

# Tao Li

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## EDUCATION

### New York University

*Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering*

Brooklyn, NY

*Sept. 2018 – May 2025*

- Dissertation: Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous and Resilient Operations in Cyber-Physical-Human Networks.
- Advisor: Prof. Quanyan Zhu
- Awards: Dante Youla Award for Research Excellence 2024

### Xiamen University

*B.S. in Mathematics*

Fujian, China

*Sept. 2014 – Jun. 2018*

- Awards: National Scholarship by Ministry of Education of China

## EXPERIENCE

### University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

*Visiting Scholar*

Champaign, IL

*Jul. 2024 – Aug. 2024*

- Coordinated Science Laboratory, Host: Prof. Tamer Başar

### New York University

*Associate Director of NYU LARX Lab, Affiliate Member, NYU Center for Cybersecurity*

Brooklyn, NY

*Sept. 2020 – Oct. 2024*

### University of Alberta

*Research Assistant*

Alberta, Canada

*May 2017 – Oct. 2017*

- Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Host: Prof. Bin Han

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Theory: Reinforcement Learning, Game Theory, Control and Optimization, Operations Research.
- Applications: AI Security, Cybersecurity, Misinformation Detection & Mitigation, Autonomous Mobility, Robotics.

## PUBLICATIONS

\* indicates equal contribution.

### Book Chapters

- [B1] T. Li, Y. Pan, and Q. Zhu, “Decision-dominant strategic defense against lateral movement for 5G zero-trust multi-domain networks,” in *Network Security Empowered by Artificial Intelligence*, Advances in Information Security, vol. 107, pp. 25-76, Springer Cham, Feb. 2024.
- [B2] T. Li and Q. Zhu, “Symbiotic game and foundation models for cyber deception operations in strategic cyber warfare,” in *Foundations of Cyber Deception - Modeling, Analysis, Design, Human Factors and Their Convergence*, Springer Cham, 2024.

### Journals

- [J1] T. Li, Z. Bian, H. Lei, F. Zuo, Y-T. Yang, Q. Zhu, Z. Li, Z. Chen, and K. Ozbay, “Digital twin-based driver risk-aware intelligent mobility analytics for urban transportation management,” *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, 2025, to appear.
- [J2] K. Hammar\*, T. Li\*, R. Stadler, and Q. Zhu, “Automating security strategies through online learning with adaptive conjectures,” *IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security*, 2025, to appear.
- [J3] T. Li, Z. Bian, H. Lei, F. Zuo, Y-T. Yang, Q. Zhu, Z. Li, and K. Ozbay, “Multi-level traffic-responsive tilt camera surveillance through predictive correlated online learning,” *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies*, vol. 167, 2024.
- [J4] S. Liu, T. Li, and Q. Zhu, “Game-theoretic distributed empirical risk minimization with strategic network design,” *IEEE Transactions on Signal and Information Processing over Networks*, vol. 9, pp. 542-556, 2023.

- [J5] T. Li, Y. Zhao, and Q. Zhu, “The role of information structures in game-theoretic multi-agent learning,” *Annual Reviews in Control*, vol. 53, pp. 296-314, 2022.
- [J6] T. Li, G. Peng, Q. Zhu, and T. Başar, “The confluence of networks, games, and learning a game-theoretic framework for multi-agent decision making over networks,” *IEEE Control Systems*, vol. 42, no. 4, pp. 35-67, 2022.
- [J7] B. Han\*, T. Li\*, X. Zhuang\*, “Directional compactly supported box spline tight framelets with simple geometric structure,” *Applied Mathematics Letters*, vol. 91, pp. 213-219, 2019.

