

Wenhao Ding

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Education

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA <i>Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering</i>	<i>Aug 2019 - May 2024 (Expected)</i>
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA <i>M.S. Machine Learning</i>	<i>Jan 2021 - Dec 2022</i>
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China <i>B.Eng. Electronic Engineering</i>	<i>Aug 2014 - July 2018</i>

Research Interests

I work on simulation, generative model, reinforcement learning, and causal discovery. My research advances robot learning by closing the loop with three components:

- Expand scenario coverage:** generating critical scenarios for scaling up effective data collection.
- Improve data efficiency:** discovering underlying structure of data for generalizable representation.
- Enhance model performance:** designing low-cost framework for continual model learning.

Professional Experience

NVIDIA Research, Santa Clara, USA <i>Research Scientist Intern, Autonomous Vehicle Group</i>	<i>July 2023 - Now</i>
Amazon Lab126, Sunnyvale, USA <i>Applied Scientist Intern</i>	<i>May 2022 - Aug 2022</i>
Bosch Center for Artificial Intelligence, Pittsburgh, USA <i>Machine Learning Research Intern</i>	<i>May 2021 - Aug 2021</i>
Chinese University of HongKong, HongKong, China <i>Research Assitant</i>	<i>July 2017 - Sep 2017</i>

Publication

Conference and Journal Paper

- [NeurIPS'23] Seeing is not Believing: Robust Reinforcement Learning against Spurious Correlation
Wenhao Ding*, Laixi Shi*, Yuejie Chi, Ding Zhao
- [ICML'23] Bayesian Reparameterization of Reward-Conditioned Reinforcement Learning with Energy-based Models
Wenhao Ding*, Tong Che*, Ding Zhao, Marco Pavone
- [ICRA'23] Learning to View: Decision Transformers for Active Object Detection
Wenhao Ding, Nathalie Majcherczyk, Mohit Deshpande, Xuwei Qi, Ding Zhao, Rajasimman Madhivanan, Arnie Sen
- [T-ITS'23] A Survey on Safety-critical Scenario Generation for Autonomous Driving – A Methodological Perspective
Wenhao Ding, Chejian Xu, Haohong Lin, Bo Li, Ding Zhao

5. [CoRL'23] What Went Wrong? Closing the Sim-to-Real Gap via Differentiable Causal Discovery
*Peide Huang, Xilun Zhang, Ziang Cao, Shiqi Liu, Mengdi Xu, **Wenhao Ding**, Jonathan Francis, Bingqing Chen, Ding Zhao*
6. [NeurIPS'22] Generalizing Goal-Conditioned Reinforcement Learning with Variational Causal Reasoning
***Wenhao Ding**, Haohong Lin, Bo Li, Ding Zhao*
7. [NeurIPS'22] SafeBench: A Benchmarking Platform for Safety Evaluation of Autonomous Vehicles
Chejian Xu, **Wenhao Ding***, Weijie Lyu, Zuxin Liu, Shuai Wang, Yihan He, Hanjiang Hu, Ding Zhao, Bo Li*
8. [CoRL'22] CausalAF: Causal Autoregressive Flow for Goal-Directed Safety-Critical Scenes Generation
***Wenhao Ding**, Haohong Lin, Bo Li, Ding Zhao*
9. [RA-L'21] Multimodal Safety-Critical Scenarios Generation for Decision-Making Algorithms Evaluation
***Wenhao Ding**, Baiming Chen, Bo Li, Kim Ji Eun, Ding Zhao*
10. [ICRA'21] Context-Aware Safe Reinforcement Learning for Non-Stationary Environments
*Baiming Chen, Zuxin Liu, Jiacheng Zhu, Mengdi Xu, **Wenhao Ding**, Liang Li, Ding Zhao*
11. [AISTATS'21] Deep Probabilistic Accelerated Evaluation: A Certifiable Rare-Event Simulation Methodology for Black-Box Autonomy
Mansur Arief, Zhiyuan Huang*, Guru Kumar, Yuanlu Bai, **Wenhao Ding**, Henry Lam, Ding Zhao*
12. [NeurIPS'20] Task-Agnostic Online Reinforcement Learning with an Infinite Mixture of Gaussian Processes
*Mengdi Xu, **Wenhao Ding**, Jiacheng Zhu, Zuxin Liu, Baiming Chen, Ding Zhao*
13. [IROS'20] Learning to Collide: An Adaptive Safety-Critical Scenarios Generating Method
***Wenhao Ding**, Baiming Chen, Minjun Xu and Ding Zhao*
14. [ICRA'20] CMTS: Conditional Multiple Trajectory Synthesizer for Generating Safety-critical Driving Scenarios
***Wenhao Ding**, Mengdi Xu and Ding Zhao*
15. [ICRA'19] A New Multi-vehicle Trajectory Generator to Simulate Vehicle-to-Vehicle Encounters
***Wenhao Ding**, Wenshuo Wang and Ding Zhao*
16. [T-ASLP'19] Adaptive Multi-scale Detection of Acoustic Events
***Wenhao Ding** and Liang He*
17. [DCASE'19] Prior Knowledge-based Regularization for Sound Event Localization and Detection
Wenhao Ding, Jingyang Zhang* and Liang He*
18. [Interspeech'19] Multi-Scale Time-Frequency Attention for Acoustic Event Detection
*Jingyang Zhang, **Wenhao Ding**, Jintao Kang and Liang He*
19. [Interspeech'18] MTGAN: Speaker Verification through Multitasking Triplet Generative Adversarial Networks
***Wenhao Ding** and Liang He*
20. [ROBIO'18] Hierarchical Reinforcement Learning Framework towards Multi-agent Navigation
***Wenhao Ding**, Shuaijun Li and Huihuan Qian*
21. [ROBIO'18] Vehicle Pose and Shape Estimation through Multiple Monocular Vision
***Wenhao Ding**, Shuaijun Li, Guilin Zhang, Xiangyu Lei and Huihuan Qian*

