

Shaokang Jiang

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EDUCATION

University of California San Diego

M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering, Advised by Michael Coblenz

Planned thesis: Usability analysis of coding assistant tools

La Jolla, CA

2022-2024 (expected)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

B.S. in Computer Science, GPA: 4.00/4.00, graduated with distinction in the major

Madison, WI

Graduated 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher

April 2024 – now

University of California San Diego

- Worked with Michael Coblenz on the usability analysis of Copilot.
- Designed an experiment using an eye tracker to evaluate the costs and benefits of Copilot for programmers new to React. Piloted it with 5 programmers, incorporating iterative improvements. The full study is underway.
- Designed and implemented a more universal eye-tracking platform for native VSCode to collect user interaction data and developed a VSCode extension to assist with the experiment.

Graduate Student Researcher

April 2024 – now

University of California San Diego

- Worked with Kristen Vaccaro and Deepak Kumar, and collaborated with two other group members to assess bias in YouTube's recommendation system.
- Developed a novel matching algorithm to pair long and short videos, outperforming all known approaches for our planned analysis. Designed a mixed-method approach to measure, collect, and evaluate outcome variables.
- Assessed methods for measuring the leanings of media houses, utilizing AllSides and other existing models.

Graduate Student Researcher

April 2024 – now

University of California San Diego

- Worked with Jude Abishek Rayan under the guidance of Steven Dow on improving workshop communication protocols for projects CueHub and workshop management.
- For the CueHub project, I built, redesigned and tested a customized online meeting platform with automatic cue support and integrated monitoring tools based on the discussion results. Utilized GPTs to provide cues during meetings to improve communication. Wrote design decisions and implementation sections in the paper, and assisted in designing, engaging in discussions throughout the entire research workflow, and data analysis.
- For workshop management project, I designed and developed a 4-component workshop management system for real-time user engagement using prompt-engineered GPTs to foster better and more diversified idea generation via cues and discussed ways to improve communication for all groups during meetings.

Researcher

April 2024 – now

Independent

- Worked with Jimmy Koppel on comparing and analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of using tutorials over the LLM system in helping experienced programmers in coding, especially in learning new, unfamiliar material.
- Discuss, design, and implement an analysis plan to examine the data and write a paper right now.

HCI Research Course Project

September 2023 – December 2023

University of California San Diego

- Investigated whether an avatar appearing in the ChatGPT interface would help create a better communication environment between humans and machines, particularly in terms of alleviating loneliness.

Graduate Student Researcher

January 2023 – September 2023

University of California San Diego

- Worked with Michael Coblenz on the usability analysis of autocomplete.
- Designed and executed an experiment with 32 participants using an eye tracker to evaluate the costs and benefits of IDE-based autocomplete features for programmers using an unfamiliar API, analyzed data using JMP, performed thematic analysis, and published a paper on the Foundations of Software Engineering.

- Found that participants who used autocomplete learned more while spending less time reading documentation, although autocomplete did not significantly reduce the number of keystrokes required to complete tasks.
- Designed and implemented an eye-tracking platform for web-based VSCode, a Chrome extension, and a VSCode extension to collect data. Developed several scripts and algorithms for automatic and semi-automatic data analysis.

Usability of PL Course Project

September 2022 – December 2022

University of California San Diego

- Investigated whether Python Type Hints are helpful for competitive programmers.
- Designed and executed an experiment, containing tasks and interview, with 4 participants.
- Found that Python type hints were not significantly more useful for competitive programmers in terms of task completion time and debugging time.
- Thematic analysis of interview results and transcripts indicated programmers feel adding type hints and the popped out autocomplete suggestions to be annoying.

Research Assistant

January 2019 – May 2019

Illinois Institute of Technology

- Modified POW (Bitcoin) and POS (EOSIO) blockchain source code for execution on a blockchain emulator, facilitating performance measurement for researchers.

