

Sheng Zhang

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EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park

Aug. 2024 – Present

Ph.D. in Computer Science, US Maryland

MBZUAI

Aug. 2021 – Aug. 2024

Master of Science/Graduate Research Assistant, UAE Abu Dhabi

Tongji University

Sep. 2016 – June 2021

Bachelor of Software Engineering, China Shanghai

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Experiential Agents, (Multimodal) Foundation Models, Open-World Learning.
- Concept & Knowledge & Ontology & Representation & Structure.

PUBLICATIONS

1. GenFlowRL: Shaping Rewards with Generative Object-Centric Flow in Visual Reinforcement Learning.
*Kelin Yu**, **Sheng Zhang***, Harshit Soora, Furong Huang, Heng Huang, Pratap Tokekar, Ruohan Gao.
ICCV 2025, ICRA FMNS Workshop 2025 (**Spotlight**). [Paper](#).
2. Towards Realistic Zero-Shot Classification via Self Structural Semantic Alignment.
Sheng Zhang, Muzammal Naseer, Guangyi Chen, Zhiqiang Shen, Salman Khan, Kun Zhang, Fahad Khan.
AAAI 2024 (**Oral**). [Paper](#) [Code](#).
3. PromptCAL: Contrastive Affinity Learning via Auxiliary Prompts for Generalized Novel Category Discovery.
Sheng Zhang, Salman Khan, Zhiqiang Shen, Muzammal Naseer, Guangyi Chen, Fahad Khan.
CVPR 2023. [Paper](#) [Code](#).
4. A Channel Attention Based Deep Neural Network for Automatic Metallic Corrosion Detection.
Sheng Zhang, Xinling Deng, Yumin Lu, Shaozhong Hong, Zhengyi Kong, Yongli Peng, Ye Luo.
Journal of Building Engineering, 2021. [Paper](#).
5. From Comparison to Composition: Understanding Cognition of Unseen Categories.
*Minghao Fu**, **Sheng Zhang***, Guangyi Chen, Zijian Li, Yifan Shen, Fan Feng, Shaoan Xie, Kun Zhang.
NeurIPS 2025 CogInterp Workshop, Other Conference Under Review. [Paper](#).

ACADEMIC SERVICES

- Received the NIPS 2025 Registration Award as a Top-8% Reviewer
- Delivered a presentation on our work *Towards Realistic Zero-Shot Classification* at AAAI'24
- Serving as a reviewer at NIPS, ICLR, CVPR, ICCV, ECCV, IJCV, TIP, AISTATS, ACM Computing Surveys
- Serving as a conference volunteer at AAAI'24, EMNLP'23

SKILLS

Language: Chinese (native), English (fluent)

Programming: Python, Java

DL Tools: Pytorch, transformers, timm

Others: Triton, Hadoop

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

CMSC818B Decision-Making for Robotics (A) *CMSC848K Multimodal Foundation Models (A+)*

MATH858M Stochastic Methods with Applications (A) *CMSC848N Generative AI Agents (A)*