

YU ZHOU

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RESEARCH TOPICS

Grounded reasoning with large multimodal foundation models; reinforcement learning for visual and embodied agents.

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles <i>Ph.D. in Computer Science</i> Advisors: Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng	Sep 2024 - Present
University of California, Los Angeles <i>B.S. in Mathematics of Computation, minor in Data Science Engineering</i>	Sep 2019 - Dec 2023

EXPERIENCE

Meta Superintelligence Labs <i>Research Scientist Intern</i> • Mentors: Pengchuan Zhang, Kate Saenko, Didac Suris Coll-Vinent, Nicolas Carion • SAM 3 Agent: Multimodal Agentic Tool-Use to Segment any Complex Reasoning-Based Textual Query. • SAM 3: Segment Anything with Concepts.	June 2025 - Present
Stanford University <i>Visiting Researcher at SVL</i> • Mentors: Jiajun Wu, Fei-Fei Li • Holistically evaluate MLLMs for dynamic world modeling and embodied decision making. • Build large-scale virtual simulation datasets and decision making interface for embodied agents.	Mar 2024 - Sep 2024
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign <i>Research Intern</i> • Mentors: Manling Li, Heng Ji, Mohit Bansal • Learning non-sequential procedural planning from large-scale video and text data.	May 2022 - Jan 2023

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

SAM 3: Segment Anything with Concepts ↗ Nicolas Carion, ... Yu Zhou (random author ordering), ... Piotr Dollar, Nikhila Ravi, Kate Saenko, Pengchuan Zhang, Christoph Feichtenhofer	ICLR 2026
ENACT: Evaluating Embodied Cognition with World Modeling of Egocentric Interaction ↗ Qineng Wang, Wenlong Huang, Yu Zhou , Hang Yin, Tianwei Bao, Jianwen Lyu, Weiyu Liu, Ruohan Zhang, Jiajun Wu, Li Fei-Fei, Manling Li	ICLR 2026
Contrastive Visual Data Augmentation ↗ Yu Zhou*, Bingxuan Li*, Mohan Tang*, Xiaomeng Jin, Te-Lin Wu, Kuan-Hao Huang, Heng Ji, Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng	ICML 2025
Embodied Agent Interface: Benchmarking LLMs for Embodied Decision Making ↗ Best Paper Award at SoCal NLP 2024 (1 / 166 accepted papers) Manling Li*, Shiyu Zhao*, Qineng Wang*, Kangrui Wang*, Yu Zhou* (equal contribution), Sanjana Srivastava, Cem Gokmen, Tony Lee, Li Erran Li, Ruohan Zhang, Weiyu Liu, Percy Liang, Li Fei-Fei, Jiayuan Mao, Jiajun Wu	NeurIPS 2024 (Oral)
Localizing Active Objects from Egocentric Vision with Symbolic World Knowledge ↗ Te-Lin Wu*, Yu Zhou* (equal contribution), Nanyun Peng	EMNLP 2023 (Oral)

SELECTED DISTINCTIONS

Nov 2025 Invited Seminar Talk at USC Natural Language Seminar at ISI ↗

Aug 2025 Invited Speaker at Salesforce AI Research Future Forum ↗

Dec 2024 Oral Presentation at NeurIPS 2024 (Top 0.4%)

Nov 2024 Best Paper Award at SoCal NLP Symposium 2024 (1 / 166 Accepted Papers)

Sept 2024 UCLA Graduate Student Fellowship

May 2024 Cohere AI Research Grant.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Workshop Organizer: CVPR 2025 Workshop on Foundation Models for Embodied Agents ↗

Challenge Organizer: NeurIPS 2025 Embodied Agent Interface Challenge ↗

Reviewer: NeurIPS, ICLR, ICML, CVPR, ECCV, ACL, EMNLP, NAACL

Volunteer: ACL 2023