

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.

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*.

Preprints

[2] **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)

arXiv:2412.17767, 2024.

- [1] **TeacherLM: Teaching to Fish Rather Than Giving the Fish, Language Modeling Likewise**
 Nan He*, Hanyu Lai*, Chenyang Zhao*, Zirui Cheng, Junting Pan, Ruoyu Qin, Ruofan Lu, Rui Lu, Yunchen Zhang,
 Gangming Zhao, Zhaohui Hou, Zhiyuan Huang, Shaoqing Lu, Ding Liang, Mingjie Zhan. (* indicates co-first author)
 arXiv:2310.19019, 2023.

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: Language Agents, Scientific Discovery, Societal Impacts

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: Human-Computer Interaction, 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 University 2021

Comprehensive Excellence Scholarship, Tsinghua University
Freshmen Scholarship, Tsinghua University

2020

2019

SKILLS

Programming Skills

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

Language Skills

Chinese: native in Mandarin, fluent in Wu, Yue.

English: fluent, TOEFL 105.

German: basic, equivalently CEFR A2.