

# Zeyi Liao

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## 🔌 Research Interests

I am broadly interested in general AI, with a focus on NLP and multimodal (esp. vision-language) AI. My ultimate goal is to build helpful yet robust and reliable AI systems that enhance and enrich human life.

## 🎓 Education

- **The Ohio State University** Aug. 2023 – May. 2028 (expected)  
Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering
- **University of Southern California** Aug. 2021 – May. 2023  
M.S in Electronic and Computer Engineering
- **Beijing Jiaotong University** Aug. 2016 – May. 2020  
B.S in Electronic Engineering

## 🔧 Experience

- **Research Assistant**, The Ohio State University Aug. 2023 – Present  
Advisor: [Huan Sun](#)
- **Research Intern**, Microsoft Research (Redmond) May. 2025 – Aug. 2025  
Host: [Ahmed Awadallah](#), [Yadong Lu](#)
- **Research Assistant**, University of Southern California Aug. 2022 – May. 2023  
Advisor: [Xiang Ren](#)

## 📖 Publications (selected, see full list on 📖)

\* means equal contribution

### [12] Agent Learning via Early Experience

Kai Zhang, Xiangchao Chen\*, Bo Liu\*, Tianci Xue\*, Zeyi Liao\*, Zhihan Liu\*, Xiyao Wang\*, Yuting Ning\*, Zhaorun Chen\*, Xiaohan Fu, Jian Xie, Yuxuan Sun, Boyu Gou, Qi Qi, Zihang Meng, Jianwei Yang, Ning Zhang, Xian Li, Ashish Shah, Dat Huynh, Hengduo Li, Zi Yang, Sara Cao, Lawrence Jang, Shuyan Zhou, Jiacheng Zhu, Huan Sun, Jason Weston, Yu Su, Yifan Wu  
*Preprint on Arxiv, 2025. [PDF]*

### [11] Beyond Clicking: A Step Towards Generalist GUI Grounding via Text Dragging

[Zeyi Liao](#), [Yadong Lu](#), [Boyu Gou](#), [Eric Huan Sun](#), [Ahmed Awadallah](#)  
*Preprint on Arxiv, 2025.*

### [10] WebGuard: Building a Generalizable Guardrail for Web Agents

[Boyuan Zheng](#), [Zeyi Liao](#), [Scott Salisbury](#), [Zeyuan Liu](#), [Michael Lin](#), [Qinyuan Zheng](#), [Zifan Wang](#), [Xiang Deng](#), [Dawn Song](#), [Huan Sun](#), [Yu Su](#)  
*Preprint on Arxiv, 2025. [PDF]*

### [9] RedTeamCUA: Realistic Adversarial Testing of Computer-Use Agents in Hybrid Web-OS Environments

[Zeyi Liao](#), [Jaylen Jones](#), [Linxi Jiang](#), [Eric Fosler-Lussier](#), [Yu Su](#), [Zhiqiang Lin](#), [Huan Sun](#)  
*Preprint on Arxiv, 2025. [PDF]*

- [8] **AdvAgent: Controllable Blackbox Red-teaming on Web Agents**  
Chejian Xu, Mintong Kang, Jiawei Zhang, [Zeyi Liao](#), Lingbo Mo, Mengqi Yuan, Huan Sun, Bo Li  
*International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2025 [\[PDF\]](#)
- [7] **EIA: Environmental Injection Attack on Generalist Web Agents for Privacy Leakage**  
[Zeyi Liao\\*](#), Lingbo Mo\*, Chejian Xu, Mintong Kang, Jiawei Zhang, Chaowei Xiao, Yuan Tian, Bo Li, Huan Sun  
*International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025. [\[PDF\]](#)
- [6] **Joint Demonstration and Preference Learning Improves Policy Alignment with Human Feedback**  
Chenliang Li, Siliang Zeng\*, [Zeyi Liao\\*](#), Jiaxiang Li, Dongyeop Kang, Alfredo Garcia, Mingyi Hong  
*International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025. [\[PDF\]](#)
- [5] **AmplegCG: Learning a universal and transferable generative model of adversarial suffixes for jailbreaking both open and closed llms**  
[Zeyi Liao](#), Huan Sun  
*Conference on Language Modeling (COLM)*, 2024. [\[PDF\]](#), [🐦 X on AmpleGCG-plus](#)
- [4] **AttributionBench: How Hard is Automatic Attribution Evaluation?**  
Yifei Li, Xiang Yue, [Zeyi Liao](#), Huan Sun  
*Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Findings of ACL)*, 2024. [\[PDF\]](#)
- [3] **In Search of the Long-Tail: Systematic Generation of Long-Tail Knowledge via Logical Rule Guided Search**  
Huihan Li, [Zeyi Liao\\*](#), Yuting Ning\*, Siyuan Wang, Xiang Lorraine Li, Ximing Lu, Faeze Brahman, Wenting Zhao, Yejin Choi, Xiang Ren  
*Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2024. [\[PDF\]](#)
- [2] **Chatcounselor: A large language models for mental health support**  
June M Liu, Donghao Li, He Cao, Tianhe Ren, [Zeyi Liao](#), Jiamin Wu  
*ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM)*, 2023. [\[PDF\]](#)
- [1] **RobustLR: A diagnostic benchmark for evaluating logical robustness of deductive reasoners**  
Soumya Sanyal, [Zeyi Liao](#), Xiang Ren  
*Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)

## Teaching Experience

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- **CSE 3521: Survey of Artificial Intelligence I: Basic Techniques @ OSU** Aug. 2023 – Jan. 2024

## Awards

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- **Master Honor Student**, University of Southern California Aug. 2022
- **First Class Scholarship**, Beijing Jiaotong University Aug. 2020/2019/2018
- **Merit Student**, Beijing Jiaotong University Aug. 2018/2017