

# SHIJUN LI

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## EDUCATION

- University of Science and Technology of China**, Hefei, China 09/2016 – 07/2020  
B.Eng. in Automation, School of Information Science and Technology
- University of Science and Technology of China**, Hefei, China 09/2020 – 07/2023  
Master's student in Electronic and Information Engineering, School of Information Science and Technology

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Shijun Li**, Wenqiang Lei, Qingyun Wu, Xiangnan He, Peng Jiang & Tat-Seng Chua, "Seamlessly Unifying Attributes and Items: Conversational Recommendation for Cold-Start Users", in ACM Transactions on Information Systems (**TOIS 2021**), [pdf] [codes]
- Chongming Gao\*, **Shijun Li\***, Wenqiang Lei, Jiawei Chen, Biao Li, Peng Jiang, Xiangnan He, Jiaxin Mao & Tat-Seng Chua, "KuaiRec: A Fully-observed Dataset and Insights for Evaluating Recommender Systems", (\* **Equal contribution**), in Proceedings of the 31st ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM 2022**, Full), [pdf] [codes] [data] [presentation]
- Chongming Gao\*, **Shijun Li\***, Yuan Zhang\*, Jiawei Chen, Biao Li, Wenqiang Lei, Peng Jiang & Xiangnan He, "KuaiRand: An Unbiased Sequential Recommendation Dataset with Randomly Exposed Videos", (\* **Equal contribution**), in Proceedings of the 31st ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (**CIKM 2022**, Short), [pdf] [data] [poster]
- Chongming Gao, Shiqi Wang, **Shijun Li**, Jiawei Chen, Xiangnan He, Wenqiang Lei, Biao Li, Yuan Zhang & Peng Jiang, "CIRS: Bursting Filter Bubbles by Counterfactual Interactive Recommender System", in ACM Transactions on Information Systems (**TOIS 2023**), [pdf] [codes]

## SELECTED PROJECTS & RESEARCH

- Project:** Explore Interest of Cold-Start Users by Conversational Recommendation 03/2020 - 12/2020  
**Advisor:** Prof. Xiangnan He(USTC), Prof. Wenqiang Lei(SCU), Prof. Qingyun Wu(PSU), Prof. Tat-Seng Chua(NUS)
  - Actively asking users' preferences by conversations helps to efficiently capture the interest of cold-start users
  - Propose a holistic framework to seamlessly solve all conversation policy questions in an end-to-end manner
  - Apply Thompson Sampling to conversational recommendation for keeping EE balance in cold-start scenario
- Project:** Explore Trustworthy Evaluation for Conversational Recommendation 03/2021 - 12/2021  
**Advisor:** Prof. Xiangnan He (USTC), Prof. Wenqiang Lei (SCU), Dr. Peng Jiang (Kuaishou Inc.)
  - Collect a fully-observed dataset for the first time on Kuaishou, which is one of the largest short-video sharing Apps in China, with millions of user-item sequential interactions
  - Study the effect of different exposure rates and various biases on the evaluation of conversational recommendation systems (CRSs)
  - Investigate the effect of matrix completion, i.e. estimating the missing values, on the evaluation of CRSs
- Project:** Implement Reinforcement Learning in Real-World Recommender System 03/2022 - 07/2022  
**Advisor:** Prof. Xiangnan He (USTC), Dr. Yuan Zhang (Kuaishou Inc.)
  - Design an actor-critic based RL model for online recommendation for millions of users on Kuaishou
  - Train the model in an offline RL manner by building and interacting with the world model
  - Implement the RL model for the re-ranking task in real-world recommendation application, achieving significant improvement in users' total watch time and diversity of recommended videos
- Project:** Burst Filter Bubbles by Counterfactual Interactive Recommender System 12/2021 - 07/2022  
**Advisor:** Prof. Xiangnan He (USTC), Prof. Jiawei Chen (ZJU), Prof. Wenqiang Lei (SCU)
  - Analyze filter bubbles in interactive recommendation, focusing on the overexposure effect on user satisfaction
  - Integrate causal inference into offline reinforcement learning to burst filter bubbles

## EXPERIENCE

### Kuaishou Technology Co., Ltd.

Beijing, China

Research Intern, Advisor: Prof. Xiangnan He, Dr. Yuan Zhang

03/2020 – 05/2023

- Study the cold-start scenario and trustworthy evaluation of conversational recommendation, constructing two valuable datasets and accomplishing three papers
- Implement offline RL in real-world short video recommendation system, serving millions of people and achieving significant online improvement

### University of Florida, SmartData Lab

Florida, U.S.

Summer Research Intern, Advisor: Prof. Joel B. Harley

07/2019 – 08/2019

- Study the growth and boundaries of grains in microstructure in a RL framework, defining corresponding state and action space in RL
- Process and decode the pictures of microstructure into low-dimension expression, while denoising for the vagueness and noises in these pictures

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & AWARDS

- **PC Member** for the 28th ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (**KDD 2022**), the 15th International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (**WSDM 2022**), and the 29th ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (**KDD 2023**).
- **Invited Reviewer** for ACM Transactions on Information Systems (**TOIS**), ACM Transactions on the Web (**TWEB**), and ACM International World Wide Web Conference 2022 (**WWW 2022**)
- UT Austin Engineering Fellowship, UT Austin, U.S. 2023
- Illinois Distinguished Fellowship, UIUC, U.S. (declined) 2023
- National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China, China (for top 2% students) 2022
- First Class Academic Scholarship, USTC, China 2020 & 2021 & 2022
- Outstanding Student Scholarship, USTC, China 2017 & 2018 & 2019

## SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, C, C++, Matlab (ranked by proficiency)
- **Tools and Frameworks:** PyTorch, Tensorflow, MySQL, Git, LaTeX, Docker, Hadoop
- **English:** TOEFL: 108 (R: 28; L: 29; S: 26; W: 25); GRE: 321+3.5 (V: 153; Q:168; AW: 3.5)

## TEACHING & SERVICE

- **Teaching Assistant** of two courses ("Fundamentals of Operation Research" and "Function of Complex Variable")
- **Administrator** of thirteen deep-learning workstations (86 GPUs in total) of LDS lab for three years