Zihan Ding

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

2021.08– **Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ, U.S.
- **Ph.D.** in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Advisor: Chi Jin

2018.09–2019.09 **Imperial College London**, London, U.K.
- **M.Sc.** in Computing (Machine Learning Specialism) with **Distinction** degree
- Robot Learning Laboratory
- Advisor: Edward Johns

2014.09–2018.07 **University of Science and Technology of China**, Hefei, Anhui, China.
- **B.Sc.** in Photoelectric Information Science and Engineering (Physics)
- **B.Eng.** in Computer Science and Technology
- Advisor: Jinming Cui, Yunfeng Huang

Research Interests

Deep Reinforcement Learning, Multi-Agent RL, Robot Learning, Simulation-to-Reality, Explainable RL/ML.

Publications

2020 Authored Book **Deep Reinforcement Learning: Fundamentals, Research and Applications**, *Hao Dong, **Zihan Ding**, Shanghang Zhang Eds.*, Springer 2020 ISBN 978-981-15-4094-3, 1st ed..
[Homepage] [eBook]

2022 Preprint **A Deep Reinforcement Learning Approach for Finding Non-Exploitable Strategies in Two-Player Atari Games**, ***Zihan Ding***, *Dijia Su, Qinghua Liu, Chi Jin.*
[Paper] [Code]

2022 **Learning Distributed and Fair Policies for Network Load Balancing as Markov Potential Game** , *Zhiyuan Yao, **Zihan Ding***, 36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2022.
[Paper] [Code]

2022 Preprint **Representation Learning for Low-rank General-sum Markov Games**, *Chengzhuo Ni, Xuezhou Zhang, Yuda Song, Zihan Ding, Chi Jin, Mengdi Wang.*

2022 **Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Network Load Balancing in Data Center**, *Zhiyuan Yao, **Zihan Ding**, Thomas Clausen*, 31th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM) 2022.
[Paper] [Code]

2022 Preprint **Not Only Domain Randomization: Universal Policy with Embedding System Identification**, ***Zihan Ding***.
[Paper] [Code]

2021 Preprint **CDT: Cascading Decision Trees for Explainable Reinforcement Learning**, ***Zihan Ding**, Pablo Hernandez-Leal, Gavin Weiguang Ding, Changjian Li, Ruitong Huang*.
[Paper] [Code]

2021 Preprint **Probabilistic Mixture-of-experts for Efficient Deep Reinforcement Learning**, *Jie Ren, Yewen Li, **Zihan Ding**, Wei Pan, Hao Dong*.
[Paper] [Code]

2021 **Reinforced Workload Distribution Fairness**, *Zhiyuan Yao, **Zihan Ding**, Thomas Clausen*, Machine Learning for Systems at 35th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2021.
[Paper] [Code]

2021 **RLzoo: A Comprehensive and Adaptive Reinforcement Learning Library**, ***Zihan Ding**, Tianyang Yu, Yanhua Huang, Hongming Zhang, Luo Mai and Hao Dong*, ACM Multimedia Open Source Software Competition 2021.
[Paper] [Code]

2021 **DMotion: Robotic Visuomotor Control with Unsupervised Forward Model Learned from Videos**, *Haoqi Yuan, Ruihai Wu, Andrew Zhao, Haipeng Zhang, **Zihan Ding**, Hao Dong*, International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2021.
[Paper] [Website]

2021 **Sim-to-Real Transfer for Robotic Manipulation with Tactile Sensory**, ***Zihan Ding**, Ya-Yen Tsai, Wang Wei Lee, Bidan Huang*, International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2021.
[Paper]

2021 **Bayesian Optimization for Wavefront Sensing and Error Correction**, *Zhonghua Qian, **Zihan Ding**, Mingzhong Ai, Yongxiang Zheng, Jinming Cui, Yunfeng Huang, Chuanfeng Li, Guangcan Guo*, Chinese Physics Letters.
[Paper]

2021 **DROID: Minimizing the Reality Gap using Single-shot Human Demonstration**, *Ya-Yen Tsai, Hui Xu, **Zihan Ding**, Chong Zhang, Edward Johns, Jie Shao, and Bidan Huang*, IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L) .
[Paper]

