Siting Li

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Education

University of Washington Sept. 2023 – Present
Ph.D. student, advised by Prof. Simon S. Du Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

Tsinghua University Sept. 2019 – Jun. 2023
B.Eng in Computer Science (Yao class) Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences

- Overall GPA: 3.78/4.0

Research experiences

Applied Scientist Intern at Amazon FAR (Frontier AI & Robotics) Jun. 2025 – Present
Mentor: Dr. Yang Liu

Research Assistant at Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington Dec. 2024 – Jun. 2025
Mentors: Prof. Ting Ye, Prof. Simon S. Du

- Designed and implemented new multimodal algorithm for predicting atrial fibrillation and heart failure using ECG and cardiac MRI data.

Research Assistant at Allen School, University of Washington Sept. 2023 – Feb. 2025
Mentors: Prof. Simon S. Du, Prof. Pang Wei Koh

- Designed and performed experiments investigating the vision-language alignment and encoder's ability in Vision-Language Models of different paradigms.

Research Intern (Remote) at Allen School, University of Washington Feb. 2022 – Jan. 2023
Mentor: Prof. Simon S. Du

- Built the theoretical framework for multi-modal contrastive learning by analyzing the gradient flow dynamics. Designed and tested regularizers for improving the quality of learned representations.

Research Intern at MARS Lab, IIIS, Tsinghua University Jul. 2021 – Jun. 2023
Mentor: Prof. Hang Zhao

- Proposed an information-theoretical framework to explain the discrepancy among previous conclusions on multi-modal robustness. Designed and tested a metric and its calculating pipeline based on mutual information for evaluating modality complementarity on multi-modal datasets.

Research Intern at IIIS, Tsinghua University Jul. 2020 – Jul. 2021
Mentor: Prof. Yang Yu

- Conducted experiments and plotted graphs to verify the DID counterfactual framework which clarifies the mechanisms how pixel normalization causes PG-GAN entanglement.

Publications

1. Exploring How Generative MLLMs Perceive More Than CLIP with the Same Vision Encoder [link]
   Siting Li, Pang Wei Koh, Simon S. Du
   In Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) 2025 (Main conference)
   In CVPR 2025 Multimodal Algorithmic Reasoning Workshop (Poster)

Preprints

1. Highlighting What Matters: Promptable Embeddings for Attribute-Focused Image Retrieval [link]
   Siting Li, Xiang Gao, Simon S. Du
   2025
2. What Makes for Robust Multi-Modal Models in the Face of Missing Modalities? [link]
   Siting Li, Chenzhuang Du, Yue Zhao, Yu Huang, Hang Zhao
   2023
3. Training-Free Robust Multimodal Learning via Sample-Wise Jacobian Regularization [link]
   Zhengqi Gao, Sucheng Ren, Zihui Xue, **Siting Li**, Hang Zhao
   2022
4. Difference-in-Differences: Bridging Normalization and Disentanglement in PG-GAN [link]
   Xiao Liu, Jiajie Zhang, **Siting Li**, Zuotong Wu, Yang Yu
   2020

Honors and scholarships

Paul G. Allen First-Year Graduate Student Fellowship, Univ. of Washington 2023

Volunteer Excellence Scholarship, IIIS, Tsinghua University 2022

Spark Scientific and Technological Innovation Fellowship, Tsinghua University 2021

- top 1% of 3800+ Tsinghua '23 undergraduate students for outstanding research performance

Sports Excellence Scholarship, IIIS, Tsinghua University 2021

Silver Medal (Rank 21/318) in China Collegiate Programming Contest (Regional, Harbin) 2021

Gold Medal in National Olympiad in Informatics (Invitational) 2018

First Prize in National Olympiad in Informatics in Provinces 2016,2017

Service and leadership

Teaching Assistant of CSE 543 Deep Learning, Univ. of Washington Sept. 2024 – Dec. 2024

Ph.D. Pre-Application Mentorship Service (PAMS) Mentor, Univ. of Washington 2024

Ph.D. Application Volunteer Reader, Univ. of Washington 2024, 2025

Council Member of Spark Innovative Talent Cultivation Program, Tsinghua University Sept. 2021 – Jun. 2023

- Working on the review committee of the Spark Fellowship and as an organizer of Spark Days.

Member of Beijing Volunteer Service Federation Sept. 2019 – Jun. 2023

- 118.5 hours of recorded volunteer experience

Skills

Languages : C/C++, Python, Go, Matlab, LaTeX, SQL, Verilog
Framework : Pytorch
Languages : Chinese (Native), English (TOEFL 110 (R30+L29+W28+S23); GRE 332 (V162+Q170) + AW4.0)