

TANG ZICHEN

☎ +86 13792518288 ✉ ztangap@connect.ust.hk 🌐 github.com/trl730109 🌐 trl730109.github.io 🎓 [Google Scholar](#)

Education

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology <i>PhD Student, Supervisor: Prof. Bo LI</i>	Sep 2025 – Present
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou) <i>MPhil in Data Science and Analytics, Supervisors: Prof. Xiaowen CHU, Prof. Sihong XIE</i>	Sep 2023 – Jul 2025
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) <i>Exchange Student, School of Computing</i>	Feb 2022 – Jun 2022
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology <i>BEng in Computer Science and Mathematics (Double Major)</i>	Sep 2019 – Jun 2023

Publications

* Equal Contribution.

Distributed / Federated ML Systems

- Z. Tang*, J. Huang*, **Z. Tang***, X. Kang, Y. Wang, P. Dong, S. Shi, X. Chu, B. Li. Capturing and Mitigating Gradient Aggregation Errors for Fault-Tolerant Distributed Training. (ICML'26).
- Z. Tang*, **Z. Tang***, J. Huang, X. Pan, R. Yan, Y. Wang, A. Zhou, S. Shi, X. Chu, B. Li. DreamDDP: Accelerating Data Parallel Distributed LLM Training with Layer-wise Scheduled Partial Synchronization. (MLSys'26).
- **Z. Tang**, J. Huang, R. Yan, Y. Wang, Z. Tang, S. Shi, A. Zhou, X. Chu. Bandwidth-Aware and Overlap-Weighted Compression for Communication-Efficient Federated Learning. (ICPP'24).

Trustworthy & Data-centric LLM (Safety, Bias, Knowledge Injection)

- **Z. Tang***, Z. Tang*, G. Pan, B. Liu, X. He, K. Lai, X. Chu, B. Li. Ghost in the Cloud: Your Geo-Distributed Large Language Models Training is Easily Manipulated. (ICLR'26).
- **Z. Tang**, Z. Tang, Y. Hou, P. Dong, X. Liu, S. Shi, X. Chu, B. Li. Enhancing Knowledge Injection with Surrounding Backgrounds in Continual Training LLMs. (ICML'26 Workshop).
- **Z. Tang**, Z. Tang, Q. Wang, G. Pan, Y. Yang, W. He, S. Shi, X. Chu, B. Li. BiasTrojan: LLM Judges Are Easily Distorted by Few Hundreds of Contrastive Biased Training Data. (ICML'26 Workshop).
- **Z. Tang***, Z. Zhang*, Q. Wang, Z. Tang, B. Li, X. Chu. Is Your LLM-as-a-Recommender Agent Trustable? LLMs' Recommendation is Easily Hacked by Biases (Preferences). (ICML'26 Workshop).

Research Interest

Federated/Distributed ML Systems Data-centric LLM LLM Agent

Projects

Agent Inference Task Decomposition and Cost Modeling • Decomposing multi-round Agent tasks into a DAG of LLM-inference and tool-call sub-nodes to enable fine-grained global scheduling. • Building a precise per-node inference cost model for Qwen3-8B (prefill / decode / memory / communication) coupled with a DeBERTa-v3 output-length predictor.	Nov 2025 – Present
--	---------------------------

Teaching

COMP3511 – Operating Systems, Teaching Assistant <i>The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</i>	Spring 2026
--	--------------------

Service

ICML 2026, Gold Reviewer <i>Recognized for high-quality reviewing.</i>	2026
--	-------------

Skills

Professional Skills: Python, PyTorch, PyTorch Distributed, Horovod, DeepSpeed, FSDP, TRL, SGLang, Verl
Language Proficiency: English (TOEFL 105), Chinese (Native), Cantonese (Elementary)
Examination Performance: GRE 324 (Verbal 154, Quant 170, Writing 3.5)