## Conferences

- [C1] T. Li, K. Hammar, R. Stadler, and Q. Zhu, “Conjectural online learning with first-order beliefs in asymmetric information stochastic games,” in *63rd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC 2024)*, Milan, Italy, Dec. 2024.
- [C2] Y. Pan, T. Li, and Q. Zhu, “On the variational interpretation of mirror play in monotone games,” in *63rd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC 2024)*, Milan, Italy, Dec. 2024.
- [C3] M. Yin, T. Li, H. Lei, Y. Hu, S. Rangan, and Q. Zhu, “Zero-shot wireless indoor navigation through physics-informed reinforcement learning,” in *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2024)*, Yokohama, Japan, May 2024.
- [C4] Y. Pan\*, T. Li\*, H. Li, T. Xu, Z. Zheng, and Q. Zhu, “A first-order meta Stackelberg method for robust federated learning,” in *40th International Conference on Machine Learning Adversarial Machine Learning Workshop (ICML AdvML Wkshp 2023)*, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, Jul. 2023.
- [C5] T. Li and Q. Zhu, “On the price of transparency: A comparison between overt persuasion and covert signaling,” in *62nd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC 2023)*, Singapore, Dec. 2023.
- [C6] Y. Pan, T. Li, and Q. Zhu, “Is stochastic mirror descent vulnerable to adversarial delay attacks? A traffic assignment resilience study,” in *62nd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC 2023)*, Singapore, Dec. 2023.
- [C7] Y-T. Yang\*, T. Li\*, and Q. Zhu, “Designing policies for truth: Combating misinformation with transparency and information design,” in *21st International Symposium on Modeling and Optimization in Mobile, Ad Hoc, and Wireless Networks (WiOpt 2023)*, Singapore, Aug. 2023.
- [C8] Y. Ge\*, T. Li\*, and Q. Zhu, “Scenario-agnostic zero-trust defense with explainable threshold policy: A meta-learning approach,” in *IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM Wkshp 2023)*, Hoboken, NJ, USA, May 2023.
- [C9] Y. Pan, T. Li, and Q. Zhu, “On the resilience of traffic networks under non-equilibrium learning,” in *American Control Conference (ACC 2023)*, San Diego, CA, USA, May 2023.
- [C10] T. Li, H. Lei and Q. Zhu, “Self-adaptive driving in nonstationary environments through conjectural online lookahead adaptation,” in *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2023)*, London, United Kingdom, May 2023.
- [C11] G. Peng, T. Li, S. Liu, J. Chen, and Q. Zhu, “Locally-aware constrained games on networks,” in *American Control Conference (ACC 2021)*, virtual, May 2021.
- [C12] T. Li, G. Peng and Q. Zhu, “Blackwell online learning for Markov decision processes,” in *55th Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS 2021)*, virtual, Mar. 2021.
- [C13] T. Li and Q. Zhu, “On convergence rate of adaptive multiscale value function approximation for reinforcement learning,” in *29th IEEE International Workshop on Machine Learning for Signal Processing (MLSP Wkshp 2019)*, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, Oct. 2019.

## Working Papers

- [W1] T. Li, H. Li, Y. Pan, T. Xu, Z. Zheng, and Q. Zhu, “Meta Stackelberg game: Robust federated learning against adaptive and mixed poisoning attacks,” submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security*, 2024.
- [W2] Y-T. Yang, T. Li, and Q. Zhu, “Transparent tagging for strategic social nudges on user-generated misinformation,” submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, 2024.
- [W3] T. Li, H. Lei, H. Guo, M. Yin, Y. Hu, Q. Zhu, and S. Rangan, “Digital twin-enhanced wireless indoor navigation: Achieving efficient environment sensing with zero-shot reinforcement learning,” submitted to *IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society*, 2024.

- [W4] X. Xie, T. Li, and Q. Zhu, “Learning from response not preference: A Stackelberg approach for LLM detoxification using non-parallel data,” arXiv preprint, 2024, arXiv: 2410.20298.
- [W5] T. Li, J. Guevara, X. Xie, and Q. Zhu, “Self-confirming transformer for locally consistent online adaptation in multi-agent reinforcement learning,” arXiv preprint, 2023, arXiv: 2310.04579.
- [W6] T. Li and Q. Zhu, “Commitment with signaling under double-sided information asymmetry,” arXiv preprint, 2022, arXiv:2212.11446.
- [W7] T. Li, H. Lei and Q. Zhu, “Sampling attacks on meta reinforcement learning: A minimax formulation and complexity analysis,” arXiv preprint, 2021, arxiv:2208.00081.
- [W8] B. James\*, B. Windsor\*, W. Song\*, and T. Li\*, “Causality and batch reinforcement learning: Complementary approaches to planning in unknown domains,” arXiv preprint, 2020, arXiv:2006.02579.

