

EDUCATION

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Ph.D. Student in Computer Science and Engineering

- Advisor: Prof. Shuai Li
- GPA: 3.13/4.0

Shanghai, China
Sept. 2021 - present

Shandong University

B.Eng. in Software Engineering

- GPA: 4.73/5.0, ranking: 2/342 (until 2020/06/15)

Jinan, Shandong Province, China
Sept. 2017 - Jun. 2021

Henan Experimental High School

High School Student

Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China
Sept. 2014 - Jun. 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Learning Theory

I am broadly interested in learning theory, with a particular focus on sequential decision-making problems, including

- Online Learning
- Reinforcement Learning

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

- [1] **C. Zhao**, X. Zhang, B. Wang, and S. Li, “Logarithmic regret for linear markov decision processes with adversarial corruptions”, in *Thirty-Ninth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, AAAI 2025*, AAAI Press, 2025.
- [2] F. Kong, **C. Zhao**, and S. Li, “Best-of-three-worlds analysis for linear bandits with follow-the-regularized-leader algorithm”, in *The Thirty Sixth Annual Conference on Learning Theory, COLT 2023, 12-15 July 2023, Bangalore, India*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 195, PMLR, 2023, pp. 657–673.
- [3] Q. Li*, **C. Zhao***, T. Yu, J. Wu, and S. Li, “Clustering of conversational bandits with posterior sampling for user preference learning and elicitation”, *User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction*, pp. 1–48, 2023.
- [4] **C. Zhao**, R. Yang, B. Wang, and S. Li, “Learning adversarial linear mixture markov decision processes with bandit feedback and unknown transition”, in *The Eleventh International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2023, Kigali Rwanda, May 1-5, 2023*, 2023.
- [5] **C. Zhao**, R. Yang, B. Wang, X. Zhang, and S. Li, “Learning adversarial low-rank markov decision processes with unknown transition and full-information feedback”, in *NeurIPS*, 2023.
- [6] **C. Zhao**, Y. Ze, J. Dong, B. Wang, and S. Li, “Differentially private temporal difference learning with stochastic nonconvex-strongly-concave optimization”, in *Proceedings of the Sixteenth ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining, WSDM 2023, Singapore, 27 February 2023 - 3 March 2023*, ACM, 2023, pp. 985–993.

- [7] C. Zhao*, Y. Ze*, J. Dong, B. Wang, and S. Li, “DPMAC: differentially private communication for cooperative multi-agent reinforcement learning”, in *Proceedings of the Thirty-Second International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, IJCAI 2023, 19th-25th August 2023, Macao, SAR, China*, ijcai.org, 2023, pp. 4638–4646.
- [8] C. Chen, **C. Zhao**, and S. Li, “Simultaneously learning stochastic and adversarial bandits under the position-based model”, in *Thirty-Sixth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, AAAI 2022*, AAAI Press, 2022, pp. 6202–6210.
- [9] **C. Zhao**, T. Yu, Z. Xie, and S. Li, “Knowledge-aware conversational preference elicitation with bandit feedback”, in *WWW '22: The ACM Web Conference 2022, Virtual Event, Lyon, France, April 25 - 29, 2022*, ACM, 2022, pp. 483–492.
- [10] J. Wu*, C. Zhao*, T. Yu, J. Li, and S. Li, “Clustering of conversational bandits for user preference learning and elicitation”, in *CIKM '21: The 30th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management, Virtual Event, Queensland, Australia, November 1 - 5, 2021*, ACM, 2021, pp. 2129–2139.
- [11] Z. Xie, T. Yu, **C. Zhao**, and S. Li, “Comparison-based conversational recommender system with relative bandit feedback”, in *SIGIR '21: The 44th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval, Virtual Event, Canada, July 11-15, 2021*, ACM, 2021, pp. 1400–1409.

(* indicates equal contribution.)

EXPERIENCE

Academic Services

Reviewer/sub-reviewer

- ICLR 2023, 2024, 2025
- NeurIPS 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- ICML 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- UAI 2021, 2022, 2023
- AAMAS 2021, 2022
- ALT 2024
- AISTATS 2023, 2024, 2025
- JSAIT 2021
- TNNLS 2023

CONTESTS

- Kaggle Santa 2020 - The Candy Cane Contest - Silver Medal (Top 6%) Jan. 2021
- The 2019 ACM-ICPC Asia Regional Contest - Bronze Medal Oct. 2019
- The 2019 ACM-ICPC China Shandong Provincial Programming Contest - Silver Medal May. 2019
- China Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling - The Second Prize in Shandong Province Sept. 2018