

Zhichao Xu

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Contact: zhichao.xu@utah.edu [Homepage](#) [Google Scholar](#) [Github](#)

Research Interests Search and Recommendation, Explainability IR, Conversation

Education

University of Utah Salt Lake City, UT
PhD in Computer Science 09/2020 – Present
Advisor: [Dr. Vivek Srikumar](#) and [Dr. Bei Wang](#)

Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ
MS in Computer Science 09/2018 – 05/2020
Advisor: [Dr. Yongfeng Zhang](#)
CS Department Outstanding Publication Award

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics Shanghai, CN
BS in Applied Statistics 09/2014 – 06/2018

Selected Publications A Lightweight Constrained Generation Alternative for Query-focused Summarization [pdf](#), [code](#)

Zhichao Xu and Daniel Cohen.
in proceedings of the 46th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval (SIGIR), 2023

McFair, Marginal-Certainty-aware Fair Ranking Algorithm [pdf](#), [code](#)
Tao Yang, **Zhichao Xu**, Zhenduo Wang, Anh Tran, Qingyao Ai.
in proceedings of 16th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM), 2023

Understanding the Effectiveness of Reviews in E-commerce Top-N Recommendation [pdf](#), [code](#)
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 [pdf](#), [code](#)
Hansi Zeng, **Zhichao Xu**, Qingyao Ai.
43rd European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR), 2021.

E-commerce Recommendation with Weighted Expected Utility [pdf](#)
Zhichao Xu, Yi Han, Yongfeng Zhang, Qingyao Ai.
29th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM), 2020.

Speech-Based Activity Recognition for Trauma Resuscitation [pdf](#)
Jalal Abdulbaqi, Yue Gu, **Zhichao Xu**, Chenyang Gao, Ivan Marsic, Randall S Burd.
8th IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics (ICHI), 2020

Preprints

Counterfactual Editing for Search Result Explanation [pdf](#)
Zhichao Xu, Hemank Lamba, Qingyao Ai, Joel Tetreault and Alex Jaimes

An In-depth Investigation of User Simulation for Conversational Search [pdf](#)
Zhenduo Wang, **Zhichao Xu**, Qingyao Ai and Vivek Srikumar

Reward-free Policy Imitation Learning for Conversational Search [pdf](#)
Zhenduo Wang, **Zhichao Xu**, Qingyao Ai

Effective Exposure Amortizing for Fair Top-k Recommendation [pdf](#)
Tao Yang, **Zhichao Xu**, Qingyao Ai.

Technical Reports

Reinforcement Learning to Rank with Coarse-grained Labels [pdf](#)
(* indicates equal contribution)
Zhichao Xu*, Anh Tran*, Tao Yang, Qingyao Ai.
manuscript on arXiv, 2022

Learning to Rank Rationales for Explainable Recommendation [pdf](#), [code](#)
Zhichao Xu, Yi Han, Tao Yang, Anh Tran, Qingyao Ai.
manuscript on arXiv, 2022

Industry Experience

Dataminr NYC, US
Research Scientist Intern 09/2022 – 12/2022
mentored by [Dr. Daniel Cohen](#), [Dr. Hemank Lamba](#)
(i) Research Project on Cross-lingual Retrieval
(ii) Co-lead AI Org IR Reading Group

Dataminr NYC, US
Research Scientist Intern 05/2022 – 08/2022
mentored by [Dr. Sebastian Bruch](#), [Dr. Hemank Lamba](#)
(i) Research Project on Counterfactual Explanations for Web Search
(ii) Hackathon: Neural Retrieval Method for Emergency News

SAP Lab Shanghai, CN
Data Scientist Intern (part-time) 12/2017 – 06/2018
(i) Developed a business intelligence automation tool to assist sales agents with generating report and data visualization

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

Ipsos Market Research

Shanghai, CN

(i) Frontend Development Engineer Intern

05/2017 – 09/2017

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

Teaching

Lead TA, CS 5140/6140 Data Mining, School of Computing, University of Utah

Lecturer: Prof. Ana Marasovic

Spring 2023

TA, CS 2100 Discrete Structures, School of Computing, University of Utah

Lecturer: Prof. Bei Wang Philips

Fall 2022

TA, CS 5140/6140 Data Mining, School of Computing, University of Utah

Lecturer: Prof. Qingyao Ai

Spring 2022

Service

Conference Reviewer: CCL, ACL

Conference Subreviewer: KDD, TheWebConf

Journal Reviewer: TOIS

Workshop Reviewer: DLP-KDD

Skills

Programming: Python, PHP, Java, C++, Matlab

Tools: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Spark, MapReduce, MongoDB, MySQL, L^AT_EX