PUBLICATIONS

- Shaokang Jiang and Michael Coblenz. **An Analysis of the Costs and Benefits of Autocomplete in IDEs**. Proceedings of the ACM on Software Engineering (FSE 2024) (25% acceptance rate)
- Jude Rayan, Shaokang Jiang, Nishant Balaji, Jinmao Wang, Ian Gross, Cole Biehle, Steven P. Dow. **LLM-Driven Conversational Cues Across Different Meeting Modalities Increase Topical Diversity of Generated Ideas**. Under review. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (PACM HCI) (CSCW 2025)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

September 2024 – now

University of California San Diego

- TA for the Usability of Programming Languages course (CSE291) with Michael Coblenz for one quarter.
- Lead class, discussions and office hours, graded assignments, and provided personalized advice to students.

Software Engineer

June 2024 – now

Pullscription

- Worked closely with Jago, the founder and CEO, to discuss, suggest, design, and implement the system structure for the organization's blog and shopping website, including both the customer and supplier end. The aim was to create an easy-to-maintain structure that is fast for users to access and optimized for SEO.
- Utilized Nginx and Docker to deploy the system on a server with CI/CD pipeline supported by GitHub Actions.
- Deployed and integrated the Matomo tracking system with a focus on privacy concerns and wrote unit tests.
- Collaborated closely with the team and provided guidance in implementing the website.
- Integrated Stripe for payment processing and Auth0 with JWT for authentication into the website, and wrote tests.
- Worked with the design team to create and implement a blog site using Nuxt with TypeScript and a shopping site for publishing and managing comic books, embedding abstract content of weekly news into the main website. Also wrote unit tests for all.

Teaching Assistant

January 2024 – June 2024

University of California San Diego

- Sole TA for Compilers (CSE 131) with Yufei Ding for one quarter, and Introduction to Data Visualization (DSC 106) with Sam Lau for another quarter.
- Worked on designing course components, creating assignments, building grading scripts, making and grading exams, homework, and projects. Provided suggestions for course content and collected student feedback.
- Managed infrastructure and logistics, discussed course content, designed, refined, and graded homework, held office hours and discussion sections, and engaged students in discussions.
- Received an 'Excellent' rating from the instructor for both courses, and over 90% of the students gave a 'recommend' rating in the course evaluations.

Teaching Assistant

September 2023 – December 2023

University of California San Diego

- Sole TA for the Usability of Programming Languages course (CSE291) with Michael Coblenz for one quarter.
- Discussed course content with the professor, graded assignments, led discussions during lectures on specific course content, and provided personalized advice to students.
- Guided group projects on various topics related to the usability of programming languages or software engineering. Conducted office hours to assist students and gain insights through discussions.
- Received a 100% 'recommend' rating from students in the course evaluations, while the professor rating was not applicable.

Teaching Assistant

January 2023 – June 2023

University of California San Diego

- Major TA for Java and Data Structure courses (DSC30) with Soohyun Liao for two quarters.
- Proposed, designed, and developed new and innovative assignments and projects for the course, in collaboration with the professor. Graded students' assignments and collaborated with team members to discuss and refine course content.
- Held office hours and conducted all discussion sections to assist students in gaining a deeper understanding of course topics. Taught additional, non-required concepts during discussion sections.
- Received a 90% 'recommend' rating from students in the course evaluations, while the professor rating was not applicable.

Volunteer Tutor

January 2021 – May 2021

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- Helped students with their coursework related to computer science at the Computer Science Learning Center.

Student Assistant

January 2019 – May 2019

Illinois Institute of Technology

- Tutored students in their computer science coursework at the university's academic resource center.
- Helped the organization advertise its services and events, and assisted in organizing and running events.

