YU ZHOU

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OVERVIEW

Objectives

Open to research internship and fellowship opportunities.

Research Interests

Grounded reasoning in large multi-modal vision-language models, video understanding, embodied agents.

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

Stanford University *March 2024 - Sep 2024*
Research Intern
- *Mentors: Jiajun Wu, Fei-Fei Li*
- Constructing large-scale simulation benchmarks to evaluate LLMs and VLMs on embodied decision making.

University of California, Los Angeles *Feb 2023 - Feb 2024*
Research Intern
- *Mentors: Nanyun Peng, Kai-Wei Chang*
- Video understanding and grounded reasoning; synthetic visual data generation; T2V model editing & evaluation.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign *May 2022 - Jan 2023*
Research Intern
- *Mentors: Heng Ji, Mohit Bansal, Shih-Fu Chang*
- Learning non-sequential procedural planning from video and text and inducing graph schemata.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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*

Embodied Agent Interface: Benchmarking LLMs for Embodied Decision Making 🗗 *NeurIPS 2024 (Oral)*
Best Paper Award at SoCal NLP 2024
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*

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*

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

In-Person Presentations:	NeurIPS 2024 (Oral), EMNLP 2023 (Oral), ACL 2023 (Poster)
Program Committee:	NeurIPS, ICLR, CVPR, ACL, EMNLP, NAACL
Conference Volunteer:	ACL 2023