

Yao Rong

CONTACT INFORMATION

Technical University of Munich (TUM)
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EDUCATION

Technical University of Munich, Germany, Apr. 2023 – present

- Ph.D. Candidate, TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)
- Area of Study: Human-Centered Technologies for Learning

University of Tübingen, Germany, Sep. 2019 – Mar. 2023

- Ph.D. Candidate, Computer Science Department (*Transferred to TUM*)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)
- Area of Study: Human-Computer Interaction

Technical University of Munich, Germany, Oct. 2016 – Jun. 2019

- M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Thesis Topic: *Real-time Hand Gesture Recognition based on a ToF Camera*
- Area of Study: Automation and Robotics

Tongji University, China & Munich University of Applied Sciences, Germany,

Sep. 2012 – Sep. 2016

- B.Eng., Mechatronics (*Dual-degree program*)
- Thesis Topic: *Real-time Hand Gesture Detection and Tracking with OpenCV Library on Android Devices*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests lie in building **human-centered AI** models that can capture human intelligence, understand human needs, and provide explanations. I focus on utilizing explainable AI (XAI) techniques to augment the interpretability, trustworthiness, and user-friendliness of AI systems for end-users. My overarching research goal is to design models that facilitate efficient and safe **human-AI collaboration**.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Rong, Y.**, Leemann, T., Nguyen, T., Fiedler, L., Qian, P., Unhelkar, V., Seidel, T., Kasneci, G., & Kasneci, E. (2023)
[Towards Human-centered Explainable AI: User Studies for Model Explanations](#)
IEEE Transaction on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI)
- [2] **Rong, Y.**, Wang, G., Feng, Q., Liu, N., Liu, Z., Kasneci, E., Hu, X. (2023)
[Efficient GNN Explanation via Learning Removal-based Attribution](#)
Preprint
- [3] **Rong, Y.***, Wei, X.*, Lin, T., Wang, Y., Kasneci, E. (2023)
[DynStatF: An Efficient Feature Fusion Strategy for LiDAR 3D Object Detection](#)
In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) Workshops
- [4] Leemann, T.*, Kirchhof M.*, **Rong, Y.**, Kasneci E., Kasneci, G. (2023)
[When are Post-hoc Conceptual Explanations Identifiable?](#)
In Proceedings of The 39th Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI).
- [5] **Rong, Y.***, Leemann, T.*, Borisov, V., Kaneci, G., & Kasneci, E. (2022)
[A Consistent and Efficient Evaluation Strategy for Attribution Methods](#)
In Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)

- [6] **Rong, Y.**, Kassautzki, N.-R., Fuhl, W., & Kasneci, E. (2022)
[Where and what: Driver attention-based object detection](#)
In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (PACMHCI)
- [7] **Rong, Y.**, Castner, N., Bozkir, E., & Kasneci, E. (2022)
[User Trust on an Explainable AI-based Medical Diagnosis Support System](#)
TRAIT at Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI-TRAIT)
- [8] **Rong, Y.**, Xu, W., Akata, Z., & Kasneci, E. (2021)
[Human attention in fine-grained classification](#)
In 2021 British Machine Vision Conference (BMVC)
- [9] **Rong, Y.**, Han, C., Hellert, C., Loyal, A., & Kasneci, E. (2021)
[Artificial intelligence methods in in-cabin use cases: A survey](#)
IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine
- [10] **Rong, Y.**, Akata, Z., & Kasneci, E. (2020)
[Driver intention anticipation based on in-cabin and driving scene monitoring](#)
In 2020 IEEE 23rd International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSC)
- [11] Köpüklü, O., Ledwon, T., **Rong, Y.**, Kose, N., & Rigoll, G. (2020)
[Drivermhg: A multi-modal dataset for dynamic recognition of driver micro hand gestures and areal-time recognition framework.](#)
In 2020 15th IEEE International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG).
- [12] Köpüklü, O., **Rong, Y.**, & Rigoll, G. (2019)
[Talking with your hands: Scaling hand gestures and recognition with CNNs.](#)
In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision Workshops (ICCVW)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher, Apr. 2023 – present

