Xuanfei Ren

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Education

University of Wisconsin-Madison   Madison, USA
PhD student, advised by Tengyang Xie, Department of Computer Sciences.   *Aug. 2024 –*

University of Science and Technology of China   Hefei, China
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, specialization in Probability and Statistics.   *Aug. 2020 – Jun. 2024*

Publication

- **Xuanfei Ren**, Tianyuan Jin, Pan Xu.
  Optimal Batched Linear Bandits.
  *In Proc. of the 41st International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML 2024**).*

Research Interests

- Agent Optimization
- LLM Post-training
- Reinforcement Learning
- Learning theory

Research Experience

Exploration for Self-Improving Agentic Systems   University of Wisconsin–Madison
Work with Dr. Ching-An Cheng (Google Research), Dr. Allen Nie and Prof. Tengyang Xie   *Feb. 2025 – Present*

- Contributed to an End-to-end Generative Optimization pipeline OpenTrace to optimize AI agents.
- Researched and applied advanced search exploration methods, utilizing Large Language Models (LLMs) and embedding models to enhance function approximation.
- Designed and implemented meta search algorithms to enhance the optimization process in tau-bench.

Offline Alignment for Language Models   University of Wisconsin-Madison
Advisor: Prof. Tengyang Xie   *Jan. 2025*

- Performed an in-depth literature review on offline reinforcement learning (RL) algorithms.
- Applied offline RL algorithms to enhance alignment in large language models (LLMs).

Offline Reinforcement Learning and Policy Evaluation Theory   University of Wisconsin-Madison
Advisor: Prof. Tengyang Xie   *Sept. 2024 – Jan. 2025*

- Developed theoretical insights into value-based reinforcement learning (RL) algorithms.
- Theoretically analyzed estimation and approximation errors across various policy evaluation methods.
- Designed and conducted experiments to validate theoretical predictions.

Optimal Batched Linear Bandits.   Duke University
Advisor: Prof. Pan Xu (Department of Computer Science, Duke University.)   *Aug. 2023 – Jan. 2024*

- Devised an algorithm striving for asymptotic and non-asymptotic optimality in the linear bandits setting, an achievement previously unattained.
- Adapted the algorithm into a batched version with provable least batch complexity, extending applicablity to common real-world problems.
- Confirmed the algorithm's superiority over existing baseline methods through rigorous experimentation, showcasing its practical efficacy in linear bandits problems.

Community Service

Conference Reviewer: ICLR, RLC, ACL.

Skills

English: TOEFL: 108 (R: 29; L: 29; S: 22; W: 28); GRE: 320 (Q: 170; V:150); GRE Subject (Mathematics): 880 (90%).
Programming: C, Python, PyTorch, R, LaTeX, MATLAB, Mathematica.