HENGRUI OU

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Theoretical Foundations of Decision-Making
- Learning and Control in Multi-Agent Systems
- Data-Driven Optimization for Real-World Systems

EDUCATION

California Institute of Technology

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF)

Advisor: Adam Wierman

 Peking University Major: Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (Applied Mathematics)

o GPA: 3.894/4.0, Average Score: 92.5/100, Rank: 1/39

PUBLICATIONS & PREPRINTS

• C. Qu, L. Shi, K. Panaganti, P. You, and A. Wierman. Hybrid Transfer Reinforcement Learning: Provable Sample Efficiency from Shifted-Dynamics Data, AISTATS 2025 (Oral, top 2%)

• K. Mukhi, C. Qu, P. You, and A. Abate. Robust Aggregation of Electric Vehicle Flexibility, ACM HSCC 2025 (Best Poster Award in DTU PES Summer School 2024)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

• Hybrid Transfer Reinforcement Learning: Provable Sample Efficiency From Shifted-Dynamics Data

Instructors: Dr. Laixi Shi, Dr. Kishan Panaganti; Advisor: Prof. Adam Wierman, Caltech

- Formulated a novel RL framework for finite-sample analysis in practical hybrid transfer scenarios
- Established a minimax lower bound on sample complexity within this framework
- Developed an algorithm that provably outperforms state-of-the-art pure online RL in terms of sample efficiency
- Data-driven Distributionally Robust Pricing with Price-Aware Demand

Advisor: Prof. Pengcheng You, Peking University

- Developed a pricing strategy framework that accounts for price-sensitive, time-coupled stochastic demand
- · Constructed a decision-dependent ambiguity set with asymptotic convergence guarantees
- Developed tractable distributionally robust optimization methods with finite-sample guarantees
- Distributionally Robust Aggregation of Electric Vehicle Flexibility

Collaborator: Karan Mukhi, Oxford, Advisor: Prof. Pengcheng You

- Proposed a systematic way of characterizing feasibility under high-dimensional stochastic energy demand
- Designed distributionally robust methods to delineate the aggregate feasible set for downstream applications
- Formulated a tractable optimization reformulation incorporating probabilistic guarantees

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

• Principle of Economics (English taught)

TA, National School of Development, Peking University

International Trade (English taught)

TA, National School of Development, Peking University

Reinforcement Learning Reading Group

Co-organizer, Peking University • Power System Reading Group

Co-organizer, Peking University

• Financial Economics Reading Group

Co-organizer, Peking University

HONORS AND AWARDS

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• Li Yanhong Scholarship (Top undergraduate student award)	2024
NSFC 1st Youth Student Basic Research Grant	2023
National Scholarship (Top undergraduate student award)	2023
Pacemaker to Merit Student, Peking University	2023
• The First Prize in 14th National Zhou Peiyuan Mechanics Competition (Top 0.3%)	2023
Merit Student, Peking University	2022
• The First Prize in 37th Chinese Physics Olympiad (Jiangsu Province)	2020
• The First Prize in 34th Chinese Chemistry Olympiad (Jiangsu Province)	2020
The First Prize in 36th Chinese Maths Olympiad (Jiangsu Province)	2020

2024

Jun. 2024 - Sep. 2024

Pasadena, CA, USA

Beijing, China

Sep. 2021 - Jun. 2025 (expected)

2024

2024

Spring 2024

Spring 2024

Summer 2022

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

INVITED TALKS

• Hybrid Transfer Reinforcement Learning: Provable Sample Efficiency From Shifted-Dynamics Data
ORSC Data Science 2024, Beijing

• Distributionally Robust Aggregation of Electric Vehicle Flexibility School of Data Science, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen Mar. 2024

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Programming Skills: C++, Python, MATLAB, CUDA, Shell

Leadership: President of the Jiangsu Cultural Association, Peking University