

Xiusi Chen

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW · UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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Research Interests

- **Large Language Models (LLMs):** Especially low-resource LLM reasoning (*Gotta*, *MinPrompt*, *TPD*) and alignment (*IterAlign*, *RM-R1*).
- **Dynamics Modeling and Decision Making:** Especially planning tasks in the sports, science and finance domain (*ReLiable*, *PlayBest*, *DecisionFlow*).
- **AI + X Applications:** Especially in LLM agent tool use, retrieval and recommendation (*CP-LSH*, *BLaIR*, *ToolRL*, *OTC-PO*).

Current Position

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

- **Faculty Advisor:** Heng Ji

Urbana, IL, United States

Sept. 2024 - May. 2026 (expected)

Education

University of California, Los Angeles

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- **Thesis Committee:** Wei Wang (Chair, Advisor), Yizhou Sun, Kai-Wei Chang, Jeffrey Brantingham

Los Angeles, CA, United States

Sept. 2018 - Aug. 2024

Peking University

B.S. & M.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- **Thesis Committee:** Jun Gao, Bin Cui, and Ming Zhang

Beijing, China

Sept. 2011 - July 2018

Selected Publications

Full Publications at Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=JqGAil4AAAAJ>

(*: Equal contribution)

RM-R1: Reward Modeling as Reasoning

Xiusi Chen^{*}, Gaotang Li^{*}, Ziqi Wang^{*}, Bowen Jin, Cheng Qian, Yu Wang, Hongru Wang, Yu Zhang, Denghui Zhang, Tong Zhang, Hanghang Tong, Heng Ji

ICLR 2026 150+ stars

Beyond Log Likelihood: Probability-Based Objectives for Supervised Fine-Tuning across the Model Capability Continuum

Gaotang Li^{*}, Ruizhong Qiu^{*}, Xiusi Chen^{*}, Heng Ji, Hanghang Tong

arXiv preprint arXiv: 2510.00526

DecisionFlow: Advancing Large Language Model as Principled Decision Maker

Xiusi Chen^{*}, Shanyong Wang^{*}, Cheng Qian^{*}, Hongru Wang^{*}, Peixuan Han, Heng Ji

EMNLP 2025

MinPrompt: Graph-based Minimal Prompt Data Augmentation for Few-shot Question Answering

Xiusi Chen, Jyun-Yu Jiang, Wei-Cheng Chang, Cho-Jui Hsieh, Hsiang-Fu Yu, Wei Wang

ACL 2024

ITERALIGN: Iterative Constitutional Alignment of Large Language Models

Xiusi Chen, Hongzhi Wen, Sreyashi Nag, Chen Luo, Qingyu Yin, Ruirui Li, Zheng Li, Wei Wang

NAACL 2024

Professional Basketball Player Behavior Synthesis via Planning with Diffusion

Xiusi Chen, Wei-Yao Wang, Ziniu Hu, David Reynoso, Kun Jin, Mingyan Liu, P. Jeffrey Brantingham, Wei Wang

CIKM 2024

A Comprehensive Survey of Scientific Large Language Models and Their Applications in Scientific Discovery

Yu Zhang*, [Xiusi Chen](#)*, Bowen Jin*, Sheng Wang, Shuiwang Ji, Wei Wang, Jiawei Han

EMNLP 2024 [550+ stars](#)

TinyLLM: Learning a Small Student from Multiple Large Language Models

Yijun Tian*, Yikun Han*, [Xiusi Chen](#)*, Wei Wang, Nitech V. Chawla

WSDM 2025

GOTTA: Generative Few-shot Question Answering by Prompt-based Cloze Data Augmentation

[Xiusi Chen](#), Yu Zhang, Jinliang Deng, Jyun-Yu Jiang, Wei Wang

SDM 2023 [Long Paper, Best Poster Award \(Honorable Mention\)](#)

RELIABLE: Offline Reinforcement Learning for Tactical Strategies in Professional Basketball Games

[Xiusi Chen](#), Jyun-Yu Jiang, Kun Jin, Yichao Zhou, Mingyan Liu, Jefferey Brantingham, Wei Wang

CIKM 2022

Scalable Graph Representation Learning via Locality-Sensitive Hashing

[Xiusi Chen](#), Jyun-Yu Jiang, Wei Wang

CIKM 2022

ToolRL: Reward is All Tool Learning Needs

Cheng Qian, Emre Can Acikgoz, Qi He, Hongru Wang, [Xiusi Chen](#), Dilek Hakkani-Tür, Gokhan Tur, Heng Ji

NeurIPS, 2025

Large Scale Knowledge Washing

Yu Wang, Ruihan Wu, Zexue He, [Xiusi Chen](#), Julian McAuley

ICLR 2025

Self-Updatable Large Language Models with Parameter Integration

Yu Wang, Xinshuang Liu, [Xiusi Chen](#), Sean O'Brien, Junda Wu, Julian McAuley

ICLR 2025

Strategist: Learning Strategic Skills by LLMs via Bi-Level Tree Search

Jonathan Light, Min Cai, Weiqin Chen, Guanzhi Wang, [Xiusi Chen](#), Wei Cheng, Yisong Yue, Ziniu Hu

ICLR 2025

MemoryLLM: Toward Self-Updating Large Language Models

Yu Wang, Yifan Gao, [Xiusi Chen](#), Haoming Jiang, Shiyang Li, Jingfeng Yang, Qingyu Yin, Zheng Li, Xian Li, Bing Yin, Jingbo Shang, Julian McAuley

