YU ZHOU

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RESEARCH TOPICS

Grounded reasoning for large multimodal foundation models; visual and embodied agents with advanced tool-use.

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles   *Sep 2024 - Present*
  Ph.D. in Computer Science
  Advisors: Nanyun Peng, Kai-Wei Chang

University of California, Los Angeles   *Sep 2019 - Dec 2023*
  B.S. in Mathematics of Computation, minor in Data Science Engineering

EXPERIENCE

Meta Superintelligence Labs   *June 2025 - Present*
Research Scientist Intern in Segment Anything Team
  - *Mentor: Pengchuan Zhang*
  - Research work not yet made publicly available.

Stanford University   *Mar 2024 - Sep 2024*
Visiting PhD
  - *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.

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

Embodied Agent Interface: Benchmarking LLMs for Embodied Decision Making ↗   *NeurIPS 2024 (Oral)*
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*

Contrastive Visual Data Augmentation ↗   *ICML 2025*
***Yu Zhou**[*], Bingxuan Li[*], Mohan Tang[*], Xiaomeng Jin, Te-Lin Wu, Kuan-Hao Huang, Heng Ji, Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng*

Localizing Active Objects from Egocentric Vision with Symbolic World Knowledge ↗   *EMNLP 2023 (Oral)*
*Te-Lin Wu[*], **Yu Zhou**[*] (equal contribution), Nanyun Peng*

Non-Sequential Graph Script Induction via Multimedia Grounding ↗   *ACL 2023*
***Yu Zhou**, Sha Li, Manling Li, Xudong Lin, Shih-Fu Chang, Mohit Bansal, Heng Ji*

DialectGen: Benchmarking and Improving Dialect Robustness in Multimodal Generation ↗   *Preprint*
***Yu Zhou**, Sohyun An, Haikang Deng, Da Yin, Clark Peng, Cho-Jui Hsieh, Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng*

ENACT: Evaluating Embodied Cognition with World Modeling of Egocentric Interaction ↗   *Preprint*
*Qineng Wang[*], Wenlong Huang[*], **Yu Zhou**[*], Hang Yin, Tianwei Bao, Jianwen Lyu, Weiyu Liu, Ruohan Zhang, Jiajun Wu, Li Fei-Fei, Manling Li*

LLMs as Scalable, General-Purpose Simulators For Evolving Digital Agent Training ↗   *Preprint*
*Yiming Wang[*], Da Yin[*], Yuedong Cui[*], Ruichen Zheng[*], Zhiqian Li, Zongyu Lin, Di Wu, Xueqing Wu, Chenchen Ye, **Yu Zhou**, Kai-Wei Chang*

SELECTED DISTINCTIONS

Aug 2025   Invited Speaker at Salesforce AI Research Future Forum ↗

Dec 2024   **Research high-lighted by Prof. Fei-Fei Li at NeurIPS 2024 Keynote Speech**

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

Seminar Talk: Natural Language Seminar at Information Sciences Institute (ISI), USC (2025) ↗

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

Challenge Organizer: NeurIPS 2025 Embodied Agent Interface Challenge ↗

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

Volunteer: ACL 2023