

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