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

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; Human-Computer Interaction; 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

Princeton University, *Princeton, NJ*   2025 Summer
Visiting Fellow at Center for Information Technology Policy
Advisor: **Peter Henderson**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, *Urbana, IL*   2024 Fall –
Research Assistant at Siebel School of Computing and Data Science   2025 Spring
Advisor: **Jiaxuan You**

Carnegie Mellon University, *Pittsburgh, PA*   2023 Summer
Research Intern at Human-Computer Interaction Institute,
School of Computer Science
Supported by Tsinghua University and Carnegie Mellon University
Advisor: **Ken Holstein**, **Haiyi Zhu**

University of California San Diego, *La Jolla, CA*   2023 Spring
Research Intern at Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute
Advisor: **Haojian Jin**

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 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

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).