is an "interlibrary loan" service, so you can still try to borrow a book even if the UChicago library doesn't have that book. I borrowed three books in total, and two of them are from other universities.



3. I never cooked by myself before the program, and the program offered me a chance to do so. I really think cooking is fun (and also cheaper).

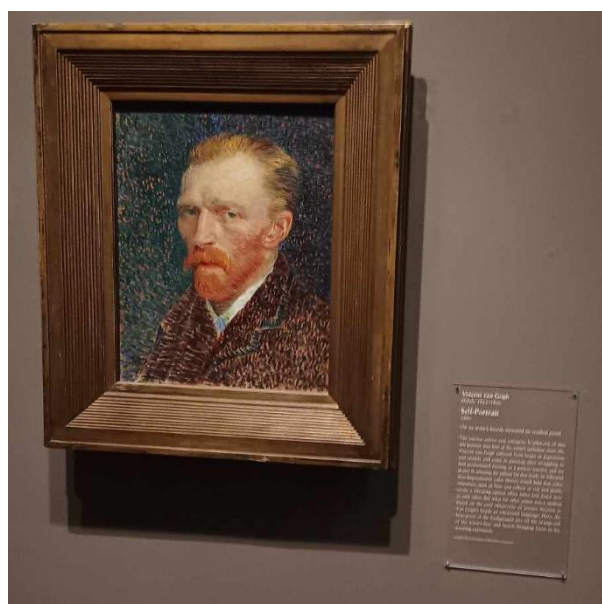


4. There is a computer science institute affiliated to the University of Chicago, called the TTIC (Toyota Technology Institute in Chicago, <https://www.ttic.edu/>). During the summer, the institute hosted a series of workshops, and I attended three of them, whose topics are Adaptive Learning in Complex Environments, Multimodal Artificial Intelligence, and Learning-Augmented Algorithms. I really think that the workshops are pretty well-organized; they have speakers from many universities and most of the talks are quite interesting. Another thing worth mentioning is that these workshops do not require a registration fee, and they even provided breakfast and lunch!

5. I also enjoy going to the gym at the university. The fitness center in the gym is larger than that in NTU, and I usually didn't have to wait for a long time to use an equipment (perhaps it is because there are less students in the summer). Also, they have "badminton hours" three times a week, which is also free to join in the summer. I never thought that I would have any chance to play badminton this summer! The experience is really great, and I also got to know some people by playing and chatting with them.



6. Of course, there was plenty of time that I spent having fun in Chicago. In particular, the museums in Chicago are really cool! There are lots of paintings by really famous artists (like Picasso, van Gogh, and Monet) in the Art Institute, many high-tech interactive exhibits in the Museum of Science and Industry, and numerous scientific and cultural exhibits in the Field Museum. These museums are pretty large, and I visited all three museums twice. I would be really glad if there are museums like those in Taiwan! The most important thing is that we got free entry to these museums because we had student IDs from the University of Chicago.



Besides visiting museums, we also took the architecture tour on the Chicago River, went to a jazz bar (The Green Mill), and ate lots of delicious food in Chicago. These are all cool experiences for me.

7. During the program, I got to know a lot of people, including the undergraduate and PhD students in my lab, other participants of this program, and people living in the same dorm. Though I consider myself as a shy person, I still think it is pretty interesting to meet all kinds of people. Together, we chatted, cooked, had lunch and dinner, visited museums, played poker, and even discussed linear algebra and our favorite animates. Most of the people I met are really nice, and they all made my summer life more colorful.

Overall, I think I had a great time during the summer at the University of Chicago. I might have to admit that I didn't spend that much time on my project, but I still learned and experienced a lot. I would really like to thank both NTU and the University of Chicago for offering me the chance to participate in the program. Also,

a big thank you to everyone who supported and helped me during this summer, including my parents, my advisor, other participants of the program, my project collaborators, the lab members, and so many others!

Appendix: Some other Interesting Things

1. One night, we received a tornado alert, so we stayed in the dorm basement for about an hour.
2. Each Wednesday is “Shake Day” at the University of Chicago, so one can get a milk shake with various toppings for 1 dollar at Hutchinson Commons (a dining hall).
3. I bought a jacket at the university bookstore with a 75% off discount. (The original price was 84 dollars.)