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#### RESEARCH GRANTS EXPERIENCE

- [G1] “Understanding Misperceptions of Cyber Risks to Model and Secure Transportation Infrastructures,” National Science Foundation, Program: SAI, PI: Quanyan Zhu, Status: *Awarded*, Amount: \$309,890, Role: participated in proposal writing, Sept. 2021.
- [G2] “Conference: Workshop on Large Language Models for Network Security,” National Science Foundation, Program: SaTC, PI: Quanyan Zhu, Status: *Awarded*, Amount: \$50,000, Role: participated in proposal writing, Apr. 2024.
- [G3] “Symbiotic Game and Large Language Models for Agent-Based Cyber Deception Operations,” Cisco Research, PI: Quanyan Zhu, Status: *Submitted*, Role: participated in proposal writing, Oct. 2024.

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#### INVITED TALKS

- [T1] “Towards Agent-based Autonomous Network Security,” at *IEEE COMSOC TCCN Rising Star Symposium Series, Stevens Institute of Technology*, NJ, Nov. 21, 2024.
- [T2] “Online Optimization Meets Urban Transportation,” at *C2SMARTER, Tier 1 University Transportation Center*, NY, Nov. 8, 2024.
- [T3] “Conjectural Online Learning in Asymmetric Information Stochastic Games,” at *Systems Engineering Department Seminar, CityU of Hongkong*, HK, Oct. 7, 2024.
- [T4] “Agent of Agents: Meta LLM-Agent for Autonomous Security Operations,” at *NSF Workshop on Large Language Models for Network Security*, NY, Oct. 2, 2024.
- [T5] “Conjectural Online Learning with First-order Beliefs in Asymmetric Information Stochastic Games,” at *Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*, IL, Aug. 13, 2024.
- [T6] “Automated Security Response Through Conjectural Online Learning under Information Asymmetry,” at *Autonomous Robotics and Control Lab, California Institute of Technology*, CA, Jun. 21, 2024.
- [T7] “On the Role of Information Structures in Multi-agent Learning,” at *International Conference on Game Theory*, Stony Brook, NY, Jul. 21, 2022.
- [T8] “Informationally Mosaic Reinforcement Learning,” at *SIAM 2022 Annual Meeting Session on Markov Decision Processes*, Pittsburgh, PA, Jul. 12, 2022.
- [T9] “Correlated Learning over Networks,” at *INFORMS Annual Meeting Workshop on Multi-agent Learning*, Online, Nov. 16, 2020.
- [T10] “Directional Framelets and its Application in Medical Imaging,” at *PIMS-AMI Workshop on Applied Harmonic Analysis, University of Alberta*, Canada, Aug. 2017.

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#### AWARDS

- NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) Travel Grant** 2025
  - Awarded by NSF DMS for presenting at the workshop on *Uncertainty Quantification Strategies for Multi-Physics Systems and Digital Twins* at the Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Innovation (IMSI). Selected as the only graduate student to present among early-career researchers.
- NSF NeTS Early Career Investigators (ECI) Workshop Travel Grant** 2025
  - Awarded by NSF NeTS Program for attending the NeTS-ECI workshop at the NSF headquarters.

<b>Rising Star in AI and Machine Learning in Security</b>	<i>2024</i>
• Awarded by IEEE TCCN special interest group for AI and machine learning in security.	
<b>Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Travel Award</b>	<i>2024</i>
• Awarded by SIAM for attending the Conference on Mathematics of Data Science.	
<b>Dante Youla Award For Research Excellence</b>	<i>2024</i>
• Awarded by Dept. ECE in recognition of graduate research excellence.	
<b>MidWest Control and Game Theory Conference Travel Award</b>	<i>2024</i>
• Awarded by the University of Minnesota for conference presentations.	
<b>Game Theory and AI for Security Conference Travel Award</b>	<i>2022</i>
• Awarded by Carnegie Mellon University for conference presentations.	
<b>Best Student Paper Finalist, IEEE MLSP</b>	<i>2019</i>
• One of the ten finalists at International Workshop on Machine Learning for Signal Processing.	
<b>Mitacs-Globalink Research Award</b>	<i>2017</i>
• Awarded by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for undergrad research.	
<b>National Scholarship</b>	<i>2015</i>
• Awarded by the Ministry of Education of China for undergrad academic excellence.	

