

Fang Kong (孔芳)

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Homepage: <https://fangkongx.github.io>

Research Interests: Online learning (particularly multi-armed bandits) and reinforcement learning

Position

Department of Statistics and Data Science,

Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), Shenzhen, China

Assistant Professor

07/2024-present

Education

Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), Shanghai, China

09/2020-06/2024

PhD in Computer Science

Supervisor: Prof. Shuai Li

Shandong University (SDU), Jinan, China

09/2016-06/2020

Bachelor's Degree in Software Engineering (Rank 1/318)

Publications (* denotes equal contribution)

1. Yu Xia*, **Fang Kong***, Tong Yu, Liya Guo, Ryan A. Rossi, Sungchul Kim, Shuai Li, "Convergence-Aware Online Model Selection with Time-Increasing Bandits", Accepted by the Web Conference (WWW), 2024.
2. **Fang Kong**, Shuai Li, "Improved Bandits in Many-to-one Matching Markets with Incentive Compatibility", Accepted by the 38th Annual AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), 2024.
3. **Fang Kong***, Xiangcheng Zhang*, Baoxiang Wang, Shuai Li, "Improved Regret Bounds for Linear Adversarial MDPs via Linear Optimization", Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR), 2024.
4. **Fang Kong**, Canzhe Zhao, Shuai Li, "Best-of-three-worlds Analysis for Linear Bandits with Follow-the-regularized-leader Algorithm", Proceedings of 36th Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), 2023. ([The First COLT Publication at SJTU](#))
5. **Fang Kong**, Jize Xie, Baoxiang Wang, Tao Yao, Shuai Li. "Online Influence Maximization under Decreasing Cascade Model", Proceedings of the 22nd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), 2023.
6. Yichi Zhou, **Fang Kong**, Shuai Li, "Stochastic No-Regret Learning for General Games with Variance Reduction", International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2023.
7. **Fang Kong**, Shuai Li, "Player-optimal Stable Regret for Bandit Learning in Matching Markets", Proceedings of the 2023 Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA). 2023.
8. **Fang Kong**, Yichi Zhou, Shuai Li, "Simultaneously Learning Stochastic and Adversarial Bandits

- with General Graph Feedback”, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2022.
9. **Fang Kong**, Junming Yin, Shuai Li, “Thompson Sampling for Bandit Learning in Matching Markets”, International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), 2022.
 10. **Fang Kong**, Yueran Yang, Wei Chen, Shuai Li, “The Hardness Analysis of Thompson Sampling for Combinatorial Semi-bandits with Greedy Oracle”, Proceedings of the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021.
 11. **Fang Kong**, Yueran Yang, Wei Chen, Shuai Li, “Combinatorial Online Learning based on Optimizing Feedbacks (in Chinese)”, Big Data Research, 2021.
 12. Shuai Li, **Fang Kong**, Kejie Tang, Qizhi Li, Wei Chen, “Online Influence Maximization under Linear Threshold Model”, Proceedings of the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020.
 13. **Fang Kong**, Qizhi Li, Shuai Li, “A Survey on Online Influence Maximization” (in Chinese), Computer Science, 2020.

Tutorials & Talks

"Bandit Learning in Matching Markets"

Talk at the CCF Theoretical Computer Science Doctoral Forum, June 2024, Changchun, China

"Bandit Learning in Mechanism Design: Matching Markets and Beyond"

Tutorial at AAMAS, May 2024, Auckland, New Zealand

"Best-of-three-worlds Analysis for Linear Bandits with Follow-the-regularized-leader Algorithm"

Talk at the IJCS-FAW Female Forum, August 2023, Macau, China

"Online Influence Maximization under Decreasing Cascade Model"

Presentation at AAMAS, June 2023, London, UK

"Player-optimal Stable Regret for Bandit Learning in Matching Markets"

Presentation at SODA, January 2023, Online

Talk at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen), November 2022, Shenzhen, China

Internships and Research Experiences

WXG, Tencent

07/2022-07/2024

As a member of the Tencent Rhino-Bird Research Elite Program

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

02/2023-08/2023

Visiting student of Prof. John C.S. Lui

Computational Learning Theory Group, Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA)

12/2021-05/2022

Mentor: Dr. Yichi Zhou

Alibaba DAMO Academy

06/2021-08/2021

Mentor: Dr. Xue Wang and Dr. Tao Yao

Awards

1. Outstanding Graduates of Shanghai, 2024
2. Baidu Scholarship (only 10 recipients worldwide), 2024
3. National Scholarship (for Ph.D. students), from the ministry of Education of China, 2023, 2022 (only 0.2% each year)
4. AAMAS Student Scholarship, 2023
5. Award of Excellence in Stars of Tomorrow Internship Program, Microsoft Research Asia, 2022
6. Outstanding Graduates of Shandong Province (3%), 2020
7. Honors Bachelor of Shandong University (<5%), 2020
8. Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis of Shandong University (2%), 2020
9. National Scholarship (for undergraduate students), from the ministry of Education of China, 2018,2017 (only 0.2% each year)

Professional Services

Conference Reviewer for

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2023-2022

Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2024-2021

The Web Conference (WWW) 2024

Teaching Assistantships

AI3601 Reinforcement Learning (Undergraduate), SJTU,

Spring 2023

CS3317 Artificial Intelligence (Undergraduate), SJTU,

Fall 2022

CS445 Combinatorics (Undergraduate), SJTU

Fall 2021

CS410 Artificial Intelligence (Undergraduate), SJTU

Fall 2020