

Zhichao Xu

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[Homepage](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

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Research Interests

Recommender System, Product Search, Explainability, Fairness, Conversation

Education

University of Utah

PhD in Computer Science

Advisor: Dr. Qingyao Ai

Salt Lake City, UT

09/2020 – Present

Rutgers University

MS in Computer Science

Advisor: Dr. Yongfeng Zhang

New Brunswick, NJ

09/2018 – 05/2020

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

BS in Applied Statistics, BE in Computer Science

Advisor: Dr. Sirong Luo

Shanghai, CN

09/2014 – 06/2018

Selected Publications

Understanding the Effectiveness of Reviews in E-commerce Top-N recommendation

Zhichao Xu, Hansi Zeng, Qingyao Ai.

in proceedings of 7th International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR), 2021

A Zero Attentive Relevance Matching Network for Review Modeling in Recommendation System

Hansi Zeng, Zhichao Xu, Qingyao Ai.

43rd European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), 2021.

Speech-Based Activity Recognition for Trauma Resuscitation

Jalal Abdulbaqi, Yue Gu, Zhichao Xu, Chenyang Gao, Ivan Marsic, Randall S Burd.

8th IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics (ICHI), 2020

E-commerce Recommendation with Weighted Expected Utility Theory

Zhichao Xu, Yi Han, Yongfeng Zhang, Qingyao Ai.

29th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM), 2020.

Research Projects

Model-agnostic Explanation for Blackbox Recommender System

Advisor: Dr. Qingyao Ai

02/2021 – Present

This project aims to provide explainability to recommender system in a model-agnostic fashion to improve users' trustness towards the blackbox neural recommender system.

Conversational Product Search Agent

Advisor: Dr. Qingyao Ai

02/2021 – Present

This project aims to improve existing conversational product search agent from two perspectives: risk between asking clarifying questions and recommendation; balance between performance and item exposure/fairness.

The Usage of Textual Reviews in E-commerce Recommendation

Advisor: Dr. Qingyao Ai

09/2020 – 02/2021

We designed deep neural network structures to explore the usage of textual reviews for top-N recommendation under E-commerce settings. This project leads to our papers in **ECIR 2020** and **ICTIR 2021**.

The Usage of Behavioral Economics Principles in E-commerce Recommendation

Advisor: Dr. Yongfeng Zhang & Dr. Qingyao Ai

05/2019 – 05/2020

We explored the usage of behavioral economics principles for top-N recommendation under E-commerce settings. Our risk-aware model is based on vanilla matrix factorization setup and achieves better performance than SOTA economical recommendation models. This project leads to our paper in **CIKM 2020**.

Service

Conference PC Member: **CCL 2021, DLP-KDD 2021**

Journal Reviewer: **TOIS**

Industry Experience

SAP Lab

Shanghai, CN

Data Scientist Intern (part-time)

12/2017 – 06/2018

Developed a business intelligence automation tool to assist sales agents with generating report and data visualization

Wrote interface functions from S4 Hana to acquire data to assist sales agents (Java, Python, MySQL, MongoDB)

Ipsos Market Research

Shanghai, CN

Frontend Development Engineer Intern (fulltime)

05/2017 – 09/2017

Collaborate with analysis team to build webpages for visualization and market research report (HTML, CSS, PHP, Web Crawler)

Skills

Programming

Proficient in: Python, PHP

Familiar with: Java, C++, Matlab

Tools

PyTorch, Tensorflow, Spark, MapReduce, MongoDB, MySQL, \LaTeX