

# Ting-Han (Timmy) Lin

PhD Student at UChicago Computer Science  
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## RESEARCH OVERVIEW

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My research focuses on how to effectively integrate social robots into newly formed human groups and sustain meaningful long-term interactions. As social robots become more prevalent, they must interact with people effectively, smoothly, and meaningfully. I develop robots capable of managing group dynamics, building rapport with people, and adapting their behavior overtime to ensure long-term user engagement. My work contributes to the future of companion robots with greater adaptivity and accessibility.

## EDUCATION

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### University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

PhD in Computer Science

Sep 2023 – Jun 2028 (expected)

Advisor: Prof. Sarah Sebo

GPA: 4.00/4.00

### University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

MS in Computer Science &amp; BA in Economics (4-year Joint BA/MS in Computer Science)

Sep 2018 – Jun 2022

Advisor: Prof. Sarah Sebo, Prof. Ken Nakagaki

GPA: 3.77/4.00

## SKILLS

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**Programming:** Python, R, Java, Kotlin, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, OpenCV, Docker, Git, SQL, Golang, C#, C

**Certifications:** Oracle Certified Associate Java Programmer, Microsoft Office Specialist 2010 Master, Adobe Certified Associate, Google Analytics and AdWords Certification, Certificate of Advanced Negotiation

## FULL PAPER CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

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- (C5) **Connection-Coordination Rapport (CCR) Scale: A Dual-Factor Scale to Measure Human-Robot Rapport.** *Ting-Han Lin*, Hannah Dinner, Tsz Long Leung, Bilge Mutlu, J. Gregory Trafton, Sarah Sebo  
In Proc. ACM/IEEE HRI 2025. Melbourne, Australia. Acceptance rate: 25%
- (C4) **Role-Playing with Robot Characters: Increasing User Engagement through Narrative and Gameplay Agency.** Spencer Ng, *Ting-Han Lin*, You Li, Sarah Sebo  
In Proc. ACM/IEEE HRI 2024. Boulder, USA. Acceptance rate: 24.9%
- (C3) **ThrowIO: Actuated TUIs that Facilitate “Throwing and Catching” Spatial Interaction with Overhanging Mobile Wheeled Robots.** *Ting-Han Lin*, Willa Yunqi Yang, Ken Nakagaki  
In Proc. ACM CHI 2023. Hamburg, Germany. Acceptance rate: 27.6%
- (C2) **Ice-Breaking Technology: Robots and Computers Can Foster Meaningful Connections between Strangers through In-Person Conversations.** Alex Wuqi Zhang, *Ting-Han Lin*, Xuan Zhao, Sarah Sebo  
In Proc. ACM CHI 2023. Hamburg, Germany. Acceptance rate: 27.6%
- (C1) **Benefits of an Interactive Robot Character in Immersive Puzzle Games**  
*Ting-Han Lin\**, Spencer Ng\*, Sarah Sebo (\*equal contribution)  
In Proc. IEEE RO-MAN 2022. Naples, Italy. Acceptance rate: 62%

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

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- (J1) The Impact of a Robot's Agreement (or Disagreement) on Human-Human Interpersonal Closeness in a Two-Person Decision-Making Task.** *Ting-Han Lin*, Yuval Rubin Kopelman, Madeline Busse, Sarah Sebo\*, Hadas Erel\* (\*equal contribution)  
Computers in Human Behavior (CHB) 2025.

## DEMO

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- (D1) Joint Demonstration of ThrowIO and AeroRigUI**  
**ThrowIO:** *Ting-Han Lin*, Willa Yang, Ken Nakagaki  
**AeroRigUI:** Lilith Yu\*, Chenfeng Gao\*, David Wu, Ken Nakagaki (\*equal contribution)  
 In Proc. ACM CHI 2023 Interactivity Demo. Hamburg, Germany.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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**Daniels Fellowship**, University of Chicago, 2023-2024  
 \$5,000 award for selected incoming doctoral students

**Dean's List**, University of Chicago, 2018-2019 & 2021-2022  
 Top 20% GPA for the academic year

**Bridge Builder Award**, University of Chicago, 2021  
 Recognized students who have worked to establish or support connections between student groups or individuals

**Metcalf Fellowship Grant**, University of Chicago, 2019 & 2020 & 2021  
 \$5,000 award for students to reach their career goals during their internship experience

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**UChicago Department of Computer Science** Chicago, IL  
*Research Assistant at Actuated Experience Lab (AxLab) Advised by Prof. Ken Nakagaki* Jan 2022 – Aug 2023

- Used Processing IDE to program Sony toio robots, perform color and IR object detection, run physics simulation, and implement projection mapping for research purposes
- Led Unity 3D activities for creative coding on topics such as designing underwater VR/AR user interfaces
- Honed electronic techniques in building Arduino and soldering wires, and practiced fabrication skills in designing 3D-printed objects with Fusion 360 and cutting different materials with waterjet and laser cutters

**UChicago Department of Computer Science** Chicago, IL  
*Research Assistant at Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) Lab Advised by Prof. Sarah Sebo* Sep 2020 – Aug 2023