ICML 2024

Language Models as Semantic Indexers

Bowen Jin, Hansi Zeng, Guoyin Wang, [Xiusi Chen](#), Tianxin Wei, Ruirui Li, Zhengyang Wang, Zheng Li, Yang Li, Hanqing Lu, Suhan Wang, Jiawei Han, Xianfeng Tang

ICML 2024

Weakly Supervised Multi-Label Classification of Full-Text Scientific Papers

Yu Zhang, Bowen Jin, [Xiusi Chen](#), Yanzhen Shen, Yunyi Zhang, Yu Meng, Jiawei Han

KDD 2023

EscapeBench: Pushing Language Models to Think Outside the Box

Cheng Qian, Peixuan Han, Qinyu Luo, Bingxiang He, [Xiusi Chen](#), Yuji Zhang, Hongyi Du, Jiarui Yao, Xiaocheng Yang, Denghui Zhang, Yunzhu Li, Heng Ji

ACL, 2025

SMART: Self-Aware Agent for Tool Overuse Mitigation

Cheng Qian, Emre Can Acikgoz, Hongru Wang, [Xiusi Chen](#), Avirup Sil, Dilek Hakkani-Tür, Gokhan Tur, Heng Ji

ACL Findings, 2025

Honors & Awards

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2023 **Best Poster Award (Honorable Mention)**, SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM)
- 2023 **SIAM Student Travel Award**, SIAM
- 2022 **Student Travel Grant**, ACM SIGIR
- 2021 **Student Travel Grant**, ACM SIGIR
- 2016 **Leo KoGuan Fellowship (Top 2%)**, Peking University
- 2016 **Merit Student (Top 5%)**, Peking University
- 2015–2017 **Graduate Student Academic Fellowship (3-time Recipient)**, Peking University

ATHLETIC RECOGNITION

- 2014 **3rd Place, Beijing Division**, 17th Chinese University Basketball Association (CUBA) Championships
- 2010 **6th Place, 100M Breaststroke**, High School Students Swimming Contest of Hunan Province

Tutorials & Talks

Seminar Talk

TOWARDS AGENTIC REASONING AND ALIGNMENT OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

CUHK

Nov. 2025

Seminar Talk

TOWARDS AGENTIC REASONING AND ALIGNMENT OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

Northeastern University

Nov. 2025

Guest Lecture, CS 6320: Natural Language Processing

TOWARDS AGENTIC REASONING AND ALIGNMENT OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

University of Texas at Dallas

Oct. 2025

Invited Talk

POST-TRAINING DATA AND ALGORITHMS FOR LLM AGENTS

ByteDance Seed Research

Sept. 2025

Conference Tutorial

LLMS AND COPYRIGHT RISKS: BENCHMARKS AND MITIGATION APPROACHES

NAACL 2025

May. 2025

Invited Talk

DATA-CENTRIC KNOWLEDGE-ENHANCED REASONING AND ALIGNMENT OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

UIUC-NLP Seminar

Nov. 2024

Invited Talk

DATA-CENTRIC KNOWLEDGE-ENHANCED REASONING AND ALIGNMENT OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

UCSD CSE Seminar

Jul. 2024

Academic Service

Workshop Organizer

- Structured Understanding, Retrieval, and Generation in the LLM Era (SURGeLLM) Workshop at ACL 2026.
- Structured Knowledge for Large Language Models (Sknow-LLM) Workshop at KDD 2025.

Area Chair

- ACL Rolling Review.

Conference Program Committee

- KDD (2020–2024), WSDM (2022–2024), WWW (2024), SSL@WWW (2021), ICML (2023–2025), NeurIPS (2022–2025), ICLR (2022–2026), AAAI (2021–2024), IJCAI-ECAI (2022–2024).

Journal Reviewer

- IEEE Transactions on Big Data (TBD), IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE).

Student Volunteer

- KDD (2020, 2023).

Industrial Experiences

Amazon AI

APPLIED SCIENTIST INTERN — QUERY UNDERSTANDING TEAM

June 2023 – Dec. 2023

Amazon AI	
APPLIED SCIENTIST INTERN — PECOS TEAM	June 2022 – Sept. 2022
NEC Laboratories America — Data Science & System Security	
RESEARCH INTERN	June 2019 – Sept. 2019
Alibaba — DAMO Academy	
RESEARCH INTERN	July 2016 – Dec. 2016

Teaching Experience

CS 245: Big Data Analysis	University of California, Los Angeles
TEACHING ASSOCIATE	Fall 2020
CS 143: Database Systems	University of California, Los Angeles
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Spring 2020
CS 31: Introduction to Computer Science	University of California, Los Angeles
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Fall 2019, Winter 2020
Introduction to Database Systems (Honor Track)	Peking University
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Spring 2016
Database Systems Principles and Technologies	Peking University
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Fall 2016

Mentoring Experience

UIUC	
2025	Hongru Wang , LLM Tool Use, Chinese University of Hong Kong
2024-Now	Cheng Qian , LLM Tool Use, UIUC PhD Student
2024-Now	Gaotang Li , LLM Alignment, UMich undergrad → UIUC PhD Student
2024-2025	Shanyong Wang , LLM for Decision Making, ShanghaiTech undergrad
2024-2025	Xuehang Guo , LLM Agent Memory, University of Pittsburgh → William & Mary PhD
UCLA	
2023	David Reynoso , Diffusion Model for Decision Making, UCLA undergrad → UCLA MS