

ZIRUI CHENG

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

2026 (Expected)

M.S. in Computer Science

GPA: 4.00/4.00

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

2024

B.Eng. in Computer Science and Technology (with Honors)

B.Econ. in Economics and Finance

GPA: 3.86/4.00

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning; Natural Language Processing; Economics and Computation.

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

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).