

# ZIRUI CHENG

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# CURRICULUM VITAE

## EDUCATION

<b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL</b>	2026 (Expected)
M.S. in Computer Science	
GPA: 4.00/4.00	
Coursework: <i>Statistical Reinforcement Learning, Algorithmic Game Theory, Advanced Natural Language Processing</i>	
<b>Tsinghua University, Beijing, China</b>	2024
B.Eng. in Computer Science and Technology	
B.Econ. in Economics and Finance	
GPA: 3.86/4.00	

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning; Natural Language Processing; Economics and Computation.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Preprints*

- [1] **Towards Strategic Persuasion with Language Models**  
Zirui Cheng, Jiaxuan You  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.22989>

### *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

**Princeton University, Princeton, NJ**

2025 Summer

Visiting Student, Center for Information Technology Policy (CITP)

Advisor: **Peter Henderson**

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL**

2025 Summer –

Research Assistant, Siebel School of Computing and Data Science

Now

Advisor: **Hao Peng**

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL**

2024 Fall –

Research Assistant, Siebel School of Computing and Data Science

2025 Spring

Advisor: **Jiaxuan You**

**Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA**

2023 Summer

Visiting Student, Human-Computer Interaction Institute,  
School of Computer Science

*Supported by Tsinghua University – Carnegie Mellon University Summer Program*

Advisor: **Ken Holstein, Haiyi Zhu**

**Tsinghua University, Beijing, China**

2022 Spring –

Research Assistant at Department of Computer Science and Technology

2024 Spring

Advisor: **Yuntao Wang, Yuanchun Shi**

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Software Design Lab**

2025 Fall,

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, CS222

2025 Spring

Instructor: Michael Woodley

**Deep Learning with Graphs**

2024 Fall

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, CS598

Instructor: Jiaxuan You

## HONORS

**Outstanding Graduate Award**

2024

Department of Computer Science and Technology, Tsinghua University

**Freshman Scholarship**

2019

Tsinghua University

## 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).