# Yunong Liu

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computer vision and machine learning with focus on 4D scene understanding, visual reasoning, generative models, and self-supervised learning. Specific interests include:

Generative Models: Emergence and control in video generation models, temporal consistency in video generation
Visual Prompting: Investigating emergent behaviors and controllability in generative models through visual prompting

4D Grounding: 4D grounding and spatial-temporal alignment between 3D models and real-world videos

Self-Supervised Learning: Self-supervised representation learning for video understanding

## EDUCATION

### Stanford University, MSc Computer Science (GPA:3.9)

Sep. 2023 - Present

- Research Assistant with **four quarters** of RAship.
  - · Published one first author paper at NeurIPS 2024, one co-first author paper in submission.
- Anticipated graduation with Distinction in Research
- Selected Courses: CS148: Introduction to Computer Graphics and Imaging, CS348I: Computer Graphics in the Era of AI, CS381: Sensorimotor Learning for Embodied Agents, CS326: Topics in Advanced Robotic Manipulation, etc.

### The University of Edinburgh, BEng Electronics and Computer Science

Sep. 2019 - June 2023

- Graduated in joint degree with Honors, ranked 2nd.

The University of Texas at Austin, Electrical and Computer Engineering (GPA:3.82)

Jan. 2022 - June 2022

- Study Abroad (Completed 18 Credits/Semester)

## Publications [3 (co)first-author papers, 2 published, 1 in progress]

Eyzaguirre C.\*, <u>Liu Y.\*</u>, Stojanov S., Gaidon A., Niebles J.C., Wu J. (\*Alphabetically) *Tracking Emergence in Video Generation Models*. Ongoing ICCV Submission.

<u>Liu Y.</u>, Eyzaguirre C., Li M., Khanna S., Niebles J.C., Ravi V., Mishra S., Liu W.\*, Wu J.\* *IKEA Manuals at Work:* 4D Grounding of Assembly Instructions on Internet Videos. NeurIPS 2024.

<u>Liu Y.\*</u>, Kolluri N\*, Murthy D. COVID-19 Misinformation Detection: Machine Learned Solutions to the Infodemic. JMIR Infodemiology 2022; 2(2):e38756.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Tracking Emergence in Video Generation Models

Stanford Vision and Learning Lab Jan 2024 - Present

with Prof. Jiajun Wu, Prof. Juan Carlos Niebles, Cristobal Eyzaguirre

Self-Supervised Points Tracking: Developed intervention-based framework using marker prompts to analyze video diffusion models' ability to track points without training. Implemented marker propagation combining EDM-based sampling with

classifier-free guidance using blended noise predictions.

Technical Implementation: Employed inversion methods with noise extrapolation exploiting near-linear latent trajectories. Developed adaptive tracking strategies with dynamic search spaces based on motion magnitude. Created comprehensive evaluation framework measuring tracking accuracy (PTA@k), temporal consistency, and occlusion handling.

## 4D Grounding of Visual Furniture Assembly Instructions

Stanford Vision and Learning Lab

with Prof. Jiajun Wu, Prof. Juan Carlos Niebles, Prof. Manling Li, Dr. Weiyu Liu

June 2023 - June 2024

**Led Dataset Development**: As the sole student project leader for the year-long project, led the first dataset enabling spatial-temporal alignment of instructional real-world videos with 3D models. Communicated with a team of 30 annotators, ensuring precision through iterative cross-validation.

4D Grounding on Internet Videos: Establish dense correspondences between real-world instructional videos and 3D models. Formulated novel approaches for handling unconstrained internet videos with varying camera parameters and environmental conditions. Developed cross-frame optimization combining PnP-RANSAC with temporal consistency constraints for camera parameter estimation. Designed iterative refinement methods to handle occlusions and maintain consistent part poses across video segments.

#### **COVID-19 Misinformation Detection**

with Prof. Dhiraj Murthy

University of Texas at Austin

March 2022 - Jan 2023

**Framework**: Developed systematic comparison framework across classical models (SVM, LR, BNB) and pre-trained models (BERT, RoBERTa, XLNet) on 7 dataset combinations. Demonstrated classical models excel with combined datasets while pre-trained models perform best. Ensembled crowdsourced annotations (31,441 votes) with model predictions.

