Julien ZHOU

Researcher

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Research Interests: Probability, Statistics, Optimisation, Machine learning, Online learning, Bandits theory

Publications and Preprints

- **Towards Efficient and Optimal Covariance-Adaptive Algorithms for Combinatorial Semi-Bandits**, *NeurIPS*, 2024
- **Logarithmic Regret for Unconstrained Submodular Maximization Stochastic Bandit**, *ALT*, 2025

Experience

Nov. 2022 – Jan. 2026 **PhD**, *Criteo & Inria*, Grenoble, France
Title: *From worst-case guarantees to adaptive bandit algorithms*
Supervision: Pierre Gaillard (Inria Thoth), Julyan Arbel (Inria Statify) and Thibaud Rahier.
Research on bandits theory and online learning in general.

Apr. 2022 – Sept. 2022 **Research Intern**, *Criteo*, Grenoble, France
Conception, analysis and implementation of efficient algorithms for contextual bandits.

Feb. 2020 – July 2020 **Research Intern**, *Réseau de Transport d'Electricité*, Paris, France
Simulation of time series for different types of energy production (nuclear, solar, wind).

Education

2021 – 2022 **Research Master's Degree**, *Université Paris-Saclay*, Paris, France
Statistics and Machine learning (MdA – StatML).

2015 – 2020 **Centrale Paris Engineer**, *CentraleSupélec*, Paris, France
Specialized in Applied mathematics (OMA).

2013 – 2015 **CPGE**, *Lycée Louis le Grand*, Paris, France
Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles (MPSI, MP*, focus on Computer Science).

Teaching

2024 – 2025 **Analysis**, *Université Grenoble-Alpes*, Grenoble, France
Bachelor's level, 24 hours practical sessions.

2023 – 2024 **Mathematical Foundations of ML.**, *Université Grenoble-Alpes*, Grenoble, France
Master's level, Online learning and Reinforcement learning, 3h practical sessions.

Talks and visits

Apr. 2025 – June 2025 **Lifelong Reinforcement Learning Group**, *University of Tubingen*, Tubingen, France
Visiting scholar. Collaboration with Claire Vernade, Julian Zimmert and Yevgeny Seldin.

Oct. 2024 **The Statistics and Machine Learning Thematic Seminar**, *University of Amsterdam*, Amsterdam, Netherland
Talk about unconstrained submodular maximization bandits.

May 2024 **Journée de Statistique de la SFdS**, Bordeaux, France
Talk about combinatorial semi-badits.

Skills and others

Languages: French, English
Programming languages Python