- Enhancing Model Interpretability and Competence Through Human Knowledge Integration, [HCTL \(Human-Centered Technologies for Learning\) Research Group, TU Munich](#)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)

Joint Research Project, Feb. 2023 – present

- Explaining Image Classification Models by Estimating Expertise of Users, [HCAIR \(Human-Centered AI and Robotics\) Research Group, Rice University](#)
- Advisor: [Dr. Vaibhav Unhelkar](#)

Visiting Scholar, Sep. 2022 – Mar. 2023

- Efficient Graph Neural Network Explanation Generation, [D2K Lab, Rice University](#)
- Advisor: [Dr. Xia Hu](#)

Doctoral Researcher, Sep. 2019 – Mar. 2023

- Human Attention in Computer Vision Applications, [HCI \(Human-Computer Interaction\) Research Group, University of Tübingen](#)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)

Joint Research Project, Sep. 2020 – Jun. 2021

- Human Attention in Fine-grained Classification Tasks, [EML \(Explainable Machine Learning\) Research Group, University of Tübingen](#)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Zeynep Akata](#)

Research Project, 2019

- Channel Multiplexing Module Design, [Integrated Systems Research Group, TU Munich](#)

Research Project, 2018

- Gait Recognition using a Neural Network Autoencoder, [Human-Machine Communication Research Group, TU Munich](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer

- Bachelor course on *Technology and Society*, TU Munich, 2023
- Master course on *Human-AI Interaction*, TU Munich, 2023
- Master course on *Human-AI Interaction*, University of Tübingen, 2022
- Master seminar on *Advanced Topics in Human-Computer Interaction*, University of Tübingen, 2021
- Bachelor seminar on *Introductory Topics in Human-Computer Interaction*, University of Tübingen, 2020
- Master course on *Multimodal Human-Computer Interaction*, University of Tübingen, 2020
- Master course on *SystemC*, TU Munich, 2018

Selected Mentorship

- Young Academia Project at TU Munich, Team *Tick Talker*, ongoing
- Isabel Schorr, Mira Trouvain, Master students at TU Munich. *Simulating Human-centered User Experience in XAI using LLMs*, ongoing
- Mohammed Abbas Ansari, Undergraduate student at Jamia Millia Islamia, India. *Semi-supervised Learning Techniques for Scanpath prediction*, ongoing
- Thai Trang Nguyen, Master student at University of Tübingen. *Model Faithfulness and Preconceptions in Subjective Ratings of Explanations*, 2023
- Jacqueline Hirsch, Master student at University of Tübingen. *Improving Interactive Medical Support System Performance with Knowledge Distillation*, 2022
- Naemi Rebecca Kassautzki, Master student at University of Tübingen. *Driver Attention-based Object Detection*, 2022
- David Scheerer, Master student at University of Tübingen. *Faithful Attention Explanation: Verbalizing Classification Decisions Based on Model Explanation*, 2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Organizing Committee

- [Diversity & Accessibility Chair](#) at ACM Symposium on Eye Tracking Research & Applications (ETRA) 2024
- [Diversity & Inclusion Chair](#) at ACM Symposium on Eye Tracking Research and Applications (ETRA) 2023
- [Diversity & Inclusion Chair](#) at ACM Symposium on Eye Tracking Research and Applications (ETRA) 2022

Student Advisory Service

- Department of Computer Science, University of Tübingen, 2020 – 2022

Reviewer

- Conferences: ICML, NeurIPS, ICLR, AISTATS, WACV, ACM MM, CHI
- Journals: TNNLS, T-IV

HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

TUM Seed Fund for the coordination of EU projects, Munich, 2023

Travel grant from Cluster of Excellence – Machine Learning, Tübingen, 2022

Master study *passed with distinction*, Technical University of Munich, 2019

First Prize of the College-students Design Competition of Electrical System, Delphi Technologies, China, 2015

Student Scholarships awarded by Tongji University, China, 2013 – 2015

REFERENCES

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Gjergji Kasneci, Professor
Department of Governance
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