**Human-AI Integration**: Created large-scale crowdsourced validation dataset (31,441 votes from 756 annotators) with rigorous agreement analysis (Krippendorff  $\alpha = 0.428$ ). Developed methods to leverage low-agreement human data (68.5% agreement) to improve model performance.

### Semiconductor Manufacturing Anomaly Detection

Tianjin, China

NXP Semiconductors May 2021 - Aug. 2021

Adaptive Validation Framework: Created validation methodology integrating domain knowledge with statistical confidence measures. Designed adaptive thresholding mechanism to handle process variations across production lines.

**Probabilistic Anomaly Detection**: Researched and implemented ensemble detection system combining unsupervised learning methods (Isolation Forest, One-Class SVM) with manufacturing constraints. Developed probabilistic modeling approach for high dimensional multi-variate sensor data with temporal dependencies.

## Wind Farm Performance AI Optimization

Beijing, China

Zhineng Technology Aug 2021 - Sep. 2021

Multi-Modal Integration: Developed framework combining LIDAR measurements with multi-spectral satellite imagery for wind pattern analysis. Implemented automated feature extraction pipeline for processing high-dimensional meteorological time series data.

Hybrid Forecasting Architecture: Designed and validated forecasting system integrating physical models with learned spatial-temporal features. Created validation framework comparing model performance against traditional physical forecasting methods.

## Leadership and Community Engagement

Academic Leadership [University of Edinburgh, 2020 - 2023] E&EE Programme Representative advocating curriculum improvements for 200+ students. Teaching demonstrator for foundational courses including Discrete Mathematics, Data Structures, and Computer Systems. Mentored international students through Global Buddies Program.

**Volunteer** [Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS), Summer 2018] Led educational initiatives in rural communities while contributing to wildlife conservation research through data analysis.

### Honors and Awards

UT Austin Cockrell School of Engineering Fellowship (Declined) [2023] — A \$24,000 fellowship for PhD studies. Turing Scheme Funding [January 2022] — Competitive funding for international academic and leadership exchange. Leadership in Student Opportunities Award [July 2021] — For leadership and 50+ hours of community service. 1st Year Class Medal [July 2020] — Top performance student in Electronics and Electrical Engineering.

### OTHER PROJECTS

- EMo-Mask: Emotional Controllable Motion Generation [Stanford, 2024 Winter] Developed an emotion-aware extension to MoMask for controllable motion generation. Designed EmotionEmbedder module integrating with transformer architecture at different stages (R-transformer, M-transformer, VQ-VAE). Implemented multi-objective training with MSE and contrastive losses for emotion-motion alignment. Created dataset of 320 emotionally expressive motions across 4 emotions and 2 motion types. Conducted systematic ablation studies comparing integration points and analyzing impact on motion quality.
- **GPU-Accelerated Sparse Tensor Auto-differentiation** [Edinburgh, 2023 May] Extended differentiable programming framework for sparse tensors to GPU environments. Developed CUDA implementations focusing on performance optimization and memory efficiency for sparse operations.
- Discourse Relation Analysis [University of Edinburgh, 2022 June 2023 Jan] Worked with Prof Bonnie Webber. Investigated relationships between non-canonical syntax (preposing) and discourse relations using large language models. Helped with the development of mask-filling tasks with BERT to analyze implicit discourse relations, achieving quantitative evidence for syntactic effects on relation prediction.
- **Open-Source Contribution** [Remote, 2022 May-July] Converted a JAX model to ONNX format to improve its running efficiency, and re-implemented and restructured the code to integrate it into the OpenCV code tree.
- Just Dance Everything (Best Course Project Award) [UT Austin, 2022 March-June] Developed an accessible dance game that only requires a webcam.
- **Energy Monitoring and Control System** [2020] Developed a system to monitor energy usage, analyze power quality, and control inductors' current.(China Patent No. 7670030)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, Java, C, CUDA, JavaScript, HTML, Verilog

ML Framework: PyTorch, JAX, TensorFlow, OpenCV, Detectron2 3D/Graphics: Blender, Unity3D, Open3D, OpenGL, PyTorch3D

Engineering: COMSOL, MATLAB/Simulink, Circuit Design, Embedded Systems

Tools: Weights & Biases, AWS/GCP, SLURM, Linux HPC, Git, Docker, Alibabacloud