Teaching Assistant

August 2018 – May 2019

Illinois Institute of Technology

- Instructed students in lab sessions of Java courses and held office hours to help students best understand class content.
- Regularly checked their homework, had discussions with the professor, and collaborated with team members on ways to improve the course and address major student challenges.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** Java, Python, Rust, C, C++, C#, HTML/CSS/JavaScript, TypeScript, Matlab, L^AT_EX, GAMS, Markdown, Haskell, SQL, Embedded JavaScript, Blogger Template Language, Shell
- **Frameworks:** React, Nuxt, Node.js, Vue, Jest, Vitest, JavaServer Pages, Flask, Expo (React Native), JUnit, Svelte, VitePress, Hexo, Electron, Chrome Extensions, VSCode Extensions, Puppeteer, Tampermonkey, JavaFX, Servlets
- **Platforms/Tools:** Git, Docker, GitHub, Google Cloud, Azure, Cloudflare (Workers and KV), Firebase, Oracle Cloud, VS Code, Visual Studio, IntelliJ, Eclipse, Nginx
- **Libraries/Services:** Auth0, Stripe, Matomo, MailJet, Daily.js, Socket.io, TensorFlow, WebGL, NLP.js, echarts, Matplotlib, echarts, PyQt, Pyramid, CherryPy, Three.js, and much more
- **Other Platforms:** Windows, Linux, JIRA, Trello, DevOps, Agile, JMP, Figma, Photoshop, Qualcoder, Taguette, Premiere, Audition, Blender, Excel, Word, PowerPoint

PROJECTS

Check out more small-scale or class-related projects at shaokang.me/projects or on my GitHub.

Pullscription websites | *Nuxt, Vue, Typescript, Vitest, Auth0, Docker, Nginx, Matomo, Stripe, Blogger* 2024

- Architected and implemented various components of a modern comic book shopping site, including the shopper and supplier interfaces, and a blog. Configured CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions and a cloud server with Nginx.
- Discussed and determined the system architecture, selected dependencies, and aimed to build a maintainable, easily migratable codebase.
- Integrated Stripe payment solutions and Auth0, and deployed and integrated Matomo tracking for analytics. Collaborated with the design team to develop the blog using Blogger's template language and embedded its content into both the website and iOS app. Built tests using Vitest and updated Docker for the entire system.

Workshop Manager | *Electron, React, Socket.io, HTTPS, DDNS, GPTs, Worker, MailJet* 2024

- Designed and developed a 4-component workshop management system for real-time user engagement to foster idea generation and improve communication during meetings, capable of hosting at least 50 concurrent participants.
- Entire build To be used as a component in the Collective Intelligence-2025 conference.
- Pre-conference component: Created a registration system utilizing a RESTful API backend with Worker for user verification and sending invitation emails via Mailjet. The frontend was developed using a simple HTML page.
- In-conference Management Component: Uses DDNS to dynamically bind to a subdomain of shaokang.me. Developed with Electron as the main platform, with React for the frontend and a JavaScript backend running an HTTPS WebSocket server. The management system will communicate with and broadcast guidance to all participants with the help of GPT services for hint generation, while also updating the main screen with large-screen guidance.
- In-conference Client-side Ideation and Discussion Components: Both components allow participants to submit ideas in real-time during small group discussions and facilitate large group discussions on the submitted ideas in a subsequent phase. They were developed using React and Socket Client for real-time communication..

Cross platform Markdown app | *Electron, JavaScript* 2024

- An Electron-based markdown editor designed with basic operations like reading from and writing to disk, and a floating menu for easy access to titles and editing them, packaged for multiple platforms.
- Frontend developed with React, featuring a custom-built lexer and parser for markdown; backend implemented in JavaScript to handle file reading and writing from local storage.

Cue Hub | *React, Firebase, Python, Flask, Daily.js, GPTs* 2024

- Updated, redesigned, and deployed an online meeting platform with support for user communication and ideation. Provided separate interfaces for facilitators (monitors) and participants (ideators), using React for the frontend.
- Integrated Firebase Realtime Database for data storage, real-time cue publishing from facilitators end and message syncing between ideators. Used Daily.js for real-time meetings and transcription, and utilized prompt-engineered GPTs to provide real-time cues.
- Built and deployed both serverless and server-based backend services using Python with Flask and Javascript to handle audio creation as needed by the frontend.
- Fixed several critical bugs left by previous development teams that could exceed Firebase quota limits, improved the overall user experience, and enhanced the robustness of the entire program.
- Successfully conducted 60 meetings on the platform without any errors.

