Pengfei Zhang Applying for 2026 Internships (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) with F1 CPT (Parttime/Fulltime)

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EDUCATION

Year	Degree	Institute	GPA
Fall 2022 -	PHD stu in Computer Science	University of California, Irvine	3.93/4.0
2017 - 2021	B.Eng in Computer Science	University of Science and Technology of China	3.45/4.3

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Languages. Python, C++, Java, Web Frontend Languages (Vue Framework), Verilog.
- Frameworks. Pytorch, Kafka, Spring Boot, Vue (Ant Design), Langchain, Flask, MySQL, Redis.
- Research Fields: Multimodal Large Language Models (Speech LLM, VLM), LLMs on Low-Resource Settings, Personalized Conversational Agents, Human Video Understanding and Generation

PUBLICATIONS

I. Multimodal LLMs for Human-Centric Visual Understanding and Generation

This project addresses limitations of multimodal LLMs in understanding human-centric videos with complex motions—a low-resource setting due to the difficulty of motion capture. To tackle this, we propose a semantic alignment method and a coordinated generation approach that produces high-quality motion sequences and human-centric videos to augment training data.

- (c) KinMo: Kinematic-aware Human Motion Understanding and Generation ICCV 2023
 - Designed an automatic VLM-based dataset collection pipeline that enhances the existing textmotion benchmark by incorporating proposed novel motion representation that decomposes into distinct body movements.
 - Introduced a hierarchical motion semantics approach that progressively fuses details into the global action-level semantics for modality alignment.
- (b) Contextual Gesture: Co-Speech Gesture Video Generation through Context-aware Gesture Representation

 ACM MM 2025
 - A framework that improves co-speech gesture video generation through chronological speechgesture alignment that temporally connects two modalities, and a contextualized gesture tokenization that incorporate speech context into motion pattern representation through distillation
- (a) Handformer2T: A Lightweight Regression-based model for Interacting Hands Pose Estimation from a single RGB Image

 WACV 2024
 - Designed a lightweight but high performance model which proposed hand-level tokenization in the transformer based model for interacting hand pose estimation, where only one token was used for each hand.

II. Speech LLMs on Speech Recognition and Reasoning on Low-Resource Settings

This project explores limitations of Speech LLMs in understanding speech in low-resource settings, such as low-resource languages and domain-specific terminology in healthcare.

- (b) The Hidden Failure Modes of Speech LLMs on Extremely Low-Resource Languages
 - Provide the first systemic analysis of the Speech LLM's mechanism on low-resource languages, highlighting differences from high-resource languages: 1) Audio Encoder Collapse on co-distribution between speech embeddings and text embeddings; and 2) Decoder Hallucination which generates phonetically plausible but linguistically invalid words.
- (a) MedSpeak: Knowledge Enhanced ASR Error Correction framework for Spoken Medical Question Answering submitted to ICCASP 2026
 - a novel knowledge-enhanced retrieval augmented generation framework through a medical knowledge graph (KG) capturing semantic relationships and phonetic similarities between medical terms

III. Personalized LLM Agents on Low-Resource Settings

This project aims to create a LLM-based conversational healthcare agent, tailored to individual patients. To implement this, personalized retrieval-augmented generation and mix-of-expert architectures are proposed.

- (c) Adaptive Constraint Relaxation in Personalized Nutrition Recommendations: An LLM-Driven Knowledge Graph Retrieval Approach

 AMIA 2025
 - Designed an LLM-Driven Knowledge Graph Retrieval System for Personalized Food Recommendation, with LLM-driven constraint analysis and structured relaxation strategies, to resolve "all-ornothing" limitation for traditional constraint-based recommendation system.
- (b) FoodAgent: A Multi-modal Mixture of Experts Reasoning Agent for Divide-and-Conquer Food Nutrition Estimation

 BSN 2025
 - Designed a multi-modal Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) reasoning framework that improves nutrition estimation through a divide-and-conquer strategy, with extra feature on personalized meal preparation and recommendation based on provided information and requested conversations.
- (a) DEMENTIA-PLAN: An Agent-Based Framework for Multi-Knowledge Graph Retrieval Augmented Generation in Dementia Care.

 AAAI W 2024
 - Introduced an innovative retrieval-augmented generation framework that enhances conversations
 with mild-stage dementia patients by intelligently integrating multiple knowledge graphs with Large
 Language Models.

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING PROJECTS

Distributed Chatroom with LLaMa-Powered Summarization

Jan. 2024 - Mar. 2024

- Implemented A Multi-topic Web Chatroom which can provide backup on previous conversations and LLaMa Powered summarizations after each refresh
- Developed the frontend using React, the backend using Spring Boot (Java) and Kafka, and the database using Redis.
- Implemented Cache Feature on each summarization, which largely decreases latency and improves fault tolerance
- OpenCHA an Automatic Conversational Health Agent Oct. 2023 Present (Collaborative Lab Proj)
 - Implemented a Conversational Health Agent framework leveraging LLMs-based agents (ReAct) as problem solvers, which can address health tasks like stress estimation. Built the frontend using Vue and backend using flask.

Working Experience

Applied Scientist Intern at Amazon Web Services in San Jose

Jun. 2025 - Sep. 2025

- Speech LLMs recognition, understanding, and reasoning in low-resource languages (Paper II.a, II.b).
- Research Science Intern at Flawless. Al. Inc in Los Angeles

Jun. 2024 - Sep. 2024

- Multimodal Alignment of LLMs for Human Motion Understanding and Text/Audio-driven Motion Generation/Editing (Paper I.a, I.b, I.c).
- Research Intern in the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong

May. 2022 - Aug. 2022

AWARDS

Dean's award from UCI
 2022-2023

National Encouragement Scholarship (top 20%) from USTC

2020

• National Encouragement Scholarship (top 20%) from USTC

2018