# HAO ZHU

Master in Neuroscience, Optophysiology Lab, University of Freiburg Georges-Köhler-Allee 201, 79110 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

#### **EDUCATION**

**University of Freiburg** (Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany)

Oct. 2021 – expected Oct. 2023

Master of Science, Biology (major Neuroscience)

GPA: 1.7/1.0

Nankai University (Tianjin, China)

Sep. 2016 – July 2020

Bachelor of Science, Chemical Biology

GPA: 89.4/100, Rank: 3/20

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### JOURNAL ARTICLE

[1] Wang, Baifan, Zhang, Zijuan, Zhu, Hao, Niu, Congwei, Wen, Xin, and Xi, Zhen. The hydrogen bonding network involved Arg59 in human protoporphyrinogen IX oxidase is essential for enzyme activity. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 557:20–25, June 2021.

#### **TOOLBOX**

[1] **Zhu, Hao**. Neugym: A python package for reinforcement learning environment of animal behavior modeling. https://github.com/HaoZhu10015/neugym, 2022.

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

## Optophysiology Lab, IMBIT//BrainLinks-BrainTools University of Freiburg, Germany

Aug. 2022 – present

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ilka Diester

Research Assistant

- Designed the Parallel Q-Learning with Hidden Markov Model (PQL-HMM) framework for the mathematical modeling of animal evidence based decision-making behavior.
- Designed, implemented, and released a general reinforcement learning environment for rodent behavior simulation (Python module, available on GitHub).

### Institute of Biology I & Bernstein Center Freiburg **University of Freiburg, Germany**

July 2022 - Nov. 2022

Research Assistant

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Andrew D. Straw
- Implemented a Tree of Parzen Estimators (TPE) method based parameter auto-tuning process of Kalman filter used for animal tracking.
- Designed and implemented an event-camera-based lock-on tracker prototype, which is able to steer a multiple camera system for bee tracking in the wild.

# State Key Laboratory of Elemento-organic Chemistry Chemistry College, Nankai University, China

Aug. 2017 - Jan. 2021

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Xin Wen, Prof. Dr. Zhen Xi

Undergraduate Researcher / Research Assistant

- Led National Training Program of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Undergraduates: "Computational Simulation and Biological Verification for Different Species of Protoporphyrinogen IX Oxidase Amino Acid Interactions".

- Completed bioinformatic analysis of multiple genera protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPO) amino acid conservative property.

- Constructed global dynamical amino acid interaction network for multiple genera PPO and mutants with data sampled from Molecular Dynamics (MD) simulation, with which further identified 67 potential key residues of *human*PPO using graph algorithms and network theory.
- Optimized our previous *human*PPO mutant enzyme activity prediction method Prenzyme, tenfold increase in efficiency.

# State Key Laboratory of Elemento-organic Chemistry Chemistry College, Nankai University, China

Oct. 2016 - Sep. 2017

Undergraduate Researcher

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Xuncheng Su

- Synthesized an 1,3,4-oxadiazole-Based trifluoromethyl protein tag.
- Conducted sampling and data analysis of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum.

#### **SKILLS**

#### **PROGRAMMING**

**Language** Python, C++, Rust, MATLAB, R, Shell

Scientific Programming NumPy, SciPy, scikit-learn, JAX, PyMC, NetworkX, FilterPy,

Hyperopt, NEURON

**Deep Learning** PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras

**Reinforcement Learning** Gym

Data VisualizationMatplotlib, Seaborn, pandasCamera SystemKalibr, Metavision-SDK

**Documentation** LaTeX, Markdown, reStructuredText, Sphinx

**SOFTWARE** 

Chemical Software Gaussian, Gauss View, ChemDraw, Chem3D

Biological Software Amber, AutoDock, Galaxy, PyMOL, ImageJ, WinEDR

**Data Visualization** Origin, Graphpad Prism 9, Cytoscape, Gephi

#### **COURSE WORK**

#### "Optogenetics & Behavior" (Module SP1-05 Neurobiology, University of Freiburg, 2022)

- Designed behavioral experiment and confirmed the feasibility of generating an innate reward in the *Drosophila melanogaster* brain through artificial activation of neurons with gustatory receptors (Gr43a) using Channel-rhodopsin Chrimson, and further proved the existence of a weak activation effect of Chrimson under blue light (~450nm).

#### "Neural Networks and Deep Learning" (Coursera & DeepLearning.AI, 2019)

- Implemented a deep neural network for image classification of MNIST dataset with Python and Numpy module, including the image data loading, model optimizing and predicting.

#### "Machine Learning" (Coursera & Stanford University, 2019)

- Implemented basic supervised machine learning algorithms with MATLAB, including linear regression, logistic regression, shallow neural network, and support vector machine algorithm.
- Implemented basic unsupervised machine learning algorithms for clustering and dimension reduction with MAT-LAB, indlucing k-means clustering and principal component analysis algorithm.

#### **AWARDS**

- Kaggle research code competition "Plant Pathology 2021 FGVC8" (Fine-Grained Visual Categorization, CVPR 2021) (**Top 35**%) (*May 2021*)
- Innovative Scientific Research Award for College Students of Nankai University (Excellence Award) (June 2020)
- Mathematical Contest In Modeling (MCM/ICM) (Successful Participant) (2019)
- Asymchem Scholarship of Chemistry College, Nankai University (2017 2018)

• Asymchem Scholarship of Chemistry College, Nankai University (2016 – 2017)

#### **REFEREES**

#### Prof. Dr. Ilka Diester

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#### Prof. Dr. Andrew D. Straw

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#### Prof. Dr. Xin Wen

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