

Hexiang (Frank) Hu

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EMPLOYMENT	Member of Technical Staff xAI & SpaceXAI - <i>Pre-train Lead Grok Imagine Image v1.5 Quality Mode</i> (rank#2 on LMArena & Artificial Analysis on release) - <i>Lead Grok Imagine Image v0.9 & v1.0</i> (rank#3 on LMArena & Artificial Analysis on release) - <i>Lead Grok 2 Image (Aurora)</i>	Oct 2024 - Present Redmond, WA
	Research Scientist Google DeepMind - <i>Gemini 2.0 Native Image Generation</i> - <i>Imagen 3 Instruction tuning</i> - <i>Gemini Multi-modal Mid-train & Post-train</i>	Mar 2023 - Oct 2024 Seattle, WA
	Research Scientist Google Brain	Jun 2021 - Mar 2023 Seattle, WA
EDUCATIONS	University of Southern California <i>Ph.D.</i> in Computer Science	2017 - 2021
	University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) <i>Ph.D.</i> in Computer Science (Transfer)	2016 - 2017
	Simon Fraser University <i>Bachelor of Science</i> in Computer Science First class with distinction	2013 - 2016
	Zhejiang University <i>Bachelor of Engineering</i> in Computer Science and Technology	2011 - 2013
PUBLICATIONS	Lichang Chen, Hexiang Hu , Mingda Zhang, Yiwen Chen, Zifeng Wang, Yandong Li, Pranav Shyam, Tianyi Zhou, Heng Huang, Ming-Hsuan Yang, and Boqing Gong. “OmnixR: Evaluating Omni-modality Language Models on Reasoning across Modalities”. In: <i>ICLR</i> . 2025	
	Jiacheng Chen, Tianhao Liang, Sherman Siu, Zhengqing Wang, Kai Wang, Yubo Wang, Yuansheng Ni, Wang Zhu, Ziyang Jiang, Bohan Lyu, Dongfu Jiang, Xuan He, Yuan Liu, Hexiang Hu , Xiang Yue, and Wenhui Chen. “MEGA-Bench: Scaling Multimodal Evaluation to over 500 Real-World Tasks”. In: <i>ICLR</i> . 2025	
	Kai Zhang, Yi Luan, Hexiang Hu , Kenton Lee, Siyuan Qiao, Wenhui Chen, Yu Su, and Ming-Wei Chang. “MagicLens: Self-Supervised Image Retrieval with Open-Ended Instructions”. In: <i>ICML</i> . 2024	
	Hexiang Hu *, Kelvin CK Chan*, Yu-Chuan Su*, Wenhui Chen*, Yandong Li, Kihyuk Sohn, Yang Zhao, Xue Ben, Boqing Gong, William Cohen, et al. “Instruct-Imagen: Image generation with multi-modal instruction”. In: <i>CVPR</i> . 2024	

*: Authors contributed equally

Xi Chen, Josip Djolonga, Piotr Padlewski, Basil Mustafa, Soravit Changpinyo, Jialin Wu, Carlos Riquelme Ruiz, Sebastian Goodman, Xiao Wang, Yi Tay, et al. “Pali-x: On scaling up a multilingual vision and language model”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.18565* (2023)

Cong Wei, Yang Chen, Haonan Chen, **Hexiang Hu**, Ge Zhang, Jie Fu, Alan Ritter, and Wenhui Chen. “UniIR: Training and benchmarking universal multimodal information retrievers”. In: *ECCV*. 2024

Peter Shaw, Mandar Joshi, James Cohan, Jonathan Berant, Panupong Pasupat, **Hexiang Hu**, Urvashi Khandelwal, Kenton Lee, and Kristina N Toutanova. “From Pixels to UI Actions: Learning to Follow Instructions via Graphical User Interfaces”. In: *NeurIPS*. 2023

Wenhui Chen*, **Hexiang Hu***, Yandong Li, Nataniel Ruiz, Xuhui Jia, Ming-Wei Chang, and William W Cohen. “Subject-driven Text-to-Image Generation via Apprenticeship Learning”. In: *NeurIPS*. 2023

Yang Chen, **Hexiang Hu**, Yi Luan, Haitian Sun, Soravit Changpinyo, Alan Ritter, and Ming-Wei Chang. “Can Pre-trained Vision and Language Models Answer Visual Information-Seeking Questions?”. In: *EMNLP*. 2023

Hexiang Hu, Yi Luan, Yang Chen, Urvashi Khandelwal, Mandar Joshi, Kenton Lee, Kristina Toutanova, and Ming-Wei Chang. “Open-domain Visual Entity Recognition: Towards Recognizing Millions of Wikipedia Entities”. In: *ICCV*. 2023

Jihyung Kil, Soravit Changpinyo, Xi Chen, **Hexiang Hu**, Sebastian Goodman, Wei-Lun Chao, and Radu Soricut. “Prestu: Pre-training for scene-text understanding”. In: *ICCV*. 2023

Wenhui Chen, **Hexiang Hu**, Chitwan Saharia, and William W Cohen. “Re-imagen: Retrieval-augmented text-to-image generator”. In: *ICLR*. 2023

Wenhui Chen, **Hexiang Hu**, Xi Chen, Pat Verga, and William W Cohen. “Murag: Multimodal retrieval-augmented generator for open question answering over images and text”. In: *EMNLP*. 2022

Hexiang Hu, Ozan Sener, Fei Sha, and Vladlen Koltun. “Drinking from a Firehose: Continual Learning with Web-scale Natural Language”. In: *T-PAMI* (2023)

Tai-Yu Pan, Cheng Zhang, Yandong Li, **Hexiang Hu**, Dong Xuan, Soravit Changpinyo, Boqing Gong, and Wei-Lun Chao. “On model calibration for long-tailed object detection and instance segmentation”. In: *NeurIPS*. 2021

Linlu Qiu, **Hexiang Hu**, Bowen Zhang, Peter Shaw, and Fei Sha. “Systematic Generalization on gSCAN: What is Nearly Solved and What is Next?”. In: *EMNLP*. 2021

Bowen Zhang, **Hexiang Hu**, Linlu Qiu, Peter Shaw, and Fei Sha. “Visually Grounded Concept Composition”. In: *Findings of EMNLP*. 2021

Cheng Zhang, Tai-Yu Pan, Yandong Li, **Hexiang Hu**, Dong Xuan, Soravit Changpinyo, Boqing Gong, and Wei-Lun Chao. “MosaicOS: a simple and effective use of object-centric images for long-tailed object detection”. In: *ICCV*. 2021

Han-Jia Ye, **Hexiang Hu**, and De-Chuan Zhan. “Learning adaptive classifiers synthesis for generalized few-shot learning”. In: *IJCV*. Springer, 2021

Jiacheng Chen*, **Hexiang Hu***, Hao Wu, Yuning Jiang, and Changhu Wang. “Learning the Best Pooling Strategy for Visual Semantic Embedding”. In: *CVPR*. 2021

Bowen Zhang*, **Hexiang Hu***, Vihan Jain, Eugene Ie, and Fei Sha. “Learning to Represent Image and Text with Denotation Graph”. In: *EMNLP*. 2020

Wang Zhu*, **Hexiang Hu***, Jiacheng Chen, Zhiwei Deng, Vihan Jain, Eugene Ie, and Fei Sha. “BabyWalk: Going Farther in Vision-and-Language Navigation by Taking Baby Steps”. In: *ACL*. 2020

Han-Jia Ye, **Hexiang Hu**, De-Chuan Zhan, and Fei Sha. “Few-shot learning via embedding adaptation with set-to-set functions”. In: *CVPR*. 2020

Risto Vuorio*, Shao-Hua Sun*, **Hexiang Hu**, and Joseph J Lim. “Multimodal Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning via Task-Aware Modulation”. In: *NeurIPS*. 2019

Hexiang Hu, Ishan Misra, and Laurens van der Maaten. “Evaluating text-to-image matching using binary image selection (BISON)”. in: *ICCV Workshop*. 2019

Bowen Zhang, Hexiang Hu, and Fei Sha. “Visual Storytelling via Predicting Anchor Word Embeddings in the Stories”. In: *ICCV Workshop*. 2019

Nelson Nauata, **Hexiang Hu**, Guang-Tong Zhou, Zhiwei Deng, Zicheng Liao, and Greg Mori. “Structured label inference for visual understanding”. In: *T-PAMI* (2019)

Kurt Shuster, Samuel Humeau, **Hexiang Hu**, Antoine Bordes, and Jason Weston. “Engaging image captioning via personality”. In: *CVPR*. 2019

Hexiang Hu*, Liyu Chen*, Boqing Gong, and Fei Sha. “Synthesized policies for transfer and adaptation across tasks and environments”. In: *NeurIPS*. 2018

Soravit Changpinyo, **Hexiang Hu**, and Fei Sha. “Multi-task learning for sequence tagging: An empirical study”. In: *COLING*. 2018

Bowen Zhang*, **Hexiang Hu***, and Fei Sha. “Cross-modal and hierarchical modeling of video and text”. In: *ECCV*. 2018

Hexiang Hu*, Wei-Lun Chao, and Fei Sha. “Learning answer embeddings for visual question answering”. In: *CVPR*. 2018

Wei-Lun Chao*, **Hexiang Hu***, and Fei Sha. “Cross-dataset adaptation for visual question answering”. In: *CVPR*. 2018

Wei-Lun Chao*, **Hexiang Hu***, and Fei Sha. “Being negative but constructively: Lessons learnt from creating better visual question answering datasets”. In: *NAACL-HLT*. 2018

Chao-Yuan Wu, Manzil Zaheer, **Hexiang Hu**, R Manmatha, Alexander J Smola, and Philipp Krähenbühl. “Compressed video action recognition”. In: *CVPR*. 2018

Hexiang Hu*, **Shiyi Lan***, Yuning Jiang, Zhimin Cao, and Fei Sha. “Fastmask: Segment multi-scale object candidates in one shot”. In: *CVPR*. 2017

Hexiang Hu, Guang-Tong Zhou, Zhiwei Deng, Zicheng Liao, and Greg Mori. “Learning structured inference neural networks with label relations”. In: *CVPR*. 2016

Zhiwei Deng, Arash Vahdat, **Hexiang Hu**, and Greg Mori. “Structure inference machines: Recurrent neural networks for analyzing relations in group activity recognition”. In: *CVPR*. 2016

Chao-Yuan Wu, Manzil Zaheer, **Hexiang Hu**, R Manmatha, Alexander J Smola, and Philipp Krähenbühl. “Compressed video action recognition”. In: *CVPR*. 2018

Hexiang Hu*, **Shiyi Lan***, Yuning Jiang, Zhimin Cao, and Fei Sha. “Fastmask: Segment multi-scale object candidates in one shot”. In: *CVPR*. 2017

Hexiang Hu, Guang-Tong Zhou, Zhiwei Deng, Zicheng Liao, and Greg Mori. “Learning structured inference neural networks with label relations”. In: *CVPR*. 2016

Zhiwei Deng, Arash Vahdat, **Hexiang Hu**, and Greg Mori. “Structure inference machines: Recurrent neural networks for analyzing relations in group activity recognition”. In: *CVPR*. 2016

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Imagen3 Team. “Imagen3: Google’s highest quality text-to-image model”. In: *Technical Report*. 2024

Gemini Team. “Gemini: a family of highly capable multimodal models”. In: *Technical Report*. 2023

Gemini Team. “Gemini 2.5: Pushing the frontier with advanced reasoning, multimodality, long context, and next generation agentic capabilities”. In: *Technical Report*. 2025

PREPRINTS

Hsin-Ping Huang, Xinyi Wang, Yonatan Bitton, Hagai Taitelbaum, Gaurav Singh Tomar, Ming-Wei Chang, Xuhui Jia, Kelvin CK Chan, **Hexiang Hu**, Yu-Chuan Su, and Ming-Hsuan Yang. “KITTEEN: A Knowledge-Intensive Evaluation of Image Generation on Visual Entities”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.11824* (2024)

PATENTS

R Manmatha, **Hexiang Hu**, and Deva Ramanan. *Compressed content object and action detection*. US Patent 10,528,819. Jan. 2020

Jain Vihan, JoonSeok Lee, Ming Zhao, Sheide Chammas, **Hexiang Hu**, Bowen Zhang, Sha Fei, and Tze Way Eugene Ie. *Hierarchical video encoders*. US Patent 11,533,495. Dec. 2022

SERVICES

Conference Reviewer

- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)
- International Conference on Learning Representation (ICLR)
- Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)
- The North American Chapter of the ACL (NAACL)
- IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)
- International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)
- European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV)
- Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics (SIGGRAPH)
- Asian Conference on Computer Vision (ACCV)
- Winter Conference on Computer Vision (WACV)
- AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)
- International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP)

Journal Reviewer

- IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (T-PAMI)
- International Journal of Computer Vision (IJCV)

Senior Area Chair

- The North American Chapter of the ACL (NAACL) 2025

TECHNICAL TALKS

“Understanding Language in Perception and Embodiment”

- Google, Mountain View, CA Feb 2021
- Facebook, New York, NY Feb 2021
- Waymo, Mountain View, CA March 2021
- University of Washington, Seattle, WA Feb 2021
- University of California, Berkeley, CA March 2021
- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI March 2021
- University of California, Santa Cruz, CA April 2021

“Learning Visually Grounded Semantics with Denotation Graph”

- Google, Mountain View, CA Sept 2020
- USC, Los Angeles, CA March 2021

“Learning Generalizeable Neural Agent across Different Task Horizons”

- Google, Mountain View, CA Nov 2019

“Synthesized Policies for Transfer and Adaptation across Tasks and Environments”

- NeurIPS, Montreal, QC Dec 2018

“Being Negative but Constructively: Lessons from Creating Better VQA datasets”

- NAACL, New Orleans, LA Jun 2018
- USC, Los Angeles, CA April 2021

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant, University of Southern California

CSCI-599: Deep Learning and its Applications

Fall 2017 - 2018

CSCI-567: Machine Learning

Spring 2020 - 2021

AWARDS & HONORS

Awards and Prizes

- NeurIPS Student Travel Award 2018, 