Li Ding

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EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst 2020.9 - 2024.7
Ph.D. in Computer Science Advisor: Lee Spector
- Thesis: *Optimization with Intrinsic Diversity: Towards Generalizable, Safe, and Open-Ended Learning*.
- Committee: Lee Spector, Scott Niekum, Subhransu Maji, Jeff Clune.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2019.9 - 2020.1
Graduate Study at CSAIL (non-degree)

University of Rochester 2016.6 - 2017.5
M.S. in Data Science Advisor: Chenliang Xu

EXPERIENCE

Google 2024.7 - present
Software Engineer - AI/ML
- Multimodal LLMs and on-device generative AI.

Google 2023.6 - 2023.9
Research Intern
- Meta-learning and optimization for knowledge distillation.

Meta 2022.5 - 2022.8
Research Scientist Intern
- Computer vision for AR/VR applications.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2017.9 - 2020.6
Research Engineer
- Deep learning for autonomous driving and cognitive modeling.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- R. Boldi, L. Ding, L. Spector, and S. Niekum, "Pareto-optimal learning from preferences with hidden context," *arXiv preprint (under review)*, 2024.
- L. Ding, J. Zhang, J. Clune, L. Spector, and J. Lehman, "Quality diversity through human feedback: Towards open-ended diversity-driven optimization," in *International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML**)*, 2024.
- L. Ding, M. Zoghi, G. Tennenholtz, and M. Karimzadehgan, "Ever evolving evaluator: Towards flexible and reliable meta-optimization for knowledge distillation," in ***NeurIPS**: RealML Workshop*, 2023.
- L. Ding, E. Pantridge, and L. Spector, "Probabilistic lexicase selection," in *Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (**GECCO**)*, 2023.
- L. Ding and L. Spector, "Optimizing neural networks with gradient lexicase selection," in *International Conference on Learning Representations (**ICLR**)*, 2022.
- L. Fridman, L. Ding, B. Jenik, and B. Reimer, "Arguing machines: Human supervision of black box AI systems that make life-critical decisions," in ***CVPR** Workshops*, 2019.
- L. Ding and C. Xu, "Weakly-supervised action segmentation with iterative soft boundary assignment," in *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (**CVPR**)*, 2018.
- L. Fridman, H. Schmidt, J. Terwilliger, and L. Ding, "Human interaction with deep reinforcement learning agents in virtual reality," in ***NeurIPS**: Deep Reinforcement Learning Workshop*, 2018.

TEACHING

- TA for MIT 6.S094: Deep Learning for Self-Driving Cars. 2018 - 2019
- Co-instructor (w/ Tom Bertalan) for MIT Robocar Workshop. 2018

COMMUNITY

- Reviewer: ICLR, NeurIPS, JMLR, ICCV, CVPR, ECCV, *etc.* 2022 - present
- Ph.D. Admissions Committee (University of Massachusetts Amherst CICS) 2024

OPEN SOURCE

- `google-research/ev3`: Meta-learning optimization in JAX.
- `pyribs`: An open-source library for quality diversity optimization.
- `mit-deep-learning`: Tutorials and coding assignments for MIT Deep Learning courses (10k+ stars).
- `MIT AI Podcast`: now *Lex Fridman Podcast*, ranked #1 on Apple Podcasts in the technology category.

SKILLS

Python, C++, JavaScript, PyTorch, JAX, Tensorflow, Git, LLM training, fine-tuning, and serving.