- Programmed Nao robot, TurtleBot, Anki Vector robot, and Misty robot for research purposes
- Designed Qualtrics surveys and conducted user studies on campus, at UChicago Mindworks, and on Prolific
- Performed data analysis in R using linear mixed-effects models to analyze participant's data and using ANOVA tests to analyze group data

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**Upfront Healthcare Services**

Chicago, IL

*Data Science Fellow*

Jun 2021 – Feb 2022

- Iteratively prototyped, developed, and automated data insights pipelines for anomaly detection through Microsoft Azure Synapse Analytics and Apache Spark Databricks
- Organized and structured large amounts of data into compelling reports and dashboards using SQL and Tableau
- Prototyped algorithms to promote interactive use cases including intelligent outreach and dynamic personalization

**Actelligent Capital**

Hong Kong

*Data Scientist Intern*

Jun 2020 – Sep 2020

- Extracted 20+ years of raw financial data from 100K+ companies to calculate the financial metrics in each factor of the Fama and French model using SQL and Python
- Identified and prioritized the most relevant metrics across 1000+ industries and sectors using XGBoost and Machine Learning models to ultimately predict stock price performance and risks
- Presented optimization recommendations to minimize the calculation time for financial metrics via Cython

**Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank (SCSB)**

Taipei, Taiwan

*Financial Services Intern*

Jun 2019 – Aug 2019

- Analyzed and improved the marketing strategy of SCSB's credit card to increase its reach, engagement, and sales through Google Analytics and AdWords
- Researched on the performance of startups on OurCrowd (a SCSB-sponsored startup investing platform) to assist the investment team with adjusting the investment plans
- Extracted data from the database to analyze target audience's engagement with the online bank by Python

**TEACHING & MENTORING**

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**Teaching Assistant**

- **Human-Robot Interaction: Research and Practice** (CMSC 20630/CMSC 30630), UChicago Spring 2025  
Instructor: Prof. Sarah Sebo; Enrollment: 20  
Designed course materials, led lab sessions, led office hours, and graded projects
- **Introduction to Robotics** (CMSC 20600/CMSC 30600), UChicago Spring 2024  
Instructor: Prof. Sarah Sebo; Enrollment: 27  
Designed course materials, led lab sessions, led office hours, and graded projects
- **Mathematical Methods for Data Science I** (DATA 21100), UChicago Winter 2024  
Instructor: Prof. David Biron; Enrollment: 28  
Led discussion sessions, led office hours, organized course materials, and graded exams
- **User Interface and User Experience Design** (MPCS 51230), UChicago Autumn 2023  
Instructor: Prof. André Marques; Enrollment: 30  
Organized course materials and graded assignments and projects
- **Mathematical Methods for Data Science II** (DATA 21200), UChicago Spring 2023  
Instructor: Prof. David Biron; Enrollment: 49  
Led discussion sessions, led office hours, organized course materials, and graded exams
- **Mathematical Methods for Data Science I** (DATA 21100), UChicago Winter 2023  
Instructor: Prof. David Biron, Prof. Amy Nussbaum; Enrollment: 54  
Led discussion sessions, led office hours, organized course materials, and graded exams

- **User Interface and User Experience Design** (MPCS 51230), UChicago Winter 2023  
Instructor: Prof. André Marques; Enrollment: 37  
Organized course materials and graded assignments and projects
- **Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction** (CMSC 20300/MAAD 25300), UChicago Autumn 2022  
Instructor: Prof. Pedro Lopes, Prof. Ken Nakagaki; Enrollment: 93  
Led office hours, designed course materials, and graded assignments and projects
- **Mathematical Methods for Data Science II** (DATA 21200), UChicago Spring 2022  
Instructor: Prof. David Biron; Enrollment: 27  
Led discussion sessions, led office hours, organized course materials, and graded exams
- **Introduction to Data Science I** (CMSC/STAT/DATA 11800), UChicago Winter 2022  
Instructor: Prof. Will Trimble; Enrollment: 81  
Led lab sessions, led office hours, organized course materials, and graded projects and exams
- **Introduction to Data Science I** (CMSC/STAT/DATA 11800), UChicago Autumn 2021  
Instructor: Prof. Michael Franklin and Prof. Dan Nicolae; Enrollment: 90  
Graded assignments, projects, and exams
- **Introduction to Data Science II** (CMSC/STAT 11900), UChicago Winter 2021  
Instructor: Prof. Michael Franklin and Prof. Dan Nicolae; Enrollment: 67  
Graded assignments, projects, and exams
- **Introduction to Data Science I** (CMSC/STAT 11800), UChicago Autumn 2020  
Instructor: Prof. Michael Franklin and Prof. Dan Nicolae; Enrollment: 94  
Graded assignments, projects, and exams

