

# SHAOCONG MA

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

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**PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering** Sep. 2019-Jun. 2023  
University of Utah GPA: 4.0/4.0

**M.A. in Statistics** Sep. 2017-Jun. 2019  
University of California, Santa Barbara GPA: 3.9/4.0

**B.S. in Statistics** Sep. 2013-Jun. 2017  
Sichuan University GPA: 3.6/4.0

## INTERNSHIP

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**Student Intern** May. 2022-Aug. 2022  
Lawrence Livermore National Security

- Develop backpropagation-free training algorithm using zeroth-order optimization.
- Test the scalability of the approach to large dataset like ImageNet.
- Test the robustness to out-of-distribution corruptions using popular benchmark datasets.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Shaocong Ma, Yi Zhou.** *Understanding the Impact of Model Incoherence on Convergence of Incremental SGD with Random Reshuffle.* **ICML. 2020.** (Acceptance rate: 21.8%)

**Shaocong Ma, Yi Zhou, Shaofeng Zou.** *Variance-Reduced Off-Policy TDC Learning: Non-Asymptotic Convergence Analysis.* **NeurIPS. 2020.** (Acceptance rate: 20.1%)

**Shaocong Ma, Ziyi Chen, Yi Zhou, Shaofeng Zou.** *Greedy-GQ with Variance Reduction: Finite-time Analysis and Improved Complexity.* **ICLR. 2021.** (Acceptance rate: 28.7%)

**Shaocong Ma, Ziyi Chen, Yi Zhou, Kaiyi Ji, Yingbin Liang.** *Data Sampling Affects the Complexity of Online SGD over Dependent Data.* **UAI. 2022.** (Acceptance rate: 32.3%)

## PROJECTS

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### A PyTorch Implementation of Wasserstein Robust Model (WRM)

- GitHub: [https://github.com/mshaocong/wasserstein\\_robust\\_model](https://github.com/mshaocong/wasserstein_robust_model)
- Related paper (Published on IEEE ISIT 2022): <https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.11663>

## OTHER EXPERIENCES

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### Reviewer/ Program Committee

NeurIPS 2021; IEEE BigData 2021; IJCAI-ECAI 2022; ICML 2022; NeurIPS 2022; ICLR 2023.

### Teaching Assistant

Statistics; Statistics for Life Science; Statistics for Economics; Survival Analysis; Actuarial Statistics; Fundamentals of Signals and Systems.