Fenghai Li

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Research Interests
Natural Panguage Processing (NLP), Large Language Model (LLM) Agents, Human-AI Interaction, Human-Computer Interaction (HCI).

Education
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Urbana, IL
B.S in Computer Science and Mathematics Aug 2023 – May 2027
GPA: 3.92/4.0

Publication
Z. Ding, **F. Li**, H. Yu, and J. Chan. **Towards Conceptual Direct Manipulation: Drag-Based Research Ideation, Evaluation and Evolution.** In *Adjunct Proceedings of the 2025 Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST'25 Poster)*, 2025.

H. Yu*, K. Xuan*, **F. Li***, K. Zhu, Z. Lei, J. Zhang, Z. Qi, K. Richardson, and J. You. **TinyScientist: An Interactive, Extensible, and Controllable Framework for Building Research Agents.** *The 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP'25), System Demonstrations. *Core Contributors.*

Research Experience
U Lab (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) Feb 2025 – Present
PI: Professor Jiaxuan You, Mentor: Haofei Yu
Reseach Intern
Core Contributor for Tiny Scientist, Live Trade Bench

Open-Source Projects
TinyScientist: A Lightweight Framework for Building Research Agents
Core Contributor [Python Package]
A lightweight, user-friendly framework for automating the entire lifecycle of scientific research—from ideation to implementation, writing, and review. Designed for flexibility, it integrates smoothly with your favorite LLMs and search tools.
Live Trade Bench: Live evaluation of trading agents
Core Contributor
Evaluates AI trading agents in real time across multiple asset classes—so researchers, developers, and traders can compare strategies under identical market, data, and execution conditions, using capital-aware, risk-adjusted metrics.

Industry Experience
Shanghai Win-Champion Business Credit Reporting Co. Ltd Shanghai, China
Data Analyst Intern June 2024 – July 2024
- Collected and processed large datasets from multiple sources using Python (HTML tables, PDFs, JSON).
- Conducted data wrangling, cleaning, and validation using Excel and Python libraries such as Pandas.
- Organized data into the company's SQL database, ensuring accuracy and consistency in data entry.
- Collaborated with senior analysts to streamline the data pipeline, improving efficiency.

Teaching Experience

Tutor, Siebel School of Computing and Data Science Fall 2024

CS 124: Introduction to Computer Science I

Provided tutoring for students who have questions regarding their coursework or assignments and trained two new assistant tutors to help them understand the course material and how to assist students.

College Projects

Determining the Effect of Natural Disasters on Disadvantaged Communities

Core Contributor

- Sourced and analyzed relevant datasets to study the impact of natural disasters on socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.
- Used Python for data cleaning and analysis, focusing on statistical associations and trends.
- Leveraged data visualization techniques to present findings in a comprehensible manner using libraries such as Matplotlib and Seaborn.