

# ZIRUI CHENG

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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## EDUCATION

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

2026 (Expected)

M.S. in Computer Science

GPA: 4.00/4.00

Coursework: *Statistical Reinforcement Learning, Algorithmic Game Theory, Advanced Natural Language Processing*

**Tsinghua University, Beijing, China**

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

<b>Princeton University</b> , <i>Princeton, NJ</i> Visiting Student, Center for Information Technology Policy (CITP) Advisor: <b>Peter Henderson</b>	2025 Summer
<b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</b> , <i>Urbana, IL</i> Research Assistant, Siebel School of Computing and Data Science Advisor: <b>Hao Peng</b>	2025 Summer – Now
<b>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</b> , <i>Urbana, IL</i> Research Assistant, Siebel School of Computing and Data Science Advisor: <b>Jiaxuan You</b>	2024 Fall – 2025 Spring
<b>Carnegie Mellon University</b> , <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i> Visiting Student, Human-Computer Interaction Institute, School of Computer Science <i>Supported by Tsinghua University – Carnegie Mellon University Summer Program</i> Advisor: <b>Ken Holstein, Haiyi Zhu</b>	2023 Summer
<b>Tsinghua University</b> , <i>Beijing, China</i> Research Assistant at Department of Computer Science and Technology Advisor: <b>Yuntao Wang, Yuanchun Shi</b>	2022 Spring – 2024 Spring

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Software Design Lab</b> University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, CS222 Instructor: Michael Woodley	2025 Fall, 2025 Spring
<b>Deep Learning with Graphs</b> University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, CS598 Instructor: Jiaxuan You	2024 Fall

## HONORS

<b>Outstanding Graduate Award</b> Department of Computer Science and Technology, Tsinghua University	2024
<b>Freshman Scholarship</b> 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).