

Liangyu Zhao

Email: liangyu@cs.washington.edu

Website: <https://liangyuzhao.me/>

Research Interests Machine learning systems, distributed systems, collective communications; broadly speaking, I am interested in formulating and solving mathematical problems in computer systems and networking.

Education **University of Washington** Seattle, WA
Ph.D. in Computer Science 2021 – Present
Direction: Systems & Networking
Advisor: Prof. Arvind Krishnamurthy

University of Washington Seattle, WA
M.S. in Computer Science (incomplete) 2020 – 2021

University of Washington Seattle, WA
B.S. in Computer Science,
B.S. in Applied & Computational Mathematical Sciences
(Discrete Math and Algorithms track) 2015 – 2020

Industry Experience **NVIDIA**, Applied Deep Learning Research (ADLR) Redmond, WA
Research Intern Mar 2025 – Present
Mentor: Vijay Anand Korthikanti & Deepak Narayanan
Design and Optimization of Communication Kernels in Megatron-LM.

Microsoft Research, Research in Software Engineering (RiSE) Redmond, WA
Part-Time Researcher Jul – Nov 2024

Microsoft Research, Research in Software Engineering (RiSE) Redmond, WA
Research Intern Jun – Sep 2023
Mentor: Saeed Maleki
Optimizing collective communications on machine learning GPUs (e.g., NVIDIA DGX A100, AMD MI250).

ByteDance, AI-Lab Bellevue, WA
Research Intern, ML System Jul – Oct 2020
Mentor: Yibo Zhu
Working on automatic learning-rate schedule.

Microsoft, Azure Compute Core Redmond, WA
Software Engineer Intern Sep – Dec 2019

Google , Ads Infra	Mountain View, CA
Software Engineer Intern	Jun – Sep 2019
Microsoft , Azure Compute Core	Redmond, WA
Software Engineer Intern	Jun – Aug 2018
Zap Surgical Systems	San Carlos, CA
Software Engineer Intern	Jun – Sep 2017

Publications

ForestColl: Throughput-Optimal Collective Communications on Heterogeneous Network Fabrics

Liangyu Zhao, Saeed Maleki, Ziyue Yang, Hossein Pourreza, Arvind Krishnamurthy

arXiv preprint, in submission

NanoFlow: Towards Optimal Large Language Model Serving Throughput

Kan Zhu, Yilong Zhao, **Liangyu Zhao**, Gefei Zuo, Yile Gu, Dedong Xie, Yufei Gao, Qinyu Xu, Tian Tang, Zihao Ye, Keisuke Kamahori, Chien-Yu Lin, Stephanie Wang, Arvind Krishnamurthy, Baris Kasikci

arXiv preprint, in submission

Efficient Direct-Connect Topologies for Collective Communications

Liangyu Zhao, Siddharth Pal, Tapan Chugh, Weiyang Wang, Jason Fantl, Prithwish Basu, Joud Khoury, Arvind Krishnamurthy

USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI '25)

Rethinking Machine Learning Collective Communication as a Multi-Commodity Flow Problem

Xuting Liu, Behnaz Arzani, Siva Kesava Reddy Kakarla, **Liangyu Zhao**, Vincent Liu, Miguel Castro, Srikanth Kandula, Luke Marshall

ACM Special Interest Group on Data Communication (SIGCOMM '24)

Efficient all-to-all Collective Communication Schedules for Direct-connect Topologies

Prithwish Basu, **Liangyu Zhao**, Jason Fantl, Siddharth Pal, Arvind Krishnamurthy, Joud Khoury

International Symposium on High-Performance Parallel and Distributed Computing (HPDC '24)

AutoLRS: Automatic Learning-Rate Schedule by Bayesian Optimization on the Fly

Yuchen Jin, Tianyi Zhou, **Liangyu Zhao**, Yibo Zhu, Chuanxiong Guo, Marco Canini, Arvind Krishnamurthy

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR '21)

Nexus: A GPU Cluster Engine for Accelerating DNN-Based Video Analysis
Haichen Shen, Lequn Chen, Yuchen Jin, **Liangyu Zhao**, Bingyu Kong, Matthai
Philipose, Arvind Krishnamurthy, Ravi Sundaram
ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP '19)

Invited Talks

Efficient Direct-Connect Topologies for Collective Communications
➤ USENIX NSDI '25 April, 2025
➤ ACE Liaison Meeting Theme 3
ACE Center for Evolvable Computing January, 2025
➤ Future of Cloud Infrastructure (FOCI) Annual Symposium
University of Washington October, 2023
➤ Harvard Cloud Networking and Systems Group
Harvard University July, 2023

*ForestColl: Throughput-Optimal Collective Communications on Heterogeneous
Network Fabrics*
➤ Distributed Systems Laboratory (DSL) Seminar
University of Pennsylvania November, 2024
➤ NLP Reading Group
NVIDIA November, 2024
➤ Paul G. Allen School Annual Research Showcase
University of Washington October, 2024
➤ RiSE Weekly Meeting
Microsoft Research August, 2024
➤ ByteDance August, 2024
➤ AMD Research July, 2024