Video matching and leaning rating system | *HTML, JS, Node.js, Oracle cloud, Worker* 2024

- Developed a text-based algorithm in Node.js to identify matched pairs between any two videos, paired with a concurrent pool management tool to fully leverage a multicore cloud server, surpassing any existing video matching algorithms in internal tests.
- Created an anonymous rating system with a front end built using pure HTML and JS, and a RESTful API backend deployed on Cloudflare Workers as an intermediary server for data recording. With the rating system, users can manually compare two randomly selected matched videos from a pool, manually label any bias for analysis.

HealthCare Chatbot | *Expo, Worker, GitHub, Jest, Vitest, Figma* 2024

- Led a team of five to create a chatbot with CI/CD pipelines using Agile methodologies. Self-delegate leadership roles when necessary. Consulted with experts in health care to understand their needs and requirements.
- Developed a chatbot using Expo to provide healthcare information and answer questions via a fine-tuned GPT service. Backend services were built with JavaScript and deployed on Cloudflare Workers to handle user information management, session storage, authentication and token management, using salted hashes for password storage.

- Learned methods for managing disputes and mediation conflicts within a team, including documenting divergence points and finding common ground. Realized the importance of communication in a team.
- Integrated Material Design principles and conducted unit tests using Jest for the Expo app and Vitest for the middleware server. Utilized GitHub Actions for the CI/CD pipeline.

Online interactive shell | *Java Server Page, Servlets, Java, Azure* 2023

- Developed an interactive shell using JSP and Servlets deployed on Azure, enabling students to run Java source code online without accessing the source code, while supporting over 30 users simultaneously. The backend featured a custom connection session management utility to optimize resource usage and ensure seamless session handling.

Java code style checker on gradescope | *Shell, Java, Docker* 2023

- Modified the CS61B version of the code style checker for IntelliJ.
- Used a process to run a super Java program that captures and analyzes the output.

Eyetracker Monitoring Platform | *C#, JS, Tampermonkey, Chrome, WebSockets, VSCode* 2023, 2024

- Developed a universal user interaction tracking platform that includes eye movement tracking during coding in VSCode. Integrated the Tobii Eye Tracker 5 to link eye movement data with in-editor events while ensuring compliance with legal requirements.
- The 2023 edition tracks specific window appearances and user interactions in the web-based version of VSCode. The frontend is built with JavaScript and deployed as a Chrome extension, while the backend is developed in C#. Reduced the latency of communication between eye tracker and VSCode to one tenth compared with existed solution, tested over 80 hours with 33 users.
- The 2024 edition tracks the entire window arrangement and user interactions in VSCode, with the ability to define and track additional events as needed. The frontend is built with JavaScript and deployed as a script in VSCode, while the backend is developed in C#. Both ends communicate using WebSockets.

Interactive Haskell Game | *Haskell* 2023

- Used the Brick library in Haskell to design and build a simple game for Conway's Game of Life.

Shopping store | *Next, React* 2023

- A multi page application built with react and Next framework.

VSCode Experiment helper | *Typescript, Fiddler* 2022, 2024

- Designed and developed two VSCode extensions to monitor user interactions, upload collected data, and enhance the development experience using pure VSCode without requiring viewing any outside window.
- The 2022 edition introduced a CodeLens feature above each method signature in Java, enabling users to run provided test cases with a click and debug programs. 33 real users tested it, and there were no bugs or complaints.
- The 2024 edition modified the existed browser plugin on VSCode to support navigating between pages. Integrated Fiddler to intercept and modify requests, making it possible to browse websites within VSCode while coding.

An economical computer | *Node.js, GAMS, Puppeteer* 2022

- Automatically scraped computer components' performance data weekly using Puppeteer, with GitHub Actions and a cron scheduler, by simulating user behavior.
- Used optimization with preset LP problem-solving to find the best configuration.

