Human-Centred Data Science: Sensemaking, Provenance, and

Human-Al Teaming

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Kai Xu is an Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science at the University of Nottingham, co-director of its visualisation group. University of Nottingham is part of the Russell group, which consists of top UK universities such as Cambridge and Oxford. He has over 20-year experience in data science research, particularly data visualisation, sensemaking, and provenance. He has received funding for 16 research projects with a total project budget exceeding £10 million. In these projects, he worked with domain experts from diverse application domains including medical researchers and arts researchers, developing novel provenance visualization tools to support their work. He has published widely on provenance-related topics and some of the work has received international awards.



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The performance of Machine Learning algorithms for some analysis tasks have improved significantly in the last several years, achieving or overtaking human-level of performance. However, there are still many complex tasks, such as those that require domain expertise, that cannot be solved in this way. For these tasks, complementing human experts with machine intelligence can be more effective than full automation. One of such approaches is to use interactive data visualisation to enable the symbiotic collaboration between the two. In this talk I will go through some of my previous data science research projects, how the work evolved towards human-centred data science, and finally some of the ideas I am currently working on.

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