Zhengxin Zhang

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Education

Cornell University — August 2024 – Present
Ph.D. in Computer Science, Supervisor: Prof. Claire Cardie — *Ithaca, New York, United States*

Tsinghua University — September 2021 – June 2024
M.S. in Computer Science and Technology — *Shenzhen, Guangdong, China*

Xidian University — September 2017 – June 2021
B.S. in Software Engineering — *Xian, Shaanxi, China*

Preprints

- **Zhengxin Zhang**, Erkang Zhu, Yin Lin, Claire Cardie, Bolin Ding, and Jingren Zhou. Rethinking Verification in Agent Harnesses. [arXiv]
- **Zhengxin Zhang***, Maosen Tang*, Ning Wang*, Changhao Li*, Jingren Zhou, Bo Dai, Sainyam Galhotra, Alex Townsend, and Claire Cardie. Does On-Policy Distillation Need to Complete Every Rollout? [arXiv] [Code]
- Mao-xun Huang, Jerry Wang, Yi-Cheng Lai, **Zhengxin Zhang**, Claire Cardie, and Hen-Hsen Huang. MANTA: Multi-Agent Network Topology Adaptation for Self-Evolving Multi-Agent Systems. [arXiv]
- Ning Wang*, **Zhengxin Zhang***, Maosen Tang, Yitang Gao, Claire Cardie, and Sainyam Galhotra. HARP: Efficient Data Selection for Finetuning Large Language Models. [arXiv]
- **Zhengxin Zhang***, Ning Wang*, Sainyam Galhotra, and Claire Cardie. How Far Are We From True Auto-Research? [arXiv] [Website] [Code]
- Chengyu Huang, Sheng-Yen Chou, **Zhengxin Zhang**, and Claire Cardie. Bootstrapping Post-training Signals for Open-ended Tasks via Rubric-based Self-play on Pre-training Text. [arXiv]
- Hongkun Yang, Lionel Z. Wang, Wei Fan, Yiran Hu, Lixu Wang, Chenyu Liu, Yu Zeng, Shenghong Fu, Lei Gong, **Zhengxin Zhang**, Haoyang Li, Jiexin Zheng, and Xin Xu. AppellateGen: A Benchmark for Appellate Legal Judgment Generation. [arXiv]
- Jinyan Su, Jin Peng Zhou, **Zhengxin Zhang**, Preslav Nakov, Claire Cardie. Towards More Robust Retrieval-Augmented Generation: Evaluating RAG Under Adversarial Poisoning Attacks. [arXiv]

Publications

2026

- **Zhengxin Zhang***, Chengyu Huang*, Aochong Oliver Li, and Claire Cardie. Better LLM Reasoning via Dual-Play. Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**), 2026. [arXiv] [Blog] [Website] [Code] [HF Models]
- **Zhengxin Zhang***, Chengyu Huang*, Xufu Liu, Dan Zhao, Jinyan Su, and Claire Cardie. GSM-Noise: Exploring and Enhancing Large Language Models' Reasoning under Noisy Inputs. Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL**), 2026. [OpenReview]

- Xufu Liu, Yifan Yang, and **Zhengxin Zhang**. HumanGuideNet: Adapter-Based Alignment of Deep Neural Networks with Human Similarity Judgments. The IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision **(WACV)**, Mar 2026.
- Chengyu Huang*, **Zhengxin Zhang***, and Claire Cardie. HAPO: Training Language Models to Reason Concisely via History-Aware Policy Optimization. The 40th Annual AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence **(AAAI)**, Jan 2026. [arXiv]

2025

- Guanglin Duan*, Yucheng Huang*, **Zhengxin Zhang***, Qing Li, Dan Zhao, and Yong Jiang. Learning-Enhanced High-Throughput Pattern Matching Based on Programmable Data Plane. The 2025 USENIX Annual Technical Conference **(ATC)**, July 2025.
- Guanglin Duan, Qing Li, **Zhengxin Zhang**, Dan Zhao, Guorui Xie, Yuan Yang, Zhenhui Yuan, Yong Jiang, and Mingwei Xu. DNSGuard: In-Network Defense Against DNS Attacks. IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing **(TDSC)**, 2025.

2024

- **Zhengxin Zhang**, Dan Zhao, Xupeng Miao, Gabriele Oliaro, Zhihao Zhang, Qing Li, Yong Jiang, and Zhihao Jia. Quantized Side Tuning: Fast and Memory-Efficient Tuning of Quantized Large Language Models. The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics **(ACL)**, August 2024. **Oral presentation**. **Outstanding Paper Award.**
- Xupeng Miao, Gabriele Oliaro, Zhihao Zhang, Xinhao Cheng, Zeyu Wang, **Zhengxin Zhang**, Rae Ying Yee Wong, Alan Zhu, Lijie Yang, Xiaoxiang Shi, Chunan Shi, Zhuoming Chen, Daiyaan Arfeen, Reyna Abhyankar, Zhihao Jia. SpecInfer: Accelerating Large Language Model Serving with Tree-based Speculative Inference and Verification. Proceedings of the 29th ACM International Conference on Architectural Support for Programming Languages and Operating Systems **(ASPLOS)**, April 2024.
- Ruoyu Li, Qing Li, Yucheng Huang, Qingsong Zou, Dan Zhao, **Zhengxin Zhang**, Yong Jiang, Fa Zhu, and Athanasios V. Vasilakos. SeIoT: Detecting Anomalous Semantics in Smart Homes via Knowledge Graph. IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security **(TIFS)**, July 2024.

2023

- **Zhengxin Zhang***, Yucheng Huang*, Guanglin Duan*, Qing Li, Dan Zhao, Yong Jiang, Lianbo Ma, Xiao Xi, and Hengyang Xu. Metis: Understanding and Enhancing Regular Expressions in Network. Neural Information Processing Systems **(NeurIPS)**, December 2023.
- **Zhengxin Zhang**, Qing Li, Guanglin Duan, Dan Zhao, Jingyu Xiao, Guorui Xie, and Yong Jiang. Pontus: Finding Waves in Data Streams. ACM SIGMOD International Conference on Management of Data **(SIGMOD)**, June 2023.

* denotes equal contribution

Internships

Research Intern — May 2026 - August 2026
Tongyi Lab, Alibaba Group — *Bellevue, Washington, United States*
- Topic: Agent harness and post-training.

Research Scientist Intern — September 2022 - August 2023
Tencent — *Shenzhen, Guangdong, China*
- Topic: XDP and eBPF algorithm design.

Awards & Honors

ACL Outstanding Paper Award Top 1%
The Association for Computational Linguistics *2024*

Outstanding Master Dissertation Award Top 1%
Tsinghua University *2024*

First Prize Scholarship Top 1%
Tsinghua University *2022, 2023*

National Scholarship Top 0.5%
Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China *2020*

Outstanding Graduates Top 0.5%
Ministry of Education of Shaanxi Province *2020*

Outstanding Student Top 1%
Xidian University *2018, 2019, 2020*

First Prize Scholarship Top 1%
Xidian University *2018, 2019*

Contest

Second Place Top 2%
Intel® 2022 P4 China Hackathon *2022*

First Prize (selected for excellent papers) Top 0.036‰
China Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling *2019*

First Prize Top 1%
Xidian University Mathematical Modeling Contest *2019*

Meritorious Winner Top 1%
International Mathematical Contest in Modeling *2018*