

Zhao Yang

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yangzhao-666.github.io

I'm a CS PhD student at Leiden University, broadly interested in artificial intelligence. My research spans reinforcement learning for robotics and game AI.

Education

- 2020–Present **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Computer Science**, *Leiden University*, the Netherlands.
- Topic: Intrinsically Motivated Reinforcement Learning
 - Application: Robotics, Games
 - Supervision: Dr. Thomas M. Moerland, Dr. Mike Preuss, Prof. Aske Plaat
- 2018–2020 **Master of Science (MSc) Computer Science**, *Leiden University*, the Netherlands.
- Specialization: Reinforcement Learning
 - Master's thesis: Reinforcement Learning for Navigation Tasks
- 2014–2018 **Bachelor of Engineering (BE) Computer Science**, *Beijing Language and Culture University*, China.
- Courses: Data Structure, Linear Algebra, Advanced Mathematics, Mathematical Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, etc.

Publications / Pre-print

World Models Increase Autonomy in RL Zhao Yang, Thomas M. Moerland, Mike Preuss, Aske Plaat and Edward S. Hu. In submission, 2024

Continuous Episodic Control Zhao Yang, Thomas M. Moerland, Mike Preuss and Aske Plaat. IEEE Conference On Games, 2023

Two-Memory Reinforcement Learning Zhao Yang, Thomas M. Moerland, Mike Preuss and Aske Plaat. IEEE Conference On Games, 2023

First Go, then Post-Explore: the Benefits of Post-Exploration in Intrinsic Motivation Zhao Yang, Thomas M. Moerland, Mike Preuss and Aske Plaat. ALOE workshop @ICLR, 2022

Transfer Learning and Curriculum Learning in Sokoban Zhao Yang, Mike Preuss and Aske Plaat. BNAIC, 2021

Applied Projects

- 2023 **Reinforcement Learning Educational Suite**, *Designed and implemented environments and interactive tutorials for reinforcement learning beginners.*

Teaching Assistant, Mentorship

- 2022, 2023, 2024 **Deep Reinforcement Learning (master CS course).**
- 2023 **Video Games for Research (master CS course).**
- 2023 **Seminar Advanced Deep Reinforcement Learning (master CS course).**
- 2024 **Master Thesis Mentorship**, *Reinforcement Learning for Stock Market.*

Community service

- 2023–current **Co-Host**, *Belgium-Netherlands-Luxembourg Reinforcement Learning Seminar Series.*
- 2021–current **Reviewer**, *Various venues, including NeurIPS, ICLR, ICRA, AAMAS.*

Personal experience

I used to be the chair of The Association of Chinese Students and Scholars in the Netherlands, Leiden, 2021. I did a product manager internship at Meituan-Dianping, China, 2018. I am also a big fan of sports.