

Xiaoyi Tian

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SKILLS

User-Centered Research: Contextual inquiry, interview, survey, storyboard, usability testing, persona, qualitative coding, dialogue act tagging, ethnography, case study

Statistical Analysis: R, SPSS, JMP, Stata

Programming Languages and Frameworks: Python, HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, Javascript, Java, C, VB, SQL, MATLAB, Blazor, React, Blockly

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Human-Centered Computing 2020 - present
University of Florida Gainesville, FL

M.S. in Information Science 2018 - 2020
University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA

B.Mgmt. in Management Science 2014 - 2018
Anhui University Hefei, China

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant | Advisor: Kristy Boyer 08/2020 - present
LearnDialogue Lab, University of Florida Gainesville, FL

- Designed and developed a conversational AI development environment: *AMBY*, featuring youth-centered visual elements, AI conceptual scaffolding and dual input modalities (text and speech) for middle school students
- Conducted contextual inquiry and usability studies with 46 youth (aged 12-13) and 11 adults to understand user experiences and challenges while using *AMBY*. The analysis contributes design implications for conversational AI authoring tools that empower AI learning for youth.
- Clustered affective states and problem-solving behaviors of 86 undergraduate students in an adaptive block-based programming environment for novice learners. This study provided insight into how frustration trajectory models can guide system adaptivity during problem-solving episodes.
- Modeled linguistic alignment and its relationship with satisfaction outcome in collaborative programming dialogues using Bayesian mixed-effect models

Research Intern | Supervisors: Michael Madaio and Amy Ogan 10/2019 - 07/2020
Human-Computer Interaction Institute, Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh, PA

- Automated data collection for a child literacy system used by 500+ participants in Côte d'Ivoire over 8 months, identified system bugs early
- Visualized user phonological awareness curriculum progression of 8 units and 1,000+ weekly interaction logs

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Erin Walker 04/2019 - 05/2020
Facet Lab, University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA

- Conducted qualitative dialogue tagging on rapport behaviors of middle school learners with a social robot
- Utilized Independent Component Analysis (ICA) to model linguistic rapport components extracted from human coding and automated LIWC measurements
- Offered design recommendations for personalizing learner experiences towards over long-term human robot interactions

PROJECTS

StudyBuddy: a Chatbot for Effective Study Habits | Collaborative project (lead) at Pitt 09/2019 - 10/2020
Designing a chatbot prototype to induce and sustain study behavioral change for university first-year students

- Utilized mix-method to investigate the feasibility of chatbots for study behavioral change of college students
- Formed design inquiry by interviewing with 3 peer tutors and surveying 87 freshmen
- Developed a chatbot prototype in Slack using DialogFlow and Slack API
- Conducted in-depth interviews with 8 students, 5 faculty and a usability survey with 118 students
- Offered design recommendations for chatbots on building trust with users, incorporating gender and individual differences, importance of context, balancing between immediate help and long-term support

AWARDS AND HONORS

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| Gartner Group Graduate Fellowship , University of Florida | 2022 |
| Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis (Top 1% in the Class) , Anhui University | 2018 |
| Academic Excellence Scholarship , Anhui University | 2015 & 2016 & 2017 |
| “Merit Student” , Anhui University | 2015 & 2017 |

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Please check my [Google Scholar](#) for full publications.

- **A Summer Camp Experience to Engage Middle School Learners in AI through Conversational App Development**
Gloria Ashiya Katuka, Yvonika Auguste, Song Yukyeong, Xiaoyi Tian, Amit Kumar, Mehmet Celepkolu, Kristy Elizabeth Boyer, Joanne Barrett, Maya Israel, Tom McKlin
Proceedings of the 54th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE). To appear. 2023.
- **Early Design of a Conversational AI Development Platform for Middle Schoolers**
Amit Kumar, Xiaoyi Tian, Mehmet Celepkolu, Maya Israel, Kristy Elizabeth Boyer.
Poster in 2022 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC). September. 2022.
- **Modeling Frustration Trajectories and Problem-Solving Behaviors in Adaptive Learning Environments for Introductory Computer Science**
Xiaoyi Tian, Joseph B. Wiggins, Fahmid Morshed Fahid, Andrew Emerson, Dolly Bounajim, Andy Smith, Kristy Elizabeth Boyer, Eric Wiebe, Bradford Mott, James Lester.
Proceedings of International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED). July. 2021.
- **Progression Trajectory-Based Student Modeling for Novice Block-Based Programming**
Fahmid Morshed Fahid, Xiaoyi Tian, Andrew Emerson, Joseph B. Wiggins, Dolly Bounajim, Andy Smith, Eric Wiebe, Bradford Mott, Kristy Elizabeth Boyer, James Lester.
Proceedings of the 29th ACM Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization (UMAP). July. 2021.
- **Let’s Talk It Out: A Chatbot for Effective Study Habit Behavioral Change**
Xiaoyi Tian, Zak Risha, Ishrat Ahmed, Arun Balajiee Lekshmi Narayanan, Jacob Biehl.
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction. 5, CSCW1. April. 2021.
- **Understanding Rapport over Multiple Sessions with a Social, Teachable Robot**
Xiaoyi Tian, Nichola Lubold, Leah Friedman, Erin Walker.
Proceedings of International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED). July. 2020.
- **Dominance as an Indicator of Rapport and Learning in Human-Agent Communication**
Amanda Buddemeyer, Xiaoyi Tian, Erin Walker.
Student Research Workshop in Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL). July. 2020.

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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| Microsoft TEALS volunteer, teacher for high school computer science (CS1, Python) | 08/2022 - present |
| Reviewer of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2023 | |
| Reviewer of International Conference on Educational Data Mining (EDM) 2022 | |
| Reviewer of ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) 2020 | |

Last update: 10/16/2022