ZIRUI CHENG

CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, *Urbana-Champaign, IL* 2026 (Expected)
M.S. in Computer Science
GPA: 4.00/4.00

Tsinghua University, *Beijing, China* 2024
Outstanding Graduate Award
B.Eng. in Computer Science and Technology (major)
B.Econ. in Economics and Finance (minor)
GPA: 3.86/4.00

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning; Human-Computer Interaction; Natural Language Processing.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Papers

[4] **How Far Are We From AGI?**
Tao Feng*, Chuanyang Jin*, Jingyu Liu*, Kunlun Zhu*, Haoqin Tu, Zirui Cheng, Guanyu Lin, Jiaxuan You. (* indicates co-first author)
TMLR 2024 – *Transactions of Machine Learning Research*.

[3] **Wikibench: Community-Driven Data Curation for AI Evaluation on Wikipedia**
Tzu-Sheng Kuo, Aaron Halfaker, Zirui Cheng, Jiwoo Kim, Meng-Hsin Wu, Sherry Tongshuang Wu, Kenneth Holstein, Haiyi Zhu.
CHI 2024 – *2024 ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*.

[2] **TreeQuestion: Assessing Conceptual Learning Outcomes with LLM-Generated Multiple-Choice Questions**
Zirui Cheng, Jingfei Xu, Haojian Jin.
CSCW 2024 – *2024 ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing*.

[1] **Modeling the Trade-off of Privacy Preservation and Activity Recognition on Low-Resolution Images**
Yuntao Wang*, Zirui Cheng*, Xin Yi, Yan Kong, Xueyang Wang, Xuhai Xu, Yukang Yan, Chun Yu, Shwetak Patel, Yuanchun Shi. (* indicates co-first author)
CHI 2023 – *2023 ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*.

Under-Review Papers

[2] **Training LLMs to be Strategic Persuaders**
Zirui Cheng, Jiaxuan You.
ICML 2025 – *Forty-Second International Conference on Machine Learning*. (Under Review)

[1] **ResearchTown: Simulator of Human Research Community**
Haofei Yu*, Zhaochen Hong*, Zirui Cheng*, Kunlun Zhu*, Keyang Xuan, Jinwei Yao, Tao Feng, Jiaxuan You. (* indicates co-first author)
ICML 2025 – *Forty-Second International Conference on Machine Learning.* (Under Review)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, *Urbana-Champaign, IL*   2024 Spring - Now
Research Assistant at Siebel School of Computing and Data Science
Advisor: **Jiaxuan You**
Topics: LLMs for Scientific Discovery, Societal Impacts of LLMs

Carnegie Mellon University, *Pittsburgh, PA*   2023 Summer
Research Intern at Human-Computer Interaction Institute, School of Computer Science
Supported by *Tsinghua University - Carnegie Mellon University Summer Program*
Advisor: **Ken Holstein**, **Haiyi Zhu**
Topics: Human-AI Interaction, Social Computing, Participatory Design

University of California San Diego, *La Jolla, CA*   2023 Spring
Research Intern at Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute
Advisor: **Haojian Jin**
Topics: Human-AI Interaction, Computer-Supported Cooperative Work

Tsinghua University, *Beijing, China*   2022 Spring - 2024 Spring
Research Assistant at Department of Computer Science and Technology
Advisor: **Yuntao Wang**, **Yuanchun Shi**
Topics: Ubiquitous Computing, Usable Privacy & Security

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Software Design Lab   2025 Spring
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, CS222
Instructor: Michael Woodley

Deep Learning with Graphs   2024 Fall
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, CS598
Instructor: Jiaxuan You

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

SenseTime Research, *Beijing, China*   2022 Fall
Research Intern at Natural Language Processing Group
Topics: Large Language Models, Complex Reasoning

HONORS

Outstanding Graduate Award, Department of Computer Science and Technology, Tsinghua University   2024

Research Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua University   2023

Social Service Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua University   2022 - 2023

Academic Performance Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua Univeristy   2021

Comprehensive Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua University   2020

Freshmen Scholarship, Tsinghua University   2019

SKILLS

Programming: Python, C/C++, JavaScript/CSS/HTML, Java, R, Matlab, Verilog, VHDL, Rust.

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (Native), English (Fluent, TOEFL 105), German (Basic, A2 Level).