Yezhou Yang Introduction

It is my great honor and privilege to welcome Professor Yezhou YZ Yang to UMBC and as a Distinguished Speaker at the Perception, Prediction, and Reasoning Seminar.

Yezhou is not new to Maryland, having received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland at College Park in 2015 and B.E. from Zhejiang University, China.

Yezhou is an Associate Professor and a Fulton Entrepreneurial Professor in the School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence (SCAI) at Arizona State University.

He directs the ASU Active Perception Group at ASU

* He currently serves as the topic lead (situation awareness) at the Institute of Automated Mobility, Arizona Commerce Authority.
* He is also a thrust lead (AVAI) at Advanced Communications Technologies (ACT, a Science and Technology Center under the New Economy Initiative, Arizona).
* He is a co- founder of ARGOS Vision Inc, an ASU spin-off company.
* He serves as area chair for CVPR, AAAI, NeurIPS, ICLR

His work includes exploring visual primitives and representation learning in visual (and language) understanding, grounding them by natural language and high-level reasoning over the primitives for intelligent systems, secure/robust AI, and V&L model evaluation alignment.

Yang is a recipient of the Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship 2011, the NSF CAREER award 2018, and the Amazon AWS Machine Learning Research Award 2019.

But beyond all of the achievements, and leadership, Yezhou is a gem of a human being, one of the kindest people I have ever known, and I have been fortunate to know him as my PhD advisor, colleague, and friend.

His choice of initials “YZ” signals his preference in working with 2D and 3D signals and beyond! Which leads us to the topic for today:

Visual Concept Learning Beyond Appearances.