Wise grader | *JavaScript, TensorFlow, Tampermonkey* 2021

- Developed and deployed a Tampermonkey script to expedite grading by suggesting scores based on length, N-gram analysis, and topic relevance for dictation questions, using the TensorFlow. The entire system operates locally.

Covid data report | *Node.js, Puppeteer* 2021

- Automatically scraped COVID data from various official sites, analyzed each site to extract relevant data, and delivered filtered results to subscribed users daily. This process was automated using Node.js with Puppeteer on a server, simulating user behavior when visiting websites, with the help of GitHub Actions and a cron scheduler.

Financial Tutoring website and app | *HTML, Ejs, Worker, JavaScript, echarts, Expo, NLP* 2020

- Designed and led a team to develop a static financial education website for Capital One. The site includes interactive learning tools, such as quizzes and a self-built, stateless learning progress tracking system. It also has various utilities, including a personal expense management app.
- Created detailed implementation guidance for group members and a user manual for the website and learning content. Build CI/CD pipelines and deployed them with GitHub Actions.

- Built front end using embedded JavaScript for the main site and HTML with JavaScript for utility tools. Developed backend with JavaScript and deployed on Cloudflare Workers to handle requests, including the encryption and decryption of learning stage information using AES and crypto and a dynamically rendered quiz system. Users can download their encrypted learning progress and upload it to decode and resume learning, or use the same browser to continue learning. No data is stored on the server considering privacy and budget.
- Developed a cross-platform personal finance app for Capital One that enables users to manage expenses and income via voice and chat interfaces using a local NLU engine, built with Expo for Android and iOS, tested and packaged for both platforms; Designed with JSON import/export for secure, local-only data storage and syncing.
- Followed Agile methodologies, discussed with mentors and communicated with stakeholders to understand their needs and software development stages.

Energy Simulator | *HTML, WebGL, JS, Java, JavaFX, Three.js, echarts* 2020

- Designed and developed a web-based energy simulation tool utilizing jsLPSolver to optimize energy sources based on historical data and project future trends via linear regression.
- Presented results on a static website built with HTML and JavaScript, featuring a 3D energy system simulation using A-Frame and Three.js, with AR functionalities via QR codes, dynamic data visualization, and lightweight localization. Ensured full support for modern browsers and partial support for IE 11.
- Reimplemented most functionalities in JavaFX without 3D representation.

Screen Reader | *JavaScript, Tampermonkey* 2019

- Designed and developed an interface using the Web Speech API to read screen content based on user-defined rules, and deployed it on Tampermonkey.

AutoCommenter | *Java, JFrame* 2019

- Designed and developed a local utility program in Java with JFrame to analyze Java code on preset rules and semi-automatically add comments by integrating user input through typing or voice, with voice recognition powered by the iFlyTek API and translation supported by the Baidu Translation API.

Seat Arrangement Problem | *GAMS, Cplex* 2019

- Decision-making script that solves a problem about how to arrange seats in an imaginary library
- Process data and perform optimization using GAMS, and use Cplex to solve the problem. Demonstrate the result using Python and Mathplotlib.

HateFate Website | *HTML, Java Server Page, SQL, Java, Servlets* 2017

- Led a four-person team in developing a social networking website that connects users based on shared dislikes, with features including login, email-verified signup, and user pairing. Utilized Material design to create the interface.
- Developed the frontend using HTML and JavaServer Pages (JSP) and built the backend with JSP and SQL for data storage. Deployed on the Azure cloud with an Azure SQL database.
- Developed multiple login methods and utilized cookies to store user information, enabling automatic session recovery. Designed and integrated a custom mail system to handle email verification, password resets, and new match notifications using SMTP.
- Secured the website with SSL encryption and employed a combination of MD5, public/private key encryption, and AES for data security during page forwarding and email verification.

AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES

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| • Student volunteer at FSE 2024 | July 2024 |
| • Graduated from UW-Madison with distinction in the Major | Spring 2021 |
| • Dean's List of College of Letters & Science at UW-Madison for each quarter | |