

Zixun Huang

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PROFILE

I am an undergraduate student in Statistics at Peking University and participated in an academic exchange at the University of California, Berkeley. Throughout my academic journey, I have been fortunate to work closely with Professors [Lei Wu](#), [Zeyu Zheng](#) and [Junfeng Hu](#). My research focuses on the theoretical foundations of machine learning, including scaling laws, and reinforcement learning theory.

EDUCATION

Peking University, School of Mathematical Sciences

Sept 2022 – Present

B.S. in Statistics, GPA: 3.68/4.0

Member of Elite Undergraduate Program for Applied Mathematics (Top 10%)

Core Coursework: Mathematical Analysis, Advanced Algebra, Data Structure, Mathematical Modeling, Probability Theory, Machine Learning, Deep Learning Theory, Numerical Methods, Applied Stochastic Calculus, Functional Analysis

University of California, Berkeley

Jan 2025 – Aug 2025

Visiting Student, GPA: 4.0/4.0

Core Coursework: Theoretical Statistics, Advanced Topics in Probability and Stochastic Processes, Modern Statistical Prediction and Machine Learning, Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs, Great Ideas in Computer Architecture, Computer Security

PUBLICATIONS

- Binghui Li*, Fengling Chen*, **Zixun Huang***, Lean Wang*, Lei Wu. *Unveiling the Role of Learning Rate Schedules via Functional Scaling Laws*. NeurIPS 2025 (Spotlight).
- **Zixun Huang***, Jiayi Sheng*, Zeyu Zheng. *OBLR-PO: A Theoretical Framework for Stable Reinforcement Learning*. Submitted to AISTATS 2026.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Functional Scaling Laws for Learning Rate Schedules (Core)

Jun 2024 – May 2025

- Advisor: [Prof. Lei Wu](#)
- Proposed a novel Functional Scaling Law (FSL) by modeling SGD as an intrinsic-time SDE
- Analyzed learning-rate schedules under data and compute constraints, revealing efficiency trade-offs
- Validated FSL through kernel regression and LLM pre-training, producing optimal schedules

OBLR-PO: Theory for Stable Reinforcement Learning (Core)

Feb 2025 – Oct 2025

- Advisor: [Prof. Zeyu Zheng](#)
- Established theoretical guarantees for policy optimization, including variance bounds and convergence
- Introduced gradient-weighted baselines for principled variance reduction
- Implemented OBLR-PO and demonstrated superior performance on Qwen3-4B/8B vs. GRPO

Efficiently Combining Simulation with Linear Algebra: COSIMLA

May 2025 – Jul 2025

- Advisor: [Prof. Zeyu Zheng](#)
- Implemented and evaluated five COSIMLA estimators across diverse parameter regimes
- Analyzed variance–bias–efficiency trade-offs, confirming improved stability and speed

Saturation Phenomenon Under Kernel Method

Feb 2024 – May 2024

- Advisor: Prof. Lei Wu
- Derived loss functions for kernel ridge regression and gradient descent; analyzed the saturation phenomenon through bias-variance tradeoff and Fourier perspective
- Identified a noiseless setup saturation effect previously overlooked in prior work

Cross Modal Alignment

May 2024 – Jun 2024

- Advisor: Prof. Junfeng Hu
- Developed an alignment strategy for movie posters and text introductions using vector embeddings
- Established baseline accuracy and reported insights on model and network pre-training effects

Analysis for Grokking Phenomenon

Nov 2023 – Jan 2024

- Advisor: Prof. Lei Wu
- Replicated grokking phenomenon experiments (MLP, LSTM) on modular addition task
- Conducted theoretical and empirical analysis from training-dynamics and landscape perspectives

HONORS AND AWARDS

Hong Sheng Scholarship (Top 12%)	2024
First Prize, Chinese Mathematics Contest (Top 1%)	2024
Yau Contest Groups Prize (Top 5%)	2024
Xiaomi Scholarship (Top 12%)	2023
Gold Prize, Chinese Mathematical Olympiad	2021
Silver Prize, Chinese Mathematical Olympiad	2020

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Applied Mathematics Seminar, Peking University

Jun 2024 – Jul 2024

- Teaching Assistant for Prof. Zhi-Qin John Xu
- Assisted in developing and organizing lecture materials

Peking University Runners Association

Oct 2022 – Dec 2023

- Core Team Member
- Organized and coordinated running events; participated in volunteer activities
- Completed the Nanjing Half Marathon

SKILLS AND OTHER

Languages	Chinese (Native), English (Fluent, TOEFL 101)
Quantitative Skills	GRE (160+170+3.5), GRE Math (970, 95th percentile)
Programming	Python, MATLAB, LaTeX, PyTorch, C++