

Kaiya (Ivy) Zhao

☎ +1 (857)-320-9075 ✉ kyzhao@mit.edu | kyzhao.ivy@gmail.com 🌐 kyzhao-ivy

EDUCATION

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, USA** Sep. 2024 – May 2029 (expected)
• PhD Student, Department of EECS, MIT CSAIL
• **Advisors:** Phillip Isola *and* Josh Tenenbaum
- Fudan University, Shanghai, China** Sep. 2020 – Jun. 2024
• B.S. in Computer Science, **GPA:** 3.82/4.00, **Rank:** 3/102
- Yale University, New Haven CT, USA** Jul. 2021 – Aug. 2021
• Yale Summer Session 2021, School of Computer Science, **GPA:** 4.0/4.0

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Isola Lab, MIT CSAIL** Sep. 2024 – Present
Ph.D. Student
Supervisor: Phillip Isola
Topics: World models; Generative Games; Adaptive Learning; LLM Reasoning.
- CoCoSci Lab, MIT** Sep. 2024 – Present
Ph.D. Student
Supervisor: Josh Tenenbaum
Topics: World models; Generative Games; Physical & Social Reasoning.
- MetaConscious Lab, MIT** Apr. 2023 – Dec. 2023
Student Researcher
Supervisor: Guangyu Robert Yang
Topics: Multi-agent Simulation.
- MetaConscious Lab & Boyden Lab, MIT** Feb. 2023 – May. 2023
Student Researcher
Supervisors: Guangyu Robert Yang, Edward Boyden
Topics: Neural activity prediction & scaling in *C. elegans*.
- Qi Lab, Zhejiang University** Jul. 2022 – Nov. 2022
Project Lead
Supervisor: Yu Qi
Topics: Manifold Mixup Algorithm for Spike Decoding.

PUBLICATIONS (* EQUAL CONTRIBUTION)

- Lance Ying, Katherine M. Collins, Prafull Sharma, Cédric Colas, **Kaiya Ivy Zhao**, Adrian Weller, Zenna Tavares, Phillip Isola, Samuel J. Gershman, Jacob D. Andreas, Thomas L. Griffiths, Francois Chollet, Kelsey R. Allen, Joshua B. Tenenbaum. “Assessing Adaptive World Models in Machines with Novel Games” *arXiv* 2025.
- Yulu Gan*, **Kaiya Ivy Zhao***, Phillip Isola. “Cross-Modal Alignment Regularization: Enhancing Language Models with Vision Model Representations.” *Workshop on Representational Alignment (Re-Align) @ ICLR 2025*.
- Chance Jiajie Li, Jiayi Wu, Zhenze Mo, Ao Qu, Yuhang Tang, **Kaiya Ivy Zhao**, Yulu Gan, Jie Fan, Jiangbo Yu, Jinhua Zhao, Paul Liang, Luis Alonso, Kent Larson “Position: Simulating Society Requires Simulating Thought” *arXiv* 2025.
- Kaiya Zhao**, Michelangelo Naim, Jovana Kondic, Manuel Cortes, Jiaxin Ge, Shuying Luo, Guangyu Robert Yang, Andrew Ahn. “Lyfe Agents: Generative Agents for Low-cost Real-time Social Interactions” *arXiv* 2023.
- Jiaxin Ge*, **Kaiya Zhao***, Manuel Cortes, Jovana Kondic, Shuying Luo, Michelangelo Naim, Andrew Ahn, Guangyu Robert Yang. “Enhancing Understanding in Generative Agents through Active Inquiring” *Workshop on Intrinsically Motivated Open-ended Learning (IMOL) @ NeurIPS 2023*.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Patrick Winston Fellowship, MIT EECS <i>Graduate Fellowship</i>	2024 – 2025
Outstanding Undergraduate Graduate, Ministry of Education, Shanghai <i>Highest provincial honor for bachelor's graduates</i>	2024
National Scholarship, Ministry of Education, China <i>Highest honor for undergraduates; awarded 2020–2021 and 2021–2022</i>	2020 – 2022
Outstanding Student Leader, Fudan University <i>Leadership, Student Union</i>	2021 – 2023
Academic Excellent Award, Fudan University <i>Merit-based academic honor</i>	2020 – 2024

SKILLS

Programming: Python, C/C++, C#, Julia, WebPPL, $\text{\LaTeX}$, R, Haskell, Java, MATLAB, Go, Verilog
Deep Learning: PyTorch, Transformers, Hydra, LangChain, GenLM