### Mentoring

- Jingyu Chen, UChicago Masters Student Autumn 2025 – Current
- Ricky Bao, UChicago Undergrad Student Autumn 2025 – Current
- Guan Chen, UChicago Undergrad Student Winter 2024 – Current
- Sabrina Fajardo, UChicago Undergrad Student Summer 2025 – Current
- Uma Malani, UChicago Undergrad Student Summer 2025 – Current
- Rachel Liu, UChicago Undergrad Student Spring 2024 – Spring 2025
- Tsz Long Leung (C5), UChicago Undergrad Student Spring 2024 – Spring 2025
- Ike Peng, UChicago Undergrad Student Winter 2024 – Spring 2025
- Madeline Busse (J1), UChicago Undergrad Student Summer 2023 – Spring 2025
- Hannah Dinner (C5), High School Summer Intern at UChicago Summer 2024 – Autumn 2024
- Frida Xuewei Li, UChicago Masters Student Spring 2024 – Autumn 2024
- Aarman Pannu, UChicago Undergrad Student Winter 2024 – Spring 2024
- Joy Chen, UChicago Masters Student Autumn 2023 – Winter 2024
- Clark Kovacs, UChicago Undergrad Student Autumn 2023 – Winter 2024
- Liberto de Pablo, UChicago Undergrad Student Autumn 2023 – Winter 2024
- Lucas Pardo, UChicago Undergrad Student Autumn 2023 – Winter 2024
- You Li (C4), UChicago Undergrad Student Summer 2023 – Winter 2024
- Esha Mujumdar, High School Summer Intern at UChicago Summer 2023

### UChicago Physical Sciences Division Peer Mentor

Autumn 2024 – Current

- Guided mentees in achieving personal, academic, and professional growth through one-on-one mentorship
- Fostered an inclusive community by promoting interdisciplinary connections and a sense of belonging within the division

**UChicago Peer Mentor & Peer Mentor Advisory Board**

- Led trainings for 100+ UChicago Peer Mentors and informed them of their responsibilities
- Provided direct support and direction to the incoming first years and transfer students by responding to their questions, as they complete various tasks related to their transition to the College and the University of Chicago

**SERVICE**

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**ACM/IEEE Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)**

Remote

*Paper Reviewer*

- Reviewed 10 papers in HRI 2024, HRI 2025, and HRI 2026

**ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)**

Remote

*Paper Reviewer*

- Reviewed 5 papers in CHI 2024, CHI 2025, and CHI 2026

**Augmented Humans (AHs)**

Remote

*Paper Reviewer*

- Reviewed 1 paper in AHs 2024

**OUTREACH**

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**Summer Robotics Course for South Side Chicago High School Students**

Chicago, IL

*Pre-Collegiate Non-Degree Program Assistant & Teaching Assistant*

Jun 2024 – Aug 2024

- Teaches local South-Side Chicago high school students how to design and program robots using Blockly, a block-based programming tool

**Robot Demos at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry**

Chicago, IL

*Demonstrator*

Apr 2022 – Apr 2025

- Demoed research and robots at MSI's National Robotics Week Block Party exhibit

**VOLUNTEERING**

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**UChicago Physical Sciences Division Social Committee**

Chicago, IL

*President*

Feb 2025 – Current

*Secretary*

Feb 2024 – Feb 2025

- Organizes social, athletic, and cultural events for graduate students in the Physical Sciences Division, makes funding allocation decisions, and maintains communication with the graduate student body

**FIRST LEGO League Robotics Tournament**

Chicago, IL

*Robot Design Judge & Table Referee*

Oct 2021 – Dec 2022

- Judged students' robot performance and design in terms of how well their innovative designs and code solutions match their mission strategies and how well they repeatedly test their robot and explain their robot design process

**Be The Match (National Marrow Donor Program)**

Chicago, IL

*Volunteer*

Sep 2019 – Jun 2022

- Organized annual in-person donor registration events at UChicago student center and invited friends, family, and colleagues to join the registry to become life-saving blood stem cell donors

## EXTRACURRICULARS

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### **UChicago Juggling Club**

Chicago, IL

*President*

May 2019 – Jun 2022

- Directed multiple juggling performances on campus, which one of them was selected to be the finalists in 2019 UChicago Got Talent Show
- Led weekly juggling training sessions to help students learn how to juggle pins and balls

### **UChicago Taiwanese American Student Association (TASA)**

Chicago, IL

*Vice President*

Oct 2018 – Jun 2022

- Hosted Taiwanese cultural festivals and organized speaker's events to promote Taiwanese culture on campus
- Cooperated with Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Students Association to offer students with opportunities for networking, leadership training, and identity-building

### **UChicago Intercollegiate Financial Journal Chicago (IFJ)**

Chicago, IL

*Senior Journal Writer*

Oct 2018 – Jun 2020

- Published articles about new discovery of Artificial Intelligence to educate the undergraduate community
- Presented pitch ideas and shared writing guidance to help junior writers compose journals in weekly seminar

## SELECTED PRESS

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**UChicago CS News.** "New Prototypes AeroRigUI and ThrowIO Take Spatial Interaction to New Heights – Literally" April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**UChicago CS News.** "UChicago Research Tests Whether Robots or Humans Are Better Game Partners" October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022