Chengzu Li

+44-07783 497657 ⋄ cl917@cam.ac.uk

[Personal Page] ⋄ [Google Scholar] ⋄ [Semantic Scholar]

RESEARCH FOCUS

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

EDUCATION

Language Technology Lab, University of Cambridge, *Cambridge, UK*
Ph.D. in Computation, Cognition and Language *2023 - current*
- Supervised by Dr. Ivan Vulić and Prof. Serge Belongie, fully funded by Cambridge Trust.

University of Cambridge *Cambridge, UK*
M.Phil. in Advanced Computer Science; Graduated with Distinction (81.7/100) *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, *Xi'an, China*
B.Eng. in Automation, minor in Fintech; GPA: 91.96/100 (top 5%) *2018 - 2022*

University of Hong Kong *Hong Kong*
Exchange student in Computer Engineering; GPA: 4.08/4.3 *Jan. 2021 - Jun. 2021*
Student Research Assistant in Dept. of Computer Science *Jul. 2021 - Sept. 2021*

PUBLICATIONS & PRE-PRINTS

Visual Planning: Let's Think Only with Images **arXiv**

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

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

Huanyu Zhang*, Chengzu Li*, Wenshan Wu, Shaoguang Mao, Yan Xia, 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*

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

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

Xiamen Dianchu Technology Co., Ltd.

Algorithm Engineer (Intern), Research & Development Center Jul. 2020 - Aug. 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Teaching Assistant Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge

Li18 Computational Lingustics *(Practical Session)* 2023
Li18 Computational Lingustics *(Practical Session)* 2024

SELECTED AWARDS & GRANTS

2025 Lambda Research Grant ($2000 USD in GPU credits)
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

2025 The TWIML AI Podcast with Sam Charrington
2025 IEEE Spectrum, "Thinking" Visually Boosts AI Problem Solving
2024 BMVA: Trustworthy Multimodal Learning with Foundation Models