

ZIRUI CHENG

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CURRICULUM VITAE

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

[5] **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*.

[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*.

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 Halicioğlu 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, Human-AI Interaction

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
- Freshman 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).