

# Chenda Duan

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## Education

### University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

2024.09 – Expected 2028.06

*Ph.D in Electrical and Computer Engineering*

Los Angeles, CA

- **Associate Teaching Instructor:** Data Mining, Probability and Statistics, Complex Networks
- **Focused on:** LLM/VLMs, AI for Science, Data Analysis, and general Machine Learning.

### University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

2022.09 – 2024.06

*Master of Science in Computer Science*

Los Angeles, CA

- **GPA: 3.9/4.0**
- **Teaching Assistant:** Computer Organization, Computer Graphics
- **Core Courses:** Large-scale Machine Learning, Generative Models, Reinforcement Learning, Advanced Computer Architecture, Data Mining, Cloud Computing, Adversarial Robustness, Parallel Computing, Hardware for machine learning.

### University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

2019.09 – 2022.06

*Bachelor of Science in Computer Science*

Los Angeles, CA

- **GPA: 4.0/4.0**
- **Honor:** Summa Cum Laude, Dean's Honors List
- **Core Courses:** CV, NLP, Machine Learning, Probability, Linear Algebra, Algorithms, Software Engineering, Database, Computer Organization&Architecture, Operating Systems, Network, Programming Languages

## Technical Skill

Programming Language: Python, C++, Java, SQL, Javascript, R

Frameworks & Tools: Docker, React, Git, Linux, Cloud (GCP), PyTorch, TensorFlow, ROS

## Work / Research Experience

### UCLA Prof. Roychowdhury's Group

2024.6 – Present

*Ph.D Student, Researcher*

Los Angeles, CA

- Designed memory-augmented Multimodal/LLM framework for doing RAG and long-context LLM QA tasks. Paper submitted to AAAI 2026
- Analyzed large-scale temporal neuro data and developed models to decode human memories. Paper submitted to Nature.
- Developed diagnosis pipeline that can process and analyze large-scale neuro-medical data. Build comprehensive dataset and benchmarks. Paper submitted to NeurIPS 2025.

### Kuaishou Technology, Kling Team

2023.6 – 2023.9

*Research Intern - Y-Tech Kling Team*

Beijing, China

- Developed vision-language models for video captioning.

### UCLA Prof. Bolei Zhou's Group

2022.03 – 2024.9

*Researcher - Prof Bolei Zhou's Lab*

Los Angeles, CA

- Proposed a new method and benchmark for improving and assessing embodied scene understanding of vision-language models. Provided a large dataset related to spatial, temporal, and safety-critical scene understandings. **CVPR 2025.**
- Built a compositional evaluation platform called MetaUrban for embodied AI research in urban spaces, such as autonomous vehicles. **ICLR 2025 Spotlight.**
- Developed an improved Human-in-the-loop Reinforcement Learning (RL) method. The trained agent can master driving tasks in **less than 30 minutes. NeurIPS 2023 Spotlight.**
- Built and tested a platform for large-scale traffic scenario modeling and simulation for RL, IL, and autonomous driving. **NeurIPS 2023.**
- Implemented a more photorealistic simulation environment for training RL autopilot agents using UE4.

### UCLA Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics

2020.06 – 2022.6

*Researcher - Prof Roel Ophoff's Lab*

Los Angeles, CA

- Processed and analyzed complex RNA sequence data. Executed comprehensive data analysis to elucidate patterns and insights from the RNA sequences. **Two papers published.**

## Selected Publication

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- **One paper submitted to AAAI 2026.**
- **One paper submitted to Neurips 2025.**
- **One paper submitted to Nature.**
- Weizhen Wang, **Chenda Duan**, Zhenghao Peng, Yuxin Liu, Bolei Zhou, “*Embodied Scene Understanding for Vision Language Models via MetaVQA*”. Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2025.
- Wayne Wu, Honglin He, Yiran Wang, **Chenda Duan**, Jack He, Zhizheng Liu, Quanyi Li, Bolei Zhou, “*Metaurban: A simulation platform for embodied ai in urban spaces.*”. International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2025 (Spotlight Paper)
- Zhenghao Peng, Wenjie Mo, **Chenda Duan**, Quanyi Li, Bolei Zhou, “*Learning from Active Human Involvement through Proxy Value Propagation*”. Neural Information Processing Systems (Neurips) 2023 (Spotlight paper).
- Quanyi Li, Zhenghao Peng, Lan Feng, Zhizheng Liu, **Chenda Duan**, Wenjie Mo, Bolei Zhou, “*ScenarioNet: Open-Source Platform for Large-Scale Traffic Scenario Simulation and Modeling*”. Neural Information Processing Systems (Neurips) 2023.
- Tommer Schwarz, Toni Boltz, Kangcheng Hou, Merel Bot, **Chenda Duan**, Loes Olde Loohuis, Marco P. Boks, René S. Kahn, Roel A. Ophoff, Bogdan Pasaniuc, “*Powerful eQTL mapping through low coverage RNA sequencing*”. Human Genetics and Genomics Advances 2022.
- Toni Boltz, Tommer Schwarz, Merel Bot, Kangcheng Hou, Christa Caggiano, Sandra Lapinska, **Chenda Duan**, Marco P Boks, Rene S Kahn, Noah Zaitlen, Bogdan Pasaniuc, Roel Ophoff, “*Cell type deconvolution of bulk blood RNA-Seq to reveal biological insights of neuropsychiatric disorders*”. European Neuropsychopharmacology 2022.