Workshop Paper and Preprint

22. Semantically Controllable Scene Generation with Guidance of Explicit Knowledge
***Wenhao Ding**, Bo Li, Kim Ji Eun, Ding Zhao*

Environment Generation for Generalizable Robots (EGG) Workshop at **RSS** 2023
Knowledge and Logical Reasoning in the Era of Data-driven Learning Workshop at **ICML** 2023

23. Safety-aware Causal Representation for Trustworthy Reinforcement Learning in Autonomous Driving
*Haohong Lin, **Wenhao Ding**, Zuxin Liu, Yaru Niu, Jiacheng Zhu, Yuming Niu, Ding Zhao*
Preprint arXiv:2311.10747
24. Your Room is not Private: Gradient Inversion Attack for Deep Q-Learning
*Miao Li, **Wenhao Ding**, Ding Zhao*
Preprint arXiv:2306.09273
25. Certifiable Deep Importance Sampling for Rare-Event Simulation of Black-Box Systems
*Mansur Arief, Yuanlu Bai, **Wenhao Ding**, Shengyi He, Zhiyuan Huang, Henry Lam, Ding Zhao*
Preprint arXiv:2111.02204
26. Trustworthy Reinforcement Learning Against Intrinsic Vulnerabilities: Robustness, Safety, and Generalizability
Mengdi Xu, Zuxin Liu*, Peide Huang*, **Wenhao Ding**, Zhepeng Cen, Bo Li, Ding Zhao*
Preprint arXiv:2209.08025

Honors & Awards

2023 - NeurIPS Scholar Award
2022 - Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship Winner, North America
2022 - CMU K&L Gates Presidential Fellowship, College of Engineering Nominee
2022 - NeurIPS Scholar Award
2018 - Tsinghua University Outstanding Bachelor Thesis Award (5%)
2016 - Fellowship of Spark Talents Program (*50 recipients in Tsinghua per year*)

Academic Services

Conference Reviewer: ICML 22-23, ICLR 22-24, NeurIPS 21-23 (top reviewer), AISTATS 23-24, ECCV 22, CVPR 22-24, ICCV 21-23, ICRA 20-24, IROS 20-23, ICME 20-23
Journal Reviewer: TMLR, IEEE RA-L, IEEE Access, IEEE T-ITS, IEEE TII, IEEE MM
Organizer: CVPR 2023 Secure and Safe Autonomous Driving Workshop and Challenge
ICRA 2022 SeasonDepth Challenge
Program Committee: NeurIPS 2022 ML4AD Workshop
NeurIPS 2022 TSRML Workshop
IJCAI 2022 AI4AD Workshop and Challenge

Invited Talks

Critical Scenario Generation for Trustworthy Autonomy <i>ZhiDongXi MOOCs (online)</i>	<i>June 8 2023</i>
Critical Scenario Generation for Trustworthy Autonomy <i>Department of Electronic Engineering, Tsinghua, China, host by Prof. Liang He (online)</i>	<i>Apr 12 2023</i>
Critical Scenario Generation for Trustworthy Autonomy <i>AISOC Lab, CMU, USA, host by Prof. Fei Fang</i>	<i>Mar 21 2023</i>
Generalizing Goal-Conditioned Reinforcement Learning with Variational Causal Reasoning <i>AI Timer, China (online)</i>	<i>Feb 16 2023</i>

Safety-critical Scenarios Generation with Causal Discovery
Wayve, UK (online)

Oct 26 2022

Safety-Critical Driving Scenario Generation – and What Lessons We Have Learned
University of Pennsylvania, USA (online), host by Prof. Rahul Mangharam

Feb 28 2022

Safety-critical Scenarios Generation for Autonomous Vehicles
Stanford University, USA (online), host by Prof. Mykel Kochenderfer

Jan 31 2022