

Zhengyuan Yang

Principal Researcher, Microsoft, Redmond, WA

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Research Summary

My research interests involve the intersection of computer vision and natural language processing, including vision+language understanding and generation, multimodal learning, and multimodal foundation models.

Education

University of Rochester

Rochester, New York

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE ADVISOR: PROF. JIEBO LUO

2016 - 2021

- Thesis: Visual Grounding: Building Cross-Modal Visual-Text Alignment (**ACM SIGMM Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis**)
- Thesis Committee: Jiebo Luo (advisor), Dan Gildea, Chenliang Xu, Ehsan Hoque, Zhiyao Duan

University of Science and Technology of China

Hefei, China

B.E. IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

2012 - 2016

Selected Awards

ACM SIGMM Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis	2022
ECCV 2022 Outstanding Reviewer	2022
Winner of CVPR 2021 TextCaps Challenge	2021
Winner of CVPR 2021 ReferIt3D Challenge	2021
CVPR 2021 Outstanding Reviewer	2021
Twitch Research Fellowship	2020
Best Industry Related Paper Award (BIRPA) in ICPR 2018, (1/1258)	2018

Services

Exhibits and Demos Chair:	IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (ICME)	2024
Area Chair:	EMNLP, ACMMM	2024
Senior Program Committee:	AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)	2023-2025
Associate Editor:	IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology (TCSVT)	2022-2024
Guest Editor:	IEEE TMM SI on "Large Multimodal Models for Dynamic Visual Scene Understanding"	2024
	IEEE TCSVT SI on "AI-Generated Content for Multimedia"	2023
Conference Reviewer:	CVPR, ICCV, ECCV, NeurIPS, ICLR, ICML, ACL, EMNLP, ACMMM, AAAI, ACCV, WACV, ICME, ICIP.	
Journal Reviewer:	TPAMI, IJCV, TIP, TMM, TCybernetics, TCSVT, Pattern Recognition, Neurocomputing, TBioCAS, Access.	

Professional Experience

Microsoft

Redmond, WA

PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER

June 2021 - Current

- Research on multimodal understanding and generation.

Microsoft

Bellevue, WA

RESEARCH INTERN SUPERVISOR: DR. YIJUAN LU, DR. JIANFENG WANG, DR. XI YIN

May 2020 to Aug 2020

Tencent AI Lab at Bellevue

Bellevue, WA

RESEARCH INTERN SUPERVISOR: DR. BOQING GONG, DR. LIWEI WANG

Jan 2019 to Apr 2019

SnapChat Research

RESEARCH INTERN

SUPERVISOR: DR. YUNCHENG LI, DR. LINJIE YANG, DR. NING ZHANG

Venice, CA

May 2018 to Aug 2018

SAIC USA

RESEARCH INTERN

SUPERVISOR: DR. JERRY YU

San Jose, CA

May 2017 to Aug 2017

Selected Publications

COLM 2024

An Yan, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Junda Wu, Wanrong Zhu, Jianwei Yang, Linjie Li, Kevin Lin, Jianfeng Wang, Julian McAuley, Jianfeng Gao, Lijuan Wang, "List Items One by One: A New Data Source and Learning Paradigm for Multimodal LLMs," The 1st Conference on Language Modeling (COLM), Philadelphia, PA, October 2024.

ACMMM 2024

Jie An, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Linjie Li, Jianfeng Wang, Kevin Lin, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, Jiebo Luo, "Openleaf: Open-domain interleaved image-text generation and evaluation," ACM Multimedia Conference (MM), Brave New Ideas track, Melbourne, Australia, October 2024.

ECCV 2024a

Zhengyuan Yang, Jianfeng Wang, Linjie Li, Kevin Lin, Chung-Ching Lin, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, "Idea2Img: Iterative Self-Refinement with GPT-4V(ision) for Automatic Image Design and Generation," The 18th European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), Milano, Italy, Sept 2024.

ECCV 2024b

Jialian Wu, Jianfeng Wang, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Zhe Gan, Zicheng Liu, Junsong Yuan, Lijuan Wang, "GRiT: A Generative Region-to-text Transformer for Object Understanding," The 18th European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), Milano, Italy, Sept 2024.

ECCV 2024c

Yuanhao Zhai, Kevin Lin, Linjie Li, Chung-Ching Lin, Jianfeng Wang, **Zhengyuan Yang**, David Doermann, Junsong Yuan, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, "IDOL: Unified Dual-Modal Latent Diffusion for Human-Centric Joint Video-Depth Generation," The 18th European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), Milano, Italy, Sept 2024.

ICML 2024a

Weihao Yu*, **Zhengyuan Yang***, Linjie Li, Jianfeng Wang, Kevin Lin, Zicheng Liu, Xinchao Wang, Lijuan Wang, "MM-Vet: Evaluating Large Multimodal Models for Integrated Capabilities," The Forty-first International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Vienna, Austria, July 2024.

ICML 2024b

Zecheng Tang, Chenfei Wu, Zekai Zhang, Mingheng Ni, Shengming Yin, Yu Liu, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Lijuan Wang, Zicheng Liu, Juntao Li, Nan Duan, "StrokeNUWA: Tokenizing Strokes for Vector Graphic Synthesis," The Forty-first International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Vienna, Austria, July 2024.

IJCAI 2024

Jie An, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Jianfeng Wang, Linjie Li, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, Jiebo Luo, "Bring Metric Functions into Diffusion Models," The 32nd International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Jeju, August 2024.

CVPR 2024a

Chaoyi Zhang, Kevin Lin, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Jianfeng Wang, Linjie Li, Chung-Ching Lin, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, "MM-Narrator: Narrating Long-form Videos with Multimodal In-Context Learning," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Seattle, WA, June 2024. **Highlight presentation.**

CVPR 2024b

Tan Wang, Linjie Li, Kevin Lin, Yuanhao Zhai, Chung-Ching Lin, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Hanwang Zhang, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, "DisCo: Disentangled Control for Realistic Human Dance Generation," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Seattle, WA, June 2024.

CVPR 2024c

Zichen Miao, Jiang Wang, Ze Wang, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Lijuan Wang, Qiang Qiu, Zicheng Liu, "Training Diffusion Models Towards Diverse Image Generation with Reinforcement Learning," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Seattle, WA, June 2024.

CVPR 2024d

Jielin Qiu, Jiacheng Zhu, William Han, Aditesh Kumar, Karthik Mittal, Claire Jin, **Zhengyuan Yang**, Linjie Li, Jianfeng Wang, Ding Zhao, Bo Li, Lijuan Wang, "MMSum: A Dataset for Multimodal Summarization and Thumbnail Generation of Videos," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Seattle, WA, June 2024. **Highlight presentation.**

Book 2023

Chunyu Li*, Zhe Gan*, **Zhengyuan Yang***, Jianwei Yang*, Linjie Li*, Lijuan Wang, Jianfeng Gao, "Multimodal Foundation Models: From Specialists to General-Purpose Assistants," Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision, 2023.

Arxiv 2023a

Zhengyuan Yang*, Linjie Li*, Kevin Lin*, Jianfeng Wang*, Chung-Ching Lin*, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang*, "The Dawn of LMMs: Preliminary Explorations with GPT-4V(ision)." (**Exploratory work cataloguing use of GPT-4V**).

Arxiv 2023b	Zhengyuan Yang , Linjie Li, Jianfeng Wang, Kevin Lin, Ehsan Azarnasab, Faisal Ahmed, Zicheng Liu, Ce Liu, Michael Zeng, Lijuan Wang, "MM-REACT: Prompting ChatGPT for Multimodal Reasoning and Action."
ICCV 2023a	Yushi Hu, Hang Hua, Zhengyuan Yang , Weijia Shi, Noah A. Smith, Jiebo Luo, "PromptCap: Prompt-Guided Task-Aware Image Captioning," IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), Paris, France, October 2023.
ICCV 2023b	Tan Wang, Kevin Lin, Linjie Li, Chung-Ching Lin, Zhengyuan Yang , Hanwang Zhang, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, "Equivariant Similarity for Vision-Language Foundation Models," IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), Paris, France, October 2023. Oral presentation.
ACL 2023	Shengming Yin, Chenfei Wu, Huan Yang, Jianfeng Wang, Xiaodong Wang, Minheng Ni, Zhengyuan Yang , Linjie Li, Shuguang Liu, Fan Yang, Jianlong Fu, Gong Ming, Lijuan Wang, Zicheng Liu, Houqiang Li, Nan Duan, "NUWA-XL: Diffusion over Diffusion for eXtremely Long Video Generation." Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), Toronto, Canada, July 2023. Oral presentation.
IJCAI 2023	Xiaodong Wang, Chenfei Wu, Shengming Yin, Minheng Ni, Jianfeng Wang, Linjie Li, Zhengyuan Yang , Fan Yang, Lijuan Wang, Zicheng Liu, Yuejian Fang, Nan Duan, "Learning 3D Photography Videos via Self-supervised Diffusion on Single Images." The 32nd International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Macao, August 2023.
CVPR 2023	Zhengyuan Yang , Jianfeng Wang, Zhe Gan, Linjie Li, Kevin Lin, Chenfei Wu, Nan Duan, Zicheng Liu, Ce Liu, Michael Zeng, Lijuan Wang, "ReCo: Region-Controlled Text-to-Image Generation," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Vancouver, BC, June 2023.
ICLR 2023	Chenglei Si, Zhe Gan, Zhengyuan Yang , Shuohang Wang, Jianfeng Wang, Jordan Boyd-Graber, Lijuan Wang, "Prompting GPT-3 To Be Reliable," The Eleventh International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), Kigali, Rwanda, May 2023.
ECCV 2022	Zhengyuan Yang , Zhe Gan, Jianfeng Wang, Xiaowei Hu, Faisal Ahmed, Zicheng Liu, Yumao Lu, Lijuan Wang, "UniTAB: Unifying Text and Box Outputs for Grounded Vision-Language Modeling," European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), Tel Aviv, Israel, October 2022. Oral presentation (2.7%).
TPAMI 2023	Jiajun Deng, Zhengyuan Yang , Daqing Liu, Tianlang Chen, Wengang Zhou, Yanyong Zhang, Houqiang Li, Wanli Ouyang, "TransVG++: End-to-End Visual Grounding with Language Conditioned Vision Transformer," IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI), 2023.
TMLR 2022	Jianfeng Wang, Zhengyuan Yang , Xiaowei Hu, Linjie Li, Kevin Lin, Zhe Gan, Zicheng Liu, Ce Liu, Lijuan Wang, "GIT: A Generative Image-to-text Transformer for Vision and Language," Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR), 2022.
CVPR 2022	Xiaowei Hu, Zhe Gan, Jianfeng Wang, Zhengyuan Yang , Zicheng Liu, Yumao Lu and Lijuan Wang, "Scaling Up Vision-Language Pre-training for Image Captioning," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), New Orleans, June 2022.
Arxiv 2021	Jianfeng Wang, Xiaowei Hu, Zhe Gan, Zhengyuan Yang , Xiyang Dai, Zicheng Liu, Yumao Lu and Lijuan Wang, "UFO: A UniFied TransFormer for Vision-Language Representation Learning."
AAAI 2022	Zhengyuan Yang , Zhe Gan, Jianfeng Wang, Xiaowei Hu, Yumao Lu, Zicheng Liu, Lijuan Wang, "An Empirical Study of GPT-3 for Few-Shot Knowledge-Based VQA," The 36th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), Vancouver, BC, February 2022. Oral presentation (4.2%).
ICPR 2022	Zhengyuan Yang , Jingen Liu, Jing Huang, Xiaodong He, Tao Mei, Chenliang Xu, Jiebo Luo, "Cross-modal Contrastive Distillation for Instructional Activity Anticipation," International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), Montreal, Quebec, Canada, August 2022.
ICCV 2021a	Zhengyuan Yang , Songyang Zhang, Liwei Wang, Jiebo Luo, "SAT: 2D Semantics Assisted Training for 3D Visual Grounding," IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), Online, 2021. Oral presentation (3.4%).
ICCV 2021b	Jiajun Deng, Zhengyuan Yang , Tianlang Chen, Wengang Zhou, Houqiang Li, "TransVG: End-to-End Visual Grounding with Transformers," IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), Online, 2021.
CVPR 2021a	Zhengyuan Yang , Yijuan Lu, Jianfeng Wang, Xi Yin, Dinei Florencio, Lijuan Wang, Cha Zhang, Lei Zhang, Jiebo Luo, "TAP: Text-Aware Pre-training for Text-VQA and Text-Caption," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Online, June 2021. Oral presentation (4.0%).

CVPR 2021b	Liwei Wang, Jing Huang, Yin Li, Kun Xu, Zhengyuan Yang , Dong Yu, "Improving Weakly Supervised Visual Grounding by Contrastive Knowledge Distillation," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Online, June 2021.
ECCV 2020	Zhengyuan Yang , Tianlang Chen, Liwei Wang, Jiebo Luo, "Improving One-stage Visual Grounding by Recursive Sub-query Construction," European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV), Online, August 2020.
ACL 2020	Yongjing Yin, Fandong Meng, Jinsong Su, Chulun Zhou, Zhengyuan Yang , Jie Zhou, Jiebo Luo, "A Novel Graph-based Multi-modal Fusion Encoder for Neural Machine Translation," Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), Online, July 2020.
T-CSVT 2020	Zhengyuan Yang , Tushar Kumar, Tianlang Chen, Jingsong Su, Jiebo Luo, "Grounding-Tracking-Integration," IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology (T-CSVT).
ACMMM 2020	Huan Lin, Fandong Meng, Jinsong Su, Yongjing Yin, Zhengyuan Yang , Yubin Ge, Jie Zhou, Jiebo Luo, "Dynamic Context-guided Capsule Network for Multimodal Machine Translation," ACM Multimedia Conference, Seattle, WA, October 2020
ICCV 2019	Zhengyuan Yang , Boqing Gong, Liwei Wang, Wenbing Huang, Dong Yu, Jiebo Luo, "A Fast and Accurate One-Stage Approach to Visual Grounding," IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), Seoul, South Korea, 2019. Oral presentation (4.3%) .
ICPR 2020a	Zhengyuan Yang , Yuncheng Li, Linjie Yang, Ning Zhang, Jiebo Luo, "Weakly Supervised Body Part Parsing with Pose based Part Priors," International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), Millan, Italy, January, 2020.
ICPR 2020b	Zhengyuan Yang , Amanda Kay, Yuncheng Li, Wendi Cross, Jiebo Luo, "Pose-based Body Language Recognition for Emotion and Psychiatric Symptom Interpretation," International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), Millan, Italy, January, 2020.
CVPR 2019	Mengshi Qi, Weijian Li, Zhengyuan Yang , Yunhong Wang, Jiebo Luo, "Attentive Relational Networks for Mapping Images to Scene Graphs," IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), Long Beach, USA, 2019.
ICME 2019	Zhengyuan Yang , Yixuan Zhang, Jiebo Luo, "Human-Centered Emotion Recognition in Animated GIFs with Facial Landmarks," IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (ICME), Shanghai, China, 2019.
T-CSVT 2018	Zhengyuan Yang , Yuncheng Li, Jianchao Yang, Jiebo Luo, "Action Recognition with Spatio-Temporal Visual Attention on Skeleton Image Sequences," IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology (T-CSVT).
ICPR 2018a	Zhengyuan Yang , Yixuan Zhang, Jerry Yu, Junjie Cai, Jiebo Luo, "End-to-end Multi-Modal Multi-Task Vehicle Control for Self-Driving Cars with Visual Perceptions," International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), Beijing, China, 2018. Best Industry Related Paper Award (BIRPA) (1/1258) .
ICPR 2018b	Zhengyuan Yang , Yuncheng Li, Jianchao Yang, Jiebo Luo, "Action Recognition with Visual Attention on Skeleton Images," International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), Beijing, China, 2018.

Talks and Teaching Experience

Invited Talk – Multimodal Agents

Niagara Falls, Canada

- ICME 2024 Workshop on Visual-Language Alignment in Text-Guided Multi-Modal Generation

2024

Tutorial Talk – Recent Advances in Image Generative Foundation Models

Seattle, WA

- CVPR 2024 Tutorial on Recent Advances in Vision Foundation Models

2024

Invited Talk – Multimodal Agents: from Text to Multimodal Reasoning and Action

Hong Kong, China

- CUHK Multi-Modal Symposium

2024

Tutorial Talk – Alignments in Text-to-Image Generation

Vancouver, BC

- CVPR 2023 Tutorial on Recent Advances in Vision Foundation Models

2023

Invited Talk – Towards Cross-Modal Visual-Text Understanding and Generation

Tokyo, Japan

- ACM MM Asia 2022 Workshop on Multimedia Understanding with Pre-trained Models

2022

Tutorial Talk – Unified Image-Text Modeling

- CVPR 2022 Tutorial on Recent Advances in Vision-and-Language Pre-training

New Orleans, LA

2022

Invited Talk – SAT: 2D Semantics Assisted Training for 3D Visual Grounding

- CVPR Workshop 2021 on Language for 3D Scenes

Online

2021

Guest Lecture – Vision-and-language

- CS440 Data Mining, University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

2021

Guest Lecture – CNN and Feature Visualization

- CS440 Data Mining, University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

2020

Teaching Assistant – CS446 Machine Learning

- Dept. of Computer Science, University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

2018

Teaching Assistant – CS172 Data Structures and Algorithms

- Dept. of Computer Science, University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

2017

Teaching Assistant – CS242 Intro to Artificial Intelligence

- Dept. of Computer Science, University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

2017

Selected Patents

“Weakly supervised semantic parsing”, *US Patent Number: 11,182,603* (Granted, 11/2021).