Chengyu "Cathy" Fan

https://chengyu-cathy-fan.github.io/ cfan26@colby.edu

Education

Colby College, Waterville, ME, USA

Expected May 2026

Bachelor of Arts

Majors: Computer Science (AI Concentration), Mathematical Sciences

Minor: Statistics

Research Experience

Research Assistant - Pose Estimation

Dec 2024 - Present

Human, MachiNe, and Environment (HUMANE) Lab, Colby College Advisor: Dr. Tahiya Chowdhury

- Developing PoseDoc/Pose-idon, an interactive tool that helps users inspect, refine, and customize pose annotations more efficiently.
- Proposing Occlusion Index (OI), a metric that quantifies the extent of occlusion in an image
- Focused on tools and metrics that enhance dataset quality and model robustness in pose estimation

Research Assistant – Multimodal Alignment

May 2024 - Dec 2024

Department of Computer Science and Psychology, Colby College

Advisors: Dr. Tahiya Chowdhury, Dr. Veronica Romero

- Conducted research on three different multimodal alignment methods to quantify human movement coordination
- Built towards the larger goal of finding a multimodal analysis framework

Research Assistant – LLM Agent Simulation

Jan 2024 - Oct 2024

Davis Institute of Artificial Intelligence (Davis AI), Colby College

Advisors: Dr. Michael Yankoski, Dr. Trenton Ford

- Contributed to development of a multi-agent simulation platform (Comp-Husim) powered by generative AI models
- Created 60+ agents with personalities, social status, and background stories and have them play games with each other for observing human-like behaviors

Research Assistant – Computer Vision for Sustainability Davis AI, Colby College

Feb 2023 - May 2023

- Created and annotated a 1,000-image drone dataset for coastal litter detection in Maine
- Developed a classification model achieving 92% accuracy on litter detection

Teaching Experience

Mathematics Teaching Assistant

Sep 2025 - Present

Department of Mathematics, Colby College

- Assisted in homework grading and problem-solving:
 - MA262: Vector Calculus TA, Fall 2025

Computer Science Teaching Assistant

Feb 2023 - May 2025

Department of Computer Science, Colby College

- Assisted in labs, grading, and student support across multiple upper- and lower-level CS courses:
 - CS343 Neural Networks TA, Spring 2025
 - CS333 Programming Languages Quiz Grader, Fall 2024
 - CS231 Data Structures and Algorithms TA, Spring 2023 & Spring 2024
 - CS154 Natural Language Processing Lab TA, Fall 2023

Work Experience

Software Development Intern

Dec 2023 - Jan 2024

STE Transmission (Subsidiary of Sany Heavy Industry Co., Ltd), Changshu, China Developed an online platform to monitor power consumption of high-energy industrial machines. Utilized MySQL to filter and organize data extracted from API calls within the company's internal network.

Machine Learning Intern

May 2023 – Aug 2023

Co-hosted by SureStart & Davis AI, Colby College

Supervised by Dr. Amanda Stent. Completed on-site orientation and intensive curriculum in machine learning. Collaborated on the design and evaluation of a text-to-3D generative AI model using Neural Radiance Fields and Diffusion Models.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- [p1] Fan, C., Romero, V., Paxton, A., & Chowdhury, T. (2024). Towards Multimodality: Comparing Quantifications of Movement Coordination. In Companion Proceedings of the International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI Companion '24)
- [p2] Fan, C.*, Tariq, Z.*, Bhuiyan, N. S., Yankoski, M. G., & Ford, T. W. (2024). Comp-HuSim: Persistent Digital Personality Simulation Platform. In Adjunct Proceedings of the 32nd ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization (UMAP Adjunct '24).

Presentations & Posters

1. "Pose-idon: An Interactive Tool for Efficient Keypoint Annotation in Human Pose Estimation" Presentation at the Colby Undergraduate Summer Research Retreat (CUSRR), The Forks, ME, USA, August 2025.

^{*} indicates equal contribution.

- 2. "Towards Multimodality: Comparing Quantifications of Movement Coordination" Poster presented at the International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI), San Jose, Costa Rica, November 2024.
- 3. "Towards Multimodality: Comparing Quantifications of Movement Coordination" Presentation at the Colby Undergraduate Summer Research Retreat (CUSRR), The Forks, ME, USA, August 2024.
- 4. "A Study of Agent Decision Making and Inner Reflection" Poster presented at the Colby Liberal Arts Symposium (CLAS), Colby College, May 2024.

Grants and Awards

- LCA-Kim Miller Award (\$200), Colby College, 2025 awarded annually to a junior who exemplifies those qualities possessed by Kim Miller devotion to family, loyalty to College and respect for country.
- Compagna-Sennett Iterate and Expand Grant (\$4,000), Halloran Lab for Entrepreneurship, Colby College awarded for the startup *InclusiM* with two other co-founders.
- Student Special Project Funding Award (\$500), Provost Office, Colby College, September 2024 funded for attending ACM ICMI'24
- The Fairchild Internship Fund (\$3,200), Davis Connects, Colby College, January 2024