

Bolian Li

PhD Student

✉ li4468@purdue.edu

🐙 lblaok

🌐 lblaok.github.io

Education

PhD, Computer Science

Purdue University

Advisor: Ruqi Zhang

2022 – Present

West Lafayette, IN, USA

BE, Computer Science and Technology

Tianjin University

Advisor: Changqing Zhang

GPA: 3.8/4.0

2018 – 2022

Tianjin, China

Experiences

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Research Intern

May 2021 – Nov. 2021

Institute of Computing Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Research Intern

Jan. 2021 – Feb. 2021

Research Interests

I am interested in the generalization and robustness of inference algorithms. I focus on efficient language model alignment, generalizable MCMC sampling, and imbalanced learning.

Publications

More is Less: The Pitfalls of Multi-Model Synthetic Preference Data in DPO Safety Alignment

Preprint, under review

Yifan Wang, Runjin Chen, *Bolian Li*, David Cho, Yihe Deng, Ruqi Zhang, Tianlong Chen, Zhangyang Wang, Ananth Grama, Junyuan Hong

Cascade Reward Sampling for Efficient Decoding-Time Alignment

Preprint, under review

*Bolian Li**, Yifan Wang*, Anamika Lochab*, Ananth Grama, Ruqi Zhang

Bayesian Computation in Deep Learning

MCMC Handbook

Wenlong Chen*, *Bolian Li**, Ruqi Zhang, Yingzhen Li

Stacey: Promoting Stochastic Steepest Descent via Accelerated ℓ_p -Smooth Nonconvex Optimization

Preprint, under review

Xinyu Luo*, Site Bai*, *Bolian Li**, Petros Drineas, Ruqi Zhang, Brian Bullins

Making Reliable and Flexible Decisions in Long-tailed Classification

Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)

Bolian Li, Ruqi Zhang

ETA: Evaluating Then Aligning Safety of Vision Language Models at Inference Time

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2025)

Yi Ding, *Bolian Li*, Ruqi Zhang

Entropy-MCMC: Sampling from Flat Basins with Ease

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2024)
Bolian Li, Ruqi Zhang

Long-tailed Classification from a Bayesian-decision-theory Perspective
Symposium on Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference (AABI 2023)
Bolian Li, Ruqi Zhang

Trustworthy Long-tailed Classifications
The IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR 2022)
Bolian Li, Zongbo Han, Haining Li, Huazhu Fu, Changqing Zhang

Graph Communal Contrastive Learning
The Web Conference (WWW 2022), Oral Presentation
Bolian Li, Baoyu Jing, Hanghang Tong

Services

Reviewer	ICML 2025, NeurIPS 2024; ICLR 2025; AISTATS 2024, 2025; UAI 2024, 2025; SPIGM 2023, 2024; NextGenAISafety 2024
Teaching Assistant	CS 57800; CS 38003; CS 17600

Awards

Tan Xuguang Alumni Scholarship, <i>Tianjin University</i>	2020
Tianjin University Vision Education Fund, <i>Tianjin University</i>	2019