Taehyun Cho

AI Researcher • Reinforcement Learning & Decision Theory

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Education

Mar 2026 – Present **Seoul National University**, Seoul, South Korea
Post-doc. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Mar 2022 – 2026 **Seoul National University**, Seoul, South Korea
Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Mar 2020 – 2022 **Seoul National University**, Seoul, South Korea
M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Mar 2013 – 2020 **Korea University**, Seoul, South Korea
B.S. in Mathematics

Research Interests

My research focuses on *sequential decision-making under uncertainty*, particularly in the context of *human feedback*. I have extensively studied *distributional reinforcement learning (DistRL)*, *reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF)*, and *regret analysis*, aiming to bridge theory and practice.

My long-term goal is to build *human-aligned, socially-aware agents* — systems that reason about people and act on their preferences, values, and decisions. I draw inspiration from how humans make decisions. By seeking to understand the cognitive mechanisms underlying human choice and mathematically modeling the structure that governs interaction, I aim to develop both theoretical insights and practical algorithms for robust decision-making under uncertainty.

- **Broad:** Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Stochastic Optimization.
- **Specific:** Distributional Reinforcement Learning, Regret Analysis, Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback.

Publications

International Conferences

1. **[Spotlight, Top 2.2%]** Suhwan Kim*, **Taehyun Cho***, Geonhyeong Kim, Yujin Kim, Youngsoo Jang, Moontae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. “A Regret Minimization Framework on Preference Learning in Large Language Models.” *ICML 2026*, Seoul, Korea.
2. Jung Min Lee, Dohyeok Lee, Seokhun Ju, **Taehyun Cho**, Jin Woo Koo, Li Zhao, Sangwoo Hong, Jungwoo Lee. “MVP-LAM: Learning Action-Centric Latent Action via Cross-Viewpoint Reconstruction.” *ICML 2026*, Seoul, Korea.
3. Kyungjae Lee, Dohyeong Kim, **Taehyun Cho**, Chaeyeon Kim, Yunkyung Ko, Seungyub Han, Seokhun Ju, Dohyeok Lee, Sungbin Lim. “Pareto Optimal Risk-Agnostic Distributional Bandits with Heavy-Tail Rewards.” *NeurIPS 2025*, San Diego, USA.
4. **[Spotlight, Top 2.6%]** **Taehyun Cho***, Seokhun Ju*, Seungyub Han, Dohyeong Kim, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. “Policy-based Preference Learning: Is Preference Enough for RLHF?” *ICML 2025*, Canada.
5. **Taehyun Cho**, Seungyub Han, Seokhun Ju, Dohyeong Kim, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. “Bellman Unbiasedness: Toward Provably Efficient Distributional Reinforcement Learning with General Value Function Approximation.” *ICML 2025*, Vancouver, Canada.
6. Dohyeong Kim, **Taehyun Cho**, Seungyub Han, Hojun Chung, Kyungjae Lee, Songhwai Oh. “Spectral-Risk

Safe Reinforcement Learning with Convergence Guarantees." *NeurIPS 2024*, Vancouver, Canada.

7. **Taehyun Cho**, Seungyub Han, Heesoo Lee, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. "Pitfall of Optimism: Distributional Reinforcement Learning by Randomizing Risk Criterion." *NeurIPS 2023*, New Orleans, USA.
8. Dohyeok Lee, Seungyub Han, **Taehyun Cho**, Jungwoo Lee. "SPQR: Controlling Q-ensemble Independence with Spiked Random Model for Reinforcement Learning." *NeurIPS 2023*, New Orleans, USA.
9. Seungyub Han, Yeongmo Kim, **Taehyun Cho**, Jungwoo Lee. "On the Convergence of Continual Learning with Adaptive Methods." *UAI 2023*.
10. Seungyub Han, Yeongmo Kim, **Taehyun Cho**, Jungwoo Lee. "Adaptive Methods for Nonconvex Continual Learning." *NeurIPS 2022 Workshop*, New Orleans, USA.
11. **Taehyun Cho**, Seungyub Han, Heesoo Lee, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. "Perturbed Quantile Regression for Distributional Reinforcement Learning." *NeurIPS 2022 Workshop*, New Orleans, USA.
12. Sangwoo Hong, Heecheol Yang, Youngseok Yoon, **Taehyun Cho**, Jungwoo Lee. "Chebyshev Polynomial Codes: Task Entanglement-based Coding for Distributed Matrix Multiplication." *ICML 2021*, Vienna, Austria.

International Journals

1. Seokhun Ju, Seungyub Han, **Taehyun Cho**, Jungwoo Lee, Taeyoung Lee, Minkyoung Kim, Jinho Ahn. "Learning Graph Based Individual Intrinsic Reward for Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning." *ICT Express*, Aug. 2025.
2. Heasung Kim, **Taehyun Cho**, Jungwoo Lee, Wonjae Shin, H. Vincent Poor. "Optimized Shallow Neural Networks for Sum-Rate Maximization in Energy Harvesting Downlink Multiuser NOMA Systems." *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, vol. 39, no. 4, pp. 982–997, Apr. 2021.
3. Heasung Kim, **Taehyun Cho**, Jungwoo Lee, Wonjae Shin, H. Vincent Poor. "An Efficient Neural Network Architecture for Rate Maximization in Energy Harvesting Downlink Channels." *IEEE ISIT 2020*, Los Angeles, USA, June 21–26, 2020.

