

YU ZHOU

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RESEARCH TOPICS

Large multimodal foundation models for grounded reasoning; reinforcement learning for visual and embodied agents.

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Sep 2024 - Present

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Advisors: Kai-Wei Chang, Nanyun Peng

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

- *Mentors: Pengchuan Zhang, Kate Saenko, Didac Suris Coll-Vinent, Nicolas Carion*
- SAM 3 Agent: Multimodal Agentic Tool-Use to Segment any Complex Reasoning-Based Textual Query.
- 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*
- Training models to perform non-sequential procedural planning from large-scale video and text data.

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

SAM 3: Segment Anything with Concepts 

ICLR 2026

*Nicolas Carion, ... **Yu Zhou** (random author ordering), ... Piotr Dollar, Nikhila Ravi, Kate Saenko, Pengchuan Zhang, Christoph Feichtenhofer*

ENACT: Evaluating Embodied Cognition with World Modeling of Egocentric Interaction 

ICLR 2026

*Qineng Wang, Wenlong Huang, **Yu Zhou**, Hang Yin, Tianwei Bao, Jianwen Lyu, Weiyu Liu, Ruohan Zhang, Jiajun Wu, Li Fei-Fei, Manling Li*

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 (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*


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 
Yu Zhou, Sha Li, Manling Li, Xudong Lin, Shih-Fu Chang, Mohit Bansal, Heng Ji

ACL 2023



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

Preprint

SELECTED DISTINCTIONS

- Nov 2025** Invited Seminar Talk at USC Information Sciences Institute 
- Aug 2025** Invited Speaker at Salesforce AI Research Future Forum 
- 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

- Workshop Organizer:** CVPR 2025 Workshop on Foundation Models for Embodied Agents 
- Challenge Organizer:** NeurIPS 2025 Embodied Agent Interface Challenge 
- Reviewer:** NeurIPS, ICLR, ICML, CVPR, ECCV, ACL, EMNLP, NAACL
- Volunteer:** ACL 2023