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 *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
- *Peers: Pengchuan Zhang, Kate Saenko, Didac Suris Coll-Vinent, Nicolas Carion*
- SAM 3: Segment Anything with Concepts.

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.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign *May 2022 - Jan 2023*
Research Intern
- *Mentors: Manling Li, Heng Ji, Mohit Bansal*
- Learning non-sequential procedural planning from large-scale video and text data.

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

SAM 3: Segment Anything with Concepts ↗ *ICLR 2025 (Under Review)*
*Nicolas Carion, ... **Yu Zhou** (random author ordering), ... Piotr Dollar, Nikhila Ravi, Kate Saenko, Pengchuan Zhang, Christoph Feichtenhofer*

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