Ph.D. Dissertation

1. **Taehyun Cho**. "A Distributional Perspective on Human-Aligned Decision Making under Uncertainty." *Seoul National University*, Feb. 2026.
   Committee: Jungwoo Lee (Advisor), Songhwai Oh, Kyomin Jung, Taesup Moon, Kyungjae Lee.

Preprints & In Progress

1. *(Under submission)* Seungyub Han, **Taehyun Cho**, Dohyeong Kim, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. "When to Truncate Traces: Stochastic Truncation for Multi-Step Off-Policy RL."
2. *(Under submission)* Kukyoung Jang, **Taehyun Cho**, Junrui Zhang, Ping Xu, Kyungjae Lee. "Probabilistic Smoothing with Ratio-Monotone Transforms for Global Optimization."
3. **Taehyun Cho**, Suhwan Kim, Seungyub Han, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. "The Unique Off-Policy Admissibility of KL-divergence in Direct Preference Optimization."
4. **Taehyun Cho**, Suhwan Kim, Seungyub Han, Seokhun Ju, Dohyeong Kim, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. "An Axiomatization of Process Score Model: Your Process-level Feedback is Not a Reward."
5. Seungyub Han*, **Taehyun Cho***, Suhwan Kim, Seokhun Ju, Dohyeong Kim, Kyungjae Lee, Jungwoo Lee. "Off-Policy Trust Region Preference Optimization."

Research Experience

Mar 2020 – Present **Graduate Researcher** — *Cognitive Machine Learning Lab*

- Adviser: Prof. Jungwoo Lee.
- Studies in *Reinforcement Learning Theory*, *Deep Reinforcement Learning*, and *Stochastic Optimization*.
- Interests in *Information Theory*, *Bandit Algorithms*, and *Game Theory*.

Teaching Experience

Spring 2022 — **Teaching Assistant** — *Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, SNU*
- Introduction to Reinforcement Learning.

Spring 2021 — **Teaching Assistant** — *Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, SNU*
- Introduction to Reinforcement Learning.

Talks

Apr 2026 — **Vector Visitor Research Talk** — *Vector Institute*
"Rethinking Human Feedback: A Regret Minimization Perspective on Preference Learning."

Apr 2026 — **SNU AI Summit** — *Seoul National University*
"Policy-labeled Preference Learning: Is Preference Enough for RLHF?"

May 2025 — **LG AI Research Seminar** — *LG AI Research*
"Policy Optimization with Process Score in LRMs."

Dec 2024 — **LG AI Research Seminar** — *LG AI Research*
"Policy-labeled Preference Learning: Is Preference Enough for RLHF?"

Aug 2023 — **LG Tech Talk** — *LG AI Research*
"Pitfall of Optimism: Distributional Reinforcement Learning with Randomized Risk Criterion."

May 2023 — **AIIS Spring Retreat Program** — *Seoul National University*
"Pitfall of Optimism: Distributional Reinforcement Learning with Randomized Risk Criterion."

Awards and Honors

May 2026 — **INMC Young Researcher Award** — *Institute of New Media and Communications (INMC)*

May 2026 — **Gold Reviewer Award** — *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*

Mar 2026 — **Principles of Intelligence Postdoctoral Fellowship** — *Fields Institute*

Mar 2026 – 2031 — **Sejong Science Fellowship** — *National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)*

Feb 2026 — **Distinguished Dissertation Award** — *Seoul National University (SNU)*

Mar 2020 – 2026 — **Brain Korea 21 Plus Scholarship** — *Seoul National University (SNU)*

Jan 2023 — **Certificate of Commendation** — *Center for Applied Research in Artificial Intelligence (CARAI)*

Other Experience

Dec 2024 – May 2025 — **LG AI Research Internship** — *Superintelligence Lab*
- RLHF Squad Team — developing process reward models.

2022 – Present

Conference & Workshop Reviewer

- ICML 2022–2026 — *Gold Reviewer Award (Top 25%)*.
- Workshop @ ICML 2026: RLxF — Reinforcement Learning from World Feedback.
- NeurIPS 2022–2025
- ICLR 2023–2025
- AAAI 2023.
- The Journal of Korean Institute of Communications and Information Sciences, 2026.

Jun 2018 – Present

Philosophy Club — *Sunday Salon*

- Discussions on Baccalauréat topics.

May 2016 – 2018

Military Service — *Republic of Korea Air Force*

- Served at 3rd Flight Training Wing.

Skills

Programming: Python, NumPy, PyTorch.

Languages: Korean (Native), English (Fluent).