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## TEACHING & MENTORING

### Graduate Teaching

• ECE-GY5213 Introduction to System Engineering, Teaching Assistant	<i>Fall 2023</i>
• ECE-GY6263 Game Theory, Guest Lecturer	<i>Fall 2022</i>
• ECE-GY6233 System Optimization Methods, Teaching Assistant	<i>Spring 2022</i>

### Graduate Mentoring

• Xinhong Xie, Current Position: Ph.D. student at Penn State University Project: Large language models for personalized text detoxification	<i>Jan. 2024 – Sept. 2024</i>
• Dhairya Upadhyay, Current Position: Data analyst at NYU Langone Health Project: Vision-based turtlebot collision avoidance	<i>Jan. 2023 – May 2023</i>
• Haozhe Lei, Current Position: Ph.D. student at New York University Project: Meta reinforcement learning for self-adaptive driving	<i>Sept. 2021 – May 2022</i>
• Nikunj Gupta, Current Position: Ph.D. student at the University of Southern California Project: Informationally mosaic multi-agent reinforcement learning	<i>Sept. 2021 – Dec. 2021</i>

### Undergraduate Mentoring

• Junjie Huang, LLM-powered automated penetration testing and remediation <b>Best Student Paper Award</b> at ACM CCS AutonomousCyber Wkshp 2024	<i>Jun. 2024 – Sept. 2024</i>
• Juan Guevara, Self-confirming transformer in multi-agent reinforcement learning	<i>Jun. 2023 – Sept. 2023</i>

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

### Conference Organization

- Technical Program Chair for IEEE International Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM 2025), Workshop on Resilience in Next-Generation Networks, London, UK, May 2025.
- General Chair for NSF Workshop on LLMs for Network Security, Brooklyn, NY, Oct. 2024.
- Technical Program Chair for IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS 2024), Cyber Resilience Workshop, Taipei, Taiwan, Oct. 2024.
- Technical Program Chair for IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS 2023), Cyber Resilience Workshop, Orlando, FL, Oct. 2023.
- Session Chair for SIAM Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, Jul. 2022.
- Session Chair for International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook, NY, Jul. 2022.

### Review Services

- IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters

- IEEE Control System Letters
- IEEE Transactions on Emerging Topics in Computational Intelligence
- Nonlinear Analysis: Hybrid Systems
- IEEE International Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM-2025)
- IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS-2024/23)
- IEEE International Conference on Robotics Automation (ICRA-2024/23)
- IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC-2024/23/22/21)
- Annual Learning for Dynamics & Control Conference (L4DC-2023)
- International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-2022)
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML-2022)

## REFERENCES

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- Dr. Quanyan Zhu, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering & Center for Cybersecurity, New York University, 370 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, qz494@nyu.edu, Phone: 646-997-3371
- Dr. Sundeep Rangan, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering & Director of Wireless Center, New York University, 370 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, srangan@nyu.edu, Phone: 646-997-3804
- Dr. Kaan Ozbay, Professor, Department of Civil and Urban Engineering and Center for Urban Science and Progress & Founding Director of C2SMART Center, New York University, 6 MetroTech Center, 4th Floor, RH 441, Brooklyn, NY 11201, kaan.ozbay@nyu.edu, Phone: 646-997-2691
- Dr. Tamer Başar, Swanlund Endowed Chair Emeritus & Center for Advanced Study Professor Emeritus, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois, 1308 West Main, Urbana, IL 61801, basar1@illinois.edu, Phone: 217-979-1283