2020 **Crossing The Gap: A Deep Dive into Zero-Shot Sim-to-Real Transfer for Dynamics**, *Eugene Valassakis, **Zihan Ding** and Edward Johns*, International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2020.
[Paper][Website][Video]

2020 **Sim-to-Real Transfer for Optical Tactile Sensing**, ***Zihan Ding***, *Nathan F. Lepora and Edward Johns*, International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2020.
[Paper][Code][Video]

2020 **Arena: A General Evaluation Platform and Building Toolkit for Multi-Agent Intelligence**, *Yuhang Song, Jianyi Wang, Thomas Lukasiewicz, Zhenghua Xu, Mai Xu, **Zihan Ding**, and Lianlong Wu*, The Thirty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2020.
[Paper][Code]

2019 **Fast and High-Fidelity Readout of Single Trapped-Ion Qubit via Machine-Learning Methods**, ***Zihan Ding***, *Jinming Cui, Yunfeng Huang, Chuanfeng Li, Tao Tu, Guangcan Guo*, Physical Review Applied.
[Paper][Code]

2019 **Tensor Super-Resolution with Generative Adversarial Nets: A Large Image Generation Approach**, ***Zihan Ding***, *Xiao-Yang Liu, Miao Yin*, International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Human Brain Artificial Intelligence 2019.
[Paper][Code]

2018 **Deep Reinforcement Learning for Intelligent Transportation Systems** , *Xiao-Yang Liu, **Zihan Ding**, Sem Borst, Anwar Walid*, NeurIPS Workshop on Machine Learning for Intelligent Transportation Systems 2018.
[Paper][Code]

2018 **Accelerated Exhaustive Eye Glints Localization Method for Infrared Video Oculography**, ***Zihan Ding***, *Jiayi Luo, Hongping Deng*, Proceedings of the 33rd Annual ACM Symposium on Applied Computing, SAC '18.
[Paper][Code]

Open-Source Projects

2022 **MARS**, *principal developer*, [Repo].

2019 **TensorLayer RL Tutorials**, *principal developer*, [Repo].

2019 **RLzoo**, *principal developer*, [Repo].

Work Experiences

2021.03–2021.08 **Research Intern**, Inspire.ai, Beijing, China.

- Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning; Game Theory.

2020.09–2021.03 **Research Intern**, Tencent Robotics X, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China.

- Sim-to-real Methods for Robotics Control with Tactile Sensory.

2020.02–2020.06 **Research Intern**, Borealis AI, Toronto, ON, Canada.

- Explainable Reinforcement Learning Based on Differentiable Decision Tree.

Research Experiences

2019.09–2020.01 **Research Intern**, Imperial College London, Robot Learning Lab, under supervision of Dr. Edward Johns.

- Sim-to-real Reinforcement Learning for Robotic Arm Control with Tactile Sensor

2017 **Undergraduate Research**, USTC, Immersive Multimedia Communication Laboratory, under supervision of Prof. Zhibo Chen.

- Competition of NeurIPS 2017: Learning to Run

2016–2018 **Undergraduate Research**, USTC, CAS Key Laboratory of Quantum Information, under supervision of Dr. Jinming Cui and Prof. Yunfeng Huang.

- Machine Learning assisted Qubit Readout in Trap-ion System.

Honors & Awards

2018 **Best Undergraduate Thesis Award at USTC 2018**, **top 2** in the major.

2017 **NeurIPS 2017: Learning to Run Competition**, $\mathbf{4^{th}/479}$.

2016 **DJI RoboMaster AI Challenge 2016**, $\mathbf{3^{rd}/40}$.

Academic Services

Reviewer of Conferences and Journals:.

- Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) 2023
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2022
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2022
- 56th Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS) 2022
- International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS) 2022
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2021
- IEEE/ASME International Conference on Advanced Intelligent Mechatronics (AIM) 2021
- International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2021
- IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L) 2021
- NeurIPS 2020 Quantum Tensor Networks in Machine Learning Workshop
- NeurIPS 2019 Autonomous Driving Workshop
- IEEE Access

Skills

- **Languages**
  Python, C++, C#, Prolog

- **Frameworks**
  PyTorch, TensorFlow (v1.&v2.), TensorLayer
- **Tools**
  git, LaTeX, ROS, MuJoCo, Unity3D, PyRep, SolidWorks, AutoCAD, Mathematics, MATLAB, OpenCV