

# 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

- Under review.

### 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]).