

# Ruizhe Shi

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## Education

### Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Sept. 2021 – Present

Undergraduate at Special Pilot Class in Computer Science (*Yao class*)

- Major: Computer Science and Technology
- Minor: Chinese Language and Literature

GPA 3.93/4.00

GPA 4.00/4.00

### University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Feb. 2024 – July 2024

Research Visitor at Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science

## Publications & Manuscripts

(\* indicates equal contribution.)

- [5] (**Manuscript**) Ruizhe Shi\*, Runlong Zhou\*, Simon S. Du. “The Crucial Role of Samplers in Online Direct Optimization”.[\[link\]](#)
- [4] (**NeurIPS 2024**) Ruizhe Shi, Yifang Chen, Yushi Hu, Alisa Liu, Hannaneh Hajishirzi, Noah A. Smith, Simon S. Du. “Decoding-Time Language Model Alignment with Multiple Objectives”.[\[link\]](#)
- [3] (**ICML 2024**) Chenhao Lu, Ruizhe Shi\*, Yuyao Liu\*, Kaizhe Hu, Simon S. Du, Huazhe Xu. “Rethinking Transformers in Solving POMDPs”.[\[link\]](#)
- [2] (**ICLR 2024**) Ruizhe Shi\*, Yuyao Liu\*, Yanjie Ze, Simon S. Du, Huazhe Xu. “Unleashing the Power of Pre-trained Language Models for Offline Reinforcement Learning”.[\[link\]](#)
- [1] (**NeurIPS 2023**) Yanjie Ze, Yuyao Liu\*, Ruizhe Shi\*, Jiaxin Qin, Zhecheng Yuan, Jiashun Wang, Huazhe Xu. “H-InDex: Visual Reinforcement Learning with Hand-Informed Representations for Dexterous Manipulation”.[\[link\]](#)

## Selected Research Experiences

### Optimization Theory of Online DPO

May 2024 – Present

Supervised by Prof. Simon S. Du

CSE, University of Washington

- We study convergence rates of (online) DPO from optimization perspective, and show the impact of samplers through a theoretical separation and empirical experiments. Under review.
- We provide a rigorous analysis of DPO’s convergence rates with different sampling strategies under the exact gradient setting, revealing a surprising separation: uniform sampling achieves linear convergence, while our proposed online sampler achieves quadratic convergence. We further adapt the sampler to practical settings by incorporating posterior distributions and logit mixing, demonstrating significant improvements over previous approaches.

### Multi-Objective Language Model Alignment

Dec. 2023 – May 2024

Supervised by Prof. Simon S. Du

CSE, University of Washington

- We propose a training-free, simple yet effective decoding-time algorithm for multi-objective alignment of language models, with optimality guarantees. First-authored work accepted by **NeurIPS 2024**.
- We exploit a common form among a family of  $f$ -divergence regularized alignment approaches (such as PPO, DPO, and their variants) to identify a closed-form solution by Legendre transform, and derive an efficient decoding strategy. Theoretically, we show why existing approaches can be sub-optimal even in natural settings and obtain optimality guarantees for our method.

### Representation Theory of Transformer in Decision-Making

Nov. 2023 – Jan. 2024

Supervised by Prof. Huazhe Xu

IIIS, Tsinghua University

- We challenge the common wisdom and prove theoretically and empirically that Transformers are not suitable for Partially Observable RL, while advocating Linear RNN as a promising alternative. Second-authored work accepted by **ICML 2024**.
- We establish that regular languages, which Transformers struggle to model, are reducible to POMDPs. This poses a significant challenge for Transformers in learning POMDP-specific inductive biases, due to their lack of inherent recurrence found in other models like RNNs, with empirical results highlighting the sub-optimal performance of the Transformer and considerable strength of LRU.

### Training Language Model for Decision-Making

June 2023 – Sept. 2023

Supervised by Prof. Huazhe Xu

IIIS, Tsinghua University

- We leverage the power of pre-trained Language Models for low-level motion control in offline reinforcement learning. First-authored work accepted by **ICLR 2024**.
- We demonstrate the superiority of LaMo over DT-based and value-based offline RL algorithms. Specifically, we find that LaMo could successfully handle the challenging low-data regime while DT could not. This highlights the great potential of our cross-domain pre-training for sequential modeling.

## Awards & Honors

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### Yao Award (Silver Medal)

*IIIS, Tsinghua University*

**Sept. 2024**

*top scholarship; 3 students institute-wide*

### Jiang Nanxiang Scholarship

*Tsinghua University*

**Nov. 2023**

*top scholarship; 1 student per major*

### China National Endeavor Scholarship

*Beijing Education Bureau*

**Oct. 2022**

*1 student per major*

### First Prize in College Student Mathematics Competition

*Chinese Mathematical Society*

**Oct. 2022**

### First Prize in National High School's Mathematics Competition of China

*Chinese Mathematical Society*

**Oct. 2020**

*top 20*

## Service

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### Conference Reviewer

*NeurIPS 2024, ICLR 2025, AISTATS 2025*

*Online*

### Workshop Program Committee

*FMDM 2023 at NeurIPS* [\[link\]](#)

**Oct. 2023**

*Online*

### Teaching Assistant

*Natural Language Processing*

**2024 Fall**

*Tsinghua University*

### Drop-in Tutoring

*STEM Courses*

**Oct. 2022 – July 2024**

*Tsinghua University*

*I have **157** hours of officially recorded volunteering work.*

## Selected Courses

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**Mathematics and Theory:** Calculus (**A**<sup>+</sup>), Linear Algebra (**A**), Abstract Algebra (**A**), Introduction to Complex Analysis (**A**), Probability and Statistics (**A**), Basic Topology (**93**), Introduction to Optimization (**A**), Theory of Computation (**A**), Physics of Information (**A**);

**Programming and AI:** Introduction to Programming in C/C++ (**A**<sup>+</sup>), Intelligent Unmanned System (**A**<sup>+</sup>), Type-safe Modern System Practice (**A**), Machine Learning (**A**), Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Techniques (**A**), Natural Language Processing (**A**).

## Technical Skills

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**Programming Skills:** Python, C/C++, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Bash, Scala, Matlab.

**Language Skills:** Chinese Mandarin (native), English (CET-6, TOEFL 104 [R30/L26/S23/W25]).