Rongtao Zhang

https://isanshi.github.io

EDUCATION

University of Southern California

Master of Science in Machine Learning and Data Science

Los Angeles, CA Aug 2023 – May 2025

Email: rongtaoz@usc.edu

Beijing Jiaotong University

Bachelor of Engineering in Internet of Things Engineering

Haidian, Beijing Sep 2018 – June 2023

ONGOING PROJECTS

· Personalizing Haptic Signals using Preference-Based Reward Learning

Xin Zhu, Rongtao Zhang, Warren Dao, Erdem Bıyık, Heather Culbertson

• Perception and Control of Surfing in Virtual Reality using a 6-DoF Motion Platform

Premankur Banerjee, Rongtao Zhang, Jason Kutch, Heather Culbertson, et al.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

USC HaRVI Lab, Research Intern

Los Angeles, California

Feb 2024 - Present

Advised by Dr. Heather Culbertson

- Vision-Driven Haptic Feedback System: Developed a real-time haptic feedback system that uses computer vision to detect user interactions and deliver corresponding tactile sensations through wearable devices.
- **Preference-Based Haptic Optimization**: Designed and implemented learning-based algorithms to optimize haptic feedback patterns based on individual user preferences and response data, improving comfort in remote interaction scenarios.

CASIA Collective Decision Intelligence Lab, Research Intern

Haidian, Beijing

Advised by Dr. Haifeng Zhang and Dr. Ning Yang

Sep 2022 - July 2023

- o Reinforcement Learning: Research focus on Reinforcement Learning for Mobile Edge Computing.
- Large Language Model: Studied the technical roadmap and application scenarios of ChatGPT during its initial emergence.

BJTU INSIS, Research Intern

Haidian, Beijing

Advised by Prof. Youfang Lin

Oct 2021 - Mar 2022

o Robot Manipulation: Implemented an automatic refueling system for a mechanical arm via deep reinforcement learning.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Visiting Student

Remote

Advised by Prof. Mark Vogelsberger

Aug 2020 - Oct 2020

 Image Inpainting: Developed a demo showcasing watermark removal and image inpainting using Multi-Column Convolutional Neural Networks optimized with Genetic Algorithm.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Lenovo, AI UX and Software Development Intern

Haidian, Beijing

Lenovo Smart Voice Team

Apr 2021 – Aug 2021

- o User Requirement Analysis: Investigated user needs and usage patterns for desktop-based intelligent voice assistants.
- **Feature Implementation**: Assisted in developing functions such as wake-word recognition, voice command handling, and desktop app integration in Lenovo Smart Voice.
- Corpus Management and Deployment: Built a data management system for internal voice corpus processing, and completed deployment of Lenovo Smart Voice on both Windows and Linux platforms.

EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CSCI 649: Haptic Interfaces and Virtual Environments

USC Course Producer

Los Angeles, CA

Jan 2025 - May 2025

Teacher, Volunteer

Gansu, China

Middle School Mathematics

May 2020 - Aug 2020

o Helped a student improve math score by 50 points (out of 100); received the school's Rapid Progress Award.

Beijing Zoo, Volunteer

Haidian, Beijing

Animal Welfare Guide

Mar 2019 - June 2019

o Provided guidance to visitors on adhering to animal welfare practices during their zoo visit.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer

IEEE Communications Surveys & Tutorials; IEEE Transactions on Cognitive Communications and Networking

RLChina Member

Local Organizer, RLChina at Beijing Jiaotong University

RSS 2025 Volunteer

University of Southern California, Los Angeles

AWARDS

- National Second Prize, Chinese Undergraduate Mechanical Engineering Innovation and Creativity Competition(7/326)
- BJTU Tech Star
- BJTU Excellent Student Cadre Scholarship
- BJTU Athletic Excellence Scholarship
- BJTU Academic Excellent Scholarship