

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Reinforcement Learning, Online Learning & Multi-Armed Bandits, Large Language Models

EDUCATIONS

Ph.D. in Statistics Sep. 2014 - Dec. 2019

Department of Statistics, Purdue University

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Guang Cheng

B.S. in Statistics Sep. 2010 - Aug. 2014

School of Mathematics, Nankai University

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Changliang Zou

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

▲ **Deepmind** Nov. 2020 - Present

Research Scientist

▲ **Princeton University** Dec. 2019 - Nov. 2020

Postdoctoral Researcher

Mentor(s): Dr. Mengdi Wang

▲ **Deepmind** May 2019 - Sep. 2019

Research Intern

Mentor(s): Dr. Tor Lattimore, Dr. Csaba Szepesvári

▲ **Adobe Research** May 2018 - Aug. 2018

Research Intern

Mentor(s): Dr. Zheng Wen

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

▲ **Sparse Tensor Additive Regression**

Botao Hao, Boxiang Wang, Pengyuan Wang, Emma Jingfei Zhang, Jian Yang, Will Wei Sun

Journal of Machine Learning Research (2021). [[ArXiv](#)]

▲ **Sparse and Low-rank Tensor Estimation via Cubic Sketchings**

Botao Hao, Anru Zhang, and Guang Cheng

IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (2020). [[ArXiv](#)]

▲ **Nonparametric Bayesian Aggregation for Massive Data**

Zuofeng Shang, **Botao Hao**, and Guang Cheng

Journal of Machine Learning Research (2019). [[ArXiv](#)]

▲ **Simultaneous Clustering and Estimation of Heterogeneous Graphical Models**

Botao Hao, Will Wei Sun, Yufeng Liu, and Guang Cheng

Journal of Machine Learning Research (2018). [[ArXiv](#)]

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

▲ **Leveraging Demonstrations to Improve Online Learning: Quality Matters**

Botao Hao, Rahul Jain, Tor Lattimore, Benjamin Van Roy, Zheng Wen

ICML 2023. [[ArXiv](#)]

- ▲ **Regret Bounds for Information-Directed Reinforcement Learning**
Botao Hao, Tor Lattimore
NeurIPS 2022. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **The Neural Testbed: Evaluating Predictive Distributions**
 Ian Osband, Zheng Wen, Mohamammad Asghari, Vikranth Dwaracherla, **Botao Hao**,
 Morteza Ibrahimi, Dieterich Lawson, Xiuyuan Lu, Brendan O'Donoghue, Benjamin Van Roy
NeurIPS 2022. [[ArXiv](#)][[GitHub](#)]
- ▲ **Contextual Information-Directed Sampling**
Botao Hao, Tor Lattimore, Chao Qin
ICML 2022. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Interacting Contour Stochastic Gradient Langevin Dynamics**
 Wei Deng, Siqi Liang, **Botao Hao**, Guang Lin, Faming Liang
ICLR 2022. [[OpenReview](#)]
- ▲ **Confident Least Square Value Iteration with Local Access to a Simulator**
Botao Hao, Nevena Lazic, Dong Yin, Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori, Csaba Szepesvári
AISTATS 2022. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Efficient Local Planning with Linear Function Approximation**
 Dong Yin, **Botao Hao**, Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori, Nevena Lazic, Csaba Szepesvári
ALT 2022. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Bandit Phase Retrieval**
 Tor Lattimore, **Botao Hao**
NeurIPS 2021. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Information Directed Sampling for Sparse Linear Bandits**
Botao Hao, Tor Lattimore, Wei Deng
NeurIPS 2021 (spotlight). [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Bootstrapping Statistical Inference for Off-Policy Evaluation**
Botao Hao, Xiang Ji, Yaqi Duan, Hao Lu, Csaba Szepesvári, Mengdi Wang
ICML 2021. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Sparse Feature Selection Makes Batch Reinforcement Learning More Sample Efficient**
Botao Hao, Yaqi Duan, Tor Lattimore, Csaba Szepesvári, Mengdi Wang
ICML 2021. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Online Sparse Reinforcement Learning**
Botao Hao, Tor Lattimore, Csaba Szepesvári, Mengdi Wang
AISTATS 2021. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Adaptive Approximate Policy Iteration**
Botao Hao, Nevena Lazic, Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori, Pooria Joulani, Csaba Szepesvári
AISTATS 2021. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **High-Dimensional Sparse Linear Bandits**
Botao Hao, Tor Lattimore, Mengdi Wang
NeurIPS 2020. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Adaptive Exploration in Linear Contextual Bandit**
Botao Hao, Tor Lattimore, and Csaba Szepesvári
AISTATS 2020. [[ArXiv](#)]
- ▲ **Sparse and Low-rank Tensor Estimation via Cubic Sketchings**

Botao Hao, Anru Zhang, and Guang Cheng
AISTATS 2020. [[Link](#)]

▲ **Bootstrapped Upper Confidence Bound**

Botao Hao, Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori, Zheng Wen, and Guang Cheng
NeurIPS 2019. [[ArXiv](#)]

BOOK CHAPTERS

▲ **Tensors in Modern Statistical Learning**

Will Wei Sun, **Botao Hao**, Lexin Li
In Wiley StatsRef: Statistics Reference Online. [[Link](#)]

PREPRINTS

▲ **Sequential Best-Arm Identification with Application to Brain-Computer Interface**

Xin Zhou, **Botao Hao**, Jian Kang, Tor Lattimore, Lexin Li
Submitted. [[ArXiv](#)]

▲ **Sample Efficient Deep Reinforcement Learning via Local Planning**

Dong Yin, Sridhar Thiagarajan, Nevena Lazic, Nived Rajaraman, **Botao Hao**, Csaba Szepesvari
Preprint. [[ArXiv](#)]

▲ **Optimization Issues in KL-Constrained Approximate Policy Iteration**

Nevena Lazic, **Botao Hao**, Yasin Abbasi-Yadkori, Dale Schurmans, Csaba Szepesvári
Preprint. [[ArXiv](#)]

▲ **Stochastic Low-rank Tensor Bandits for Multi-dimensional Online Decision Making**

Jie Zhou, **Botao Hao**, Zheng Wen, Jingfei Zhang, Will Wei Sun
Submitted. [[ArXiv](#)]

▲ **Residual Bootstrap Exploration for Bandit Algorithms**

Chi-Hua Wang*, Yang Yu*, **Botao Hao**, Guang Cheng
Preprint. [[ArXiv](#)]

HONORS AND AWARDS

▲ AISTATS 2022 Top Reviewer

▲ NeurIPS 2019 Travel Award

▲ Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship 2019-2020

INVITED TALKS

▲ CMStatistics 2022, London, UK Dec. 2022

▲ RL Forum, Stanford University, CA Nov. 2022

▲ Deepmind for Google, Mountain View, CA Jan. 2020

▲ Institute of Statistics, Nankai University, Tianjin Dec. 2018

▲ International Conference on Data Science, Shanghai Dec. 2017

▲ The 25th ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium, Chicago Jun. 2017

▲ Conference on Statistical Learning and Data Science, Chapel Hill, NC Jun. 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

▲ Lab Instructor, STAT 301: Elementary Statistical Methods, Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015

▲ Lab Instructor, STAT 113: Statistics and Society, Summer 2017

▲ Grader, STAT 519: Introduction to Probability Theory, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

▲ Grader, STAT 516: Basic Probability and Applications, Fall 2015

SERVICES

▲ Session chair for Machine Learning/Intelligence Cluster at 2020 INFORMS annual meeting

▲ Co-chair of Ubicomp 2019 Workshop on [Continual and Multimodal Learning for Internet of Things](#), London, UK

▲ Reviewers for Journals:

Annals of Statistics

Annals of Applied Probability

Journal of the American Statistical Association

Journal of Machine Learning Research

Journal of Multivariate Analysis

Computational Statistics and Data Analysis

The IEEE Control Systems Letters

Statistica Sinica

Biostatistics

IEEE Transactions on Information Theory

IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Information Theory

Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence

Transactions on Machine Learning Research

▲ Reviewers for Conferences: NeurIPS, ICML, ICLR, AISTATS, AAAI, UAI, SODA