Changling Li (李常凌)

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LinkedIn | GitHub | Google Scholar | X

"And now I see with eye serene, the very pulse of the machine." – William Wordsworth

Research Interest

AI Safety · Multi-Agent Systems · Reinforcement Learning

Education

- **ETH Zürich** *Sept 2022 - Present*
  Master of Science in Computer Science Zurich, Switzerland
  ◦ Major: Machine Intelligence; Minor: Theoretical Computer Science
- **Colby College** *Sept 2018 - May 2022*
  Bachelor of Arts in Physics (Astrophysics) and Computer Science with Honors Maine, United States
  ◦ GPA: 3.99/4 (Distinction in both majors)
- **Li Po Chun United World College** *Sept 2016 - June 2018*
  International Baccalaureate Bilingual Diploma Hong Kong
  ◦ Grade: 41/45

Publications

C=Conference, J=Journal, S=In Submission

[C.3] Choi Younwoo*, **Changling Li***, Yongjin Yang, and Zhijing Jin."**Agent-to-Agent Theory of Mind: Testing Interlocutor Awareness among Large Language Models.**" In *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* (**EMNLP Main**), 2025.

[J.1] **Changling Li**, Ying Li. "**Scaling up Energy-Aware Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Mission-Oriented Drone Networks with Individual Reward.**" *IEEE Internet of Things Journal* (**IoT-J**), vol. 12, no. 8, pp. 10640-10654, April 15, 2025.

[C.2] **Changling Li**, Zhang-Wei Hong, Pulkit Agrawal, Divyansh Garg, and Joni Pajarinen. "**ROER: Regularized Optimal Experience Replay.**" In *Reinforcement Learning Conference* (**RLC**), 2024.

[C.1] Ying Li, **Changling Li**, Jiyao Chen, and Christine Roinou. "**Energy-Aware Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Collaborative Execution in Mission-Oriented Drone Networks.**" In *2022 International Conference on Computer Communications and Networks* (**ICCCN**), pp. 1–9. IEEE, 2022.

Honors, Awards & Scholarships

Undergrad Honors: Distinction in both majors; Magna Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Pi Sigma; UWC Davis Scholar; Dean's List F'18, S'19, F'19, F'21 (2020 and S'21 - cancelled due to COVID-19).

Colby College Institutional Grant: 45,065$/year × 4 years undergraduate scholarship (90% scholarship, acceptance rate below 5%), Colby College, 2018 - 2022.

UWC Davis Scholarship: 20,000$/year × 4 years undergraduate scholarship, Davis UWC Scholars, 2018 - 2022.

UWC National Committee Scholarship: HKD 278,000/year × 2 years high school scholarship (full scholarship, acceptance rate below 1%), United World College, 2016 - 2018.

Bronze Medal in China National Biology Olympiad (CNBO): 32nd China National Biology Olympiad, 2015.

Research Experience

- **Student Researcher** *May 2025 - Present*
  Jinesis Lab & ETH Zurich Zurich, Switzerland
  ◦ Designed evaluation framework and behavior adaptation case studies (**[C3, EMNLP]**).
  ◦ Implemented multi-LLM interactions to explore the implication in cooperative LLMs, AI alignment and safety.
  ◦ Supervised by Prof. Zhijing Jin.
- **Semester Project Student** *Oct 2024 - Feb 2025*
  PdZ Lab & ETH Zurich Zurich, Switerland
  ◦ Developed the in-context learning optimization pipeline for dexterous robot hand grasping and planning.
  ◦ Integrated the pipeline with Raisim Gym environment.
  ◦ Supervised by Hui Zhang, Sophokles Ktistakis & Prof. Mirko Meboldt.
- **Remote Student Researcher** *Nov 2023 - May 2024*
  MIT & Aalto University Remote
  ◦ Derived the theoretical formulation of TD-based prioritization scheme involving occupancy optimization and Lagrangian duality (**[C.2, RLC]**).
  ◦ Implemented JAX-based Soft Actor-Critic RL with proposed experience replay formulation.

◦ Ran Large scale evaluation using MuJoCo and DM Control.

◦ Supervised by Dr. Zhang-Wei Hong, Prof. Joni Joni Pajarinen & Prof. Pulkit Agrawal.

- **Summer Research Assistant & Honor Thesis Student** *June 2021 - June 2022*
  Colby College Waterville, US
  ◦ Developed an OpenAI gym based drone networks simulation environment.
  ◦ Implemented tensorflow-based DQN MARL in both cooperation (**[C.1, ICCCN]**) and coopetition settings (**[J.1, IoT-J]**).
  ◦ Supervised by Prof. Ying Li.

Academic Service

- **Reinforcement Learning Conference Technical Reviewer**, 2025.

Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Assistant** *Sept 2019 - May 2022*
  Department of Computer Science, Colby College [🌐]
  ◦ Courses: CS 353 Interactive System; CS 251 Data Analysis and Visualization; CS 231 Data Structure and Algorithm; CS 152 Computational Thinking: Science; CS 151 Computational Thinking: Visual Media.
- **Teaching Assistant** *Sept 2019 - May 2021*
  Department of Physics and Astronomy, Colby College [🌐]
  ◦ Courses include: PH 241 Modern Physics I; PH 242 Modern Physics II.

Community Service

- **WatervilleCreates!**, 3D Printing Instructor *Sept 2021 - May 2022*
- **The Bridge (LGBTQIA+) Club of Colby College**, Co-leader *Feb 2019 - Sept 2021*
- **Coral Monitoring in Collaboration with WWF and CoralWatch**, Co-leader *Sept 2016 - June 2018*

Skills & Interests

- **Programming Languages:** Python, C++, Java.
- **Frameworks:** PyTorch, JAX, TensorFlow, Sklearn, Git, SQL, JSONiq.
- **Domains:** AI, Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Multi-Agent Systems, Ethics.
- **Natural Languages:** English (Proficient), Mandarin (Native), Spanish (Intermediate), German (Elementary).
- **Interests:** Play Squash, Horror Film, Visual Arts, Scuba Diving, Effective Altruism.

References

1. **Zhijing Jin**
   Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science
   University of Toronto
   Email: zjin@cs.toronto.edu
   Relationship: Research Supervisor

2. **Joni Pajarinen**
   Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Automation
   Aalto University
   Email: joni.pajarinen@aalto.fi
   Relationship: Research Supervisor

3. **Ying Li**
   Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science
   Colby College
   Email: yingli@colby.edu
   Relationship: Undergrad Thesis Supervisor