

Lu Dong

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Generative AI/ Multimodal LLMs /Agentic AI

Personal Homepage
LinkedIn: [Lu Dong](#)

I'm a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science and Engineering at the University at Buffalo (SUNY). I work on multimodal human behavior modeling and generative/agentic AI, spanning computer vision, LLMs, 3D vision, and multimodal foundation models. My projects include sign-language generation, multi-person interaction, human–scene interaction, and human–robot collaboration, with prior experience in reinforcement learning, recommendation systems, and data visualization. I enjoy translating research into efficient pipelines that can run reliably in real-world products.

EDUCATION

University at Buffalo- State University of New York (UB), USA

Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering.

08/2021- Present

Rochester Institute of Technology, USA

Ph.D. in Computing and Information Sciences. (GPA 4.0; transferred with advisor)

08/2020-05/2021

Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU), CHINA

M.S. in Computer Science and Technology

08/2013-05/2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

National AI Institute for Exceptional Education, University at Buffalo-SUNY, Buffalo, NY, USA.

01/2024–Now

Position: Research Assistant, Advisor: Ifeoma Nwogu

- **Research Focus: Interactive Behavior Modeling towards Education (LLM Agent · Embodied Interaction · Spacial Intelligence)**

- Topic: Agentic LLM Frameworks for Socially Intelligent Human– Social Robot Interaction. [[AutoMisty-IROS'25](#)][[MistyPilot](#)]
- Topic: Spatial Chain-of-Thought Reasoning on Human-Scene Interaction. [[CoT-HSI](#)]
- Topic: Strategy-Driven 3D Adult Behavior Generation for Children’s Knowledge Acquisition. [[StrategyGen](#)]
- Topic: LLM-Driven Interpretation of Students’ Learning Cognitive States (e.g., Confusion Intervals) from Subtle Facial Cues (eg: Facial Action Units, Valence–Arousal, Gaze Tracking, and Eye Blink Patterns). [[SCOPE](#)]

Human Behavior Modeling Lab, University at Buffalo-SUNY, Buffalo, NY, USA.

08/2021–Now

Position: Research Assistant, Advisor: Ifeoma Nwogu

- **Research Focus: Multimodal Modeling of Human Behaviors (cVAE · VQ-VAE · Diffusion Models · LLM Post-Training).**

- Topic: 3D American Sign Language Motion Reconstruction and Generation.[[SignAvatar- IEEE FG'24](#)] [[wSignGen-EMNLP'24](#)]
- Topic: Towards Open Domain Text- Driven Synthesis of Multi-Person Motions. [[Multi-Person- ECCV'24](#)]
- Topic: Language-guided Human Motion Synthesis with Atomic Actions. [[ATOM-ACMMM'23](#)]

YLAB, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China.

08/2013–06/2016

Position: Research Assistant, Advisor: Xinyu Yang

- **Research Focus: Exploring the Enduring MEME of Traditional Folk Songs (Music Machine Learning · MIDI· Audio Analysis).**

- Topic: Exploring the General Melodic Characteristics of XinTianYou Folk Songs. [[XinTianYou-SMC'15](#)]
- Topic: Towards a Systematic Classification and Benchmarking of Chinese Folk Songs.[[Chinese Folk Songs](#)]

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

NEC Laboratories America, Princeton, NJ

05/2025–08/2025

Position: Research Internship, In-Person, Mentor: Deep Patel and Iain Melvin

- Focus: Reasoning and Planning for LLM-Driven 3D Human Motion–Scene Interaction. [[CoT-HSI](#)]

InnoPeak Technology (OPPO US Research), Seattle, WA, USA.

06/2023–08/2023

Position: Research Internship, In-Person, Mentor: Dr. Mitch Hill and Dr. Guo-Jun Qi

- Focus: Number-Controlled Multi-Person Motion Synthesis Towards Open-Domain. [[Multi-Person- ECCV'24](#)]

InnoPeak Technology (OPPO US Research), Palo Alto, CA, USA.

05/2022–08/2022

Position: Research Internship, In-Person, Mentor: Dr. Xun Xu and Dr. Shuxue Quan

- Focus: Human pose estimation for fitness under severe self-occlusion. [[Pose Estimation](#)]

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Lu Dong*, Xiao Wang*, Jingchen Sun, Ifeoma Nwogu, Srirangaraj Setlur, Venu Govindaraju."MistyPilot: An Agentic Fast–Slow Thinking LLM Framework for Misty Social Robots" *under review*.

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2. **Lu Dong***, Xiao Wang*, Sahana Rangasrinivasan, Ifeoma Nwogu, Srirangaraj Setlur, Venu Govindaraju."AutoMisty: A Multi-Agent LLM Framework for Automated Code Generation in the Misty Social Robot." *International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS 2025)*.
3. **Lu Dong**, Xiao Wang, Ifeoma Nwogu. "Word-Conditioned 3D American Sign Language Motion Generation" *The 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP 2024)*.
4. **Lu Dong***, Xiao Wang*, Srirangaraj Setlur, Venu Govindaraju, Ifeoma Nwogu."Ig3D: Integrating 3D Face Representations in Facial Expression Inference" *The 18th European Conference on Computer Vision, ECCVW 2024*.
5. Mengyi Shan, **Lu Dong**, Yutao Han, Yuan Yao, Tao Liu, Ifeoma Nwogu, Guo-Jun Qi, Mitch Hill. "Towards Open Domain Text-Driven Synthesis of Multi-Person Motions." *The 18th European Conference on Computer Vision, ECCV 2024*.
6. **Lu Dong**, Lipisha Nitin Chaudhary, Fei Xu, Xiao Wang, Mason Lary, Ifeoma Nwogu. "SignAvatar: Sign Language 3D Motion Reconstruction and Generation." *The 18th IEEE International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG 2024)*.
7. Yuanhao Zhai, Mingzhen Huang, Tianyu Luan, **Lu Dong**, Ifeoma Nwogu, Siwei Lyu, David Doermann, Junsong Yuan. "Language-guided Human Motion Synthesis with Atomic Actions." *The 31st ACM International Conference on Multimedia, 2023(ACM MM'23)*.
8. Fei Xu, Lipisha Nitin Chaudhary, **Lu Dong**, Srirangaraj Setlur, Venu Govindaraju, Ifeoma Nwogu. "A Study of Video-based Human Representation for American Sign Language Alphabet Generation." *(FG 2024)*.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Information Retrieval Project - Covid19 & Vaccine Analysis Search Engine [\[Page Link\]](#) 09/2021-12/2021 @UB

- Scraped 50,000 tweets using Tweepy on COVID-19 and vaccines from diverse languages, countries, public, and authorities.
- Designed a full-stack web application with a Google-like front end and a flask-based backend, integrating deep learning models.
- Provided trend analysis of public and authoritative attitudes toward vaccines, along with fake news detection.

Natural Language Processing Project - Medical Tutoring ChatBot [\[Page Link\]](#) 09/2021-12/2021 @UB

- Curated structured dialogue datasets from raw files such as HTML, PDF, and text documents.
- Developed a full-stack medical tutoring chatbot to improve medical literacy in underdeveloped regions of India.
- Proposed a framework for smoother dialogue transitions to enhance user attention and engagement.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Shaanxi Haina Electronic Technology Co., LTD, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China. 09/2016-04/2020

Position: Principal Data Scientist

- Developed the recommendation system, improving user satisfaction and overall product experience.
- Built and led the Information Collection & Retrieval Team, boosting efficiency by 20%.
- Developed strategies that increased client conversions by 30% and doubled total team revenue.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Academic Reviewer: **Conference:** ACL Rolling Review (ARR), February & July 2025;
ACM Multimedia (MM), 2023 & 2024;
Journal: Computer Vision and Image Understanding (CVIU), 2025;
Machine Vision and Applications (Nature MVA), 2024, 2025;
IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing (TAFFC), 2024;

IEEE Conference Organization: Local Student Chair, [IJCB Conference 2024](#) @ Buffalo, NY.

Professional Competition: Invited Judge for UB Hacking Competition (2022).

Invited Talk: Invited talk at Women in Tech Western New York, 2025;
Invited talk on 'AI Research and Career Development' 2024;

Academic Membership: ACL Member, IEEE Biometrics Council Member, IEEE Student Member.

AWARDS & HONOR

- PhD Research Award, UB, 2025; Best AI Project Award, UB, 2024;
- IJCB Conference Leadership Award, 2024; ECCV Conference Grant, 2024;
- National Graduate Academic Scholarship, 2013–2016; Outstanding Graduate Student Award, 2014 and 2015;
- National Endeavor Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduates, 2010; Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, 2010.