

# Chengzu Li

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## RESEARCH FOCUS

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Natural Language Processing, Reasoning, Multimodality, Spatial Reasoning, Natural Language Grounding

## EDUCATION

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### Language Technology Lab, University of Cambridge

*Ph.D. in Computation, Cognition and Language*

Cambridge, UK

2023 - current

- Supervised by Dr. Ivan Vulić and Prof. Serge Belongie, fully funded by Cambridge Trust.
- Visiting student at Belongie Lab (2025.8 - 2025.11)

### University of Cambridge

*M.Phil. in Advanced Computer Science; Graduated with Distinction (81.7/100)*

Cambridge, UK

2022 - 2023

- Supervised by Prof. Simone Teufel, fully funded by Cambridge Trust.
- M.Phil. thesis: Generating Instructions for Grounded Robot Navigation (*Distinction*)

### Xi'an Jiaotong University

*B.Eng. in Automation, minor in Fintech; GPA: 91.96/100 (top 5%)*

Xi'an, China

2018 - 2022

### University of Hong Kong

*Exchange student in Computer Engineering; GPA: 4.08/4.3*

*Student Research Assistant in Dept. of Computer Science*

Hong Kong

Jan. 2021 - Jun. 2021

Jul. 2021 - Sept. 2021

## PUBLICATIONS & PRE-PRINTS

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### Reinforcement Learning for Better Verbalized Confidence in Long-Form Generation

arXiv

Caiqi Zhang\*, Xiaochen Zhu\*, Chengzu Li, Nigel Collier, Andreas Vlachos

### Visual Planning: Let's Think Only with Images

arXiv

Yi Xu\*, Chengzu Li\*, Han Zhou\*, Xingchen Wan, Caiqi Zhang, Anna Korhonen, Ivan Vulić

- *Non-archival at Foundation Models Meet Embodied Agents@CVPR 2025; Present at CHIA 2025*

- *Featured at [JiQiZhiXin\(Chinese\)](#), [LiangZiWei\(Chinese\)](#)*

### Scaling and Beyond: Advancing Spatial Reasoning in MLLMs Requires New Recipes

arXiv

Huanyu Zhang\*, Chengzu Li\*, Wenshan Wu, Shaoguang Mao, Yifan Zhang, Haochen Tian, Ivan Vulić, Zhang Zhang, Liang Wang, Tieniu Tan, Furu Wei

### Large Language Models are Miscalibrated In-Context Learners

ACL 2025 Findings

Chengzu Li, Han Zhou, Goran Glavaš, Anna Korhonen, Ivan Vulić

- *Oral Presentation at BMVA Workshop, Non-archival at ICLR 2024 Workshop on R2FM*

### Imagine While Reasoning in Space: Multimodal Visualization-of-Thought

ICML 2025

Chengzu Li\*, Wenshan Wu\*, Huanyu Zhang, Yan Xia, Shaoguang Mao, Li Dong, Ivan Vulić, Furu Wei

- *Featured at [IEEE Spectrum](#), [TWIML AI Podcast](#), [XinZhiYuan\(Chinese\)](#)*

- *Present at CHIA 2025.*

### TopViewRS: Vision-Language Models as Top-View Spatial Reasoners

EMNLP 2024 Oral

Chengzu Li\*, Caiqi Zhang\*, Han Zhou, Nigel Collier, Anna Korhonen, Ivan Vulić

- *Non-archival at ACL 2023 SpLU Robo Workshop (Oral), ECCV 2024 Eval-Fomo Workshop*

### Semantic Map-based Generation of Navigation Instructions

COLING 2024

Chengzu Li, Chao Zhang, Simone Teufel, Rama Sanand Doddipatla, Svetlana Stoyanchev

**Generating Data for Symbolic Language with Large Language Models** **EMNLP 2023 Main**  
Jiacheng Ye, Chengzu Li, Lingpeng Kong, Tao Yu

**Binding Language Models in Symbolic Languages** **ICLR 2023 Spotlight**  
Zhoujun Cheng\*, Tianbao Xie\*, Peng Shi, Chengzu Li, Rahul Nadkarni, Yushi Hu, Caiming Xiong, Dragomir Radev, Mari Ostendorf, Luke Zettlemoyer, Noah A. Smith, Tao Yu

**UnifiedSKG: Unifying and Multi-Tasking Structured Knowledge Grounding with Text-to-Text Language Models** **EMNLP 2022 Oral**  
Tianbao Xie\*, Chen Henry Wu\*, Peng Shi, Ruiqi Zhong, Torsten Scholak, Michihiro Yasunaga, Chien-Sheng Wu, Ming Zhong, Pengcheng Yin, Sida I. Wang, Victor Zhong, Bailin Wang, Chengzu Li, Connor Boyle, Ansong Ni, Ziyu Yao, Dragomir Radev, Caiming Xiong, Lingpeng Kong, Rui Zhang, Noah A. Smith, Luke Zettlemoyer, Tao Yu

(\*: equal contribution)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

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**GenAI Group, Microsoft Research**  
Research Intern, working with Wenshan Wu on multimodal spatial reasoning. Jun. 2024 - Jan. 2025

**Toshiba Cambridge Research Laboratory**  
Research Intern, working with Svetlana Stoyanchev, Chao Zhang, Rama Doddipatla Jan. 2023 - Jul. 2023

**Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory**  
Research Intern, NLP Group, with Dr. Lingpeng Kong Oct. 2021 - Jan. 2022

**University of Hong Kong (2021 HKU CS Research Internship Programme)**  
Research Intern, NLP Group, with Dr. Lingpeng Kong and Dr. Tao Yu Jul. 2021 - Oct. 2021

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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**Teaching Assistant** Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge  
Li18 Computational Linguistics (*Practical Session*) 2023  
Li18 Computational Linguistics (*Practical Session*) 2024

## SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS

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**2025** Postgraduate Research Fund from Jesus College, Cambridge  
**2025** Lambda Research Grant (\$2000 USD in GPU credits)  
**2024** Postgraduate Research Fund from Jesus College, Cambridge  
**2024** Scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge (for outstanding academic performance)  
**2023** PhD Scholarship from Cambridge Trust (Fully-Funded)  
**2022** Masters Scholarship from Cambridge Trust (Fully-Funded)  
**2019** National Scholarship (Top 1%, highest honor for undergraduates in China)  
**2019** Excellent Student (Top 10% among 5000+ students)

## MEDIA COVERAGE & PRESENTATIONS

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**2025** Invited Talk at HKUST (GZ): Reason with Multimodal Minds in Space  
**2025** LiangZiWei (Chinese): Imagined Visuals Alone Boost Large Model Reasoning Accuracy by 80%  
**2025** JiQiZhiXin (Chinese): Thinking with Images Alone: RL Fosters a New Paradigm for Reasoning Models  
**2025** XinZhiYuan (Chinese): Beyond CoT! Directly Visualize the Multimodal Reasoning Process  
**2025** TWIML AI Podcast with Sam Charrington: Multimodal Visualization-of-Thought  
**2025** IEEE Spectrum, "Thinking" Visually Boosts AI Problem Solving  
**2024** BMVA: Trustworthy Multimodal Learning with Foundation Models