

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 at Segment Anything (SAM) Team

- Peers: Pengchuan Zhang, Kate Saenko, Didac Suris Coll-Vinent, Nicolas Carion
- Research work not yet made publicly available.

Stanford University Mar 2024 - Sep 2024

Visiting Researcher at SVL

- 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