

CHENKAI MA

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science, National University of Singapore (NUS) 07/2024 - Present

Research Interests: Multi-Armed Bandit, Online Learning.

Supervisor: [Jonathan Scarlett](#).

M.S., University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) 09/2021 - 06/2024

Major in Computer Science and Technology.

GPA: 3.95/4.0; Supervisor: [Ke Qin](#).

B.S., University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) 09/2017 - 06/2021

Major in Software Engineering.

GPA: 3.98/4.0.

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

- [1] A General $\tilde{\Omega}(\sqrt{T\gamma_T})$ Lower Bound for Kernel Bandits
Chenkai Ma, Jonathan Scarlett.
arXiv preprint (arXiv:2610.11082) [\[Paper\]](#).
- [2] Batched Kernelized Bandits: Refinements and Extensions
Chenkai Ma, Keqin Chen, Jonathan Scarlett.
arXiv preprint (arXiv:2603.12627) [\[Paper\]](#).
- [3] POE: Process of Elimination for Multiple Choice Reasoning
Chenkai Ma, Xinya Du.
EMNLP 2023 [\[Paper\]](#).
- [4] Prompt Engineering and Calibration for Zero-Shot Commonsense Reasoning
Chenkai Ma.
Tiny Papers @ ICLR 2023 [\[Paper\]](#).

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Mitigating the Surface Form Problem in Unsupervised Commonsense Reasoning by Prefixing and Reweighting

Advised by [Forrest Sheng Bao](#) (ISU)

09/2022 - 05/2023

- Proposed two unsupervised methods to debias language models from favoring options with common surface (literal) forms in multiple-choice reasoning tasks.
- Achieved consistent gains across models like GPT-2, GPT-3, and FLAN-T5.
- Initially submitted research to EACL 2023, later revised and resubmitted to ACL 2023.

A Chinese Relation Extraction System Based On Pretrained Language Models

Co-advised by [Ke Qin](#) (UESTC) and [Dayong Zhu](#) (UESTC)

10/2020 - 05/2021

- Proposed three modifications to a baseline relation extraction system for better performance and efficiency.
- Secured rankings of 128/2148 in the first round and 60/102 in the second during the 2021 Language and Intelligence Challenge (Multi-format Information Extraction task).
- Concluded as an undergraduate project.

3D Map Reconstruction and Real Time Localization

Advised by [Yong Liao](#) (UESTC)

09/2019 - 05/2020

- Conducted an in-depth literature review on Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM) and enhanced an established SLAM framework.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Optimisation Algorithms

Teaching Assistant

08/2025 - 12/2025

Instructor: [Diptarka Chakraborty](#) (NUS)

Embedded System Design

Teaching Assistant

02/2020 - 05/2020

Instructor: [Yong Liao](#) (UESTC)

SERVICE

Conference Reviewer

ACL 2023, EMNLP 2023, AISTATS 2027.

TECHNICAL STRENGTH

Programming Languages

Python, C++, Java, HTML.

Frameworks

Huggingface, Pytorch, PaddlePaddle.

Data Science

NumPy, Matplotlib, pandas.

Tools

Visual Studio, Git, Anaconda.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Honored Undergraduate Students of Sichuan

2021

1st Prize, 10th Mathematics Competition of Chinese College Students

11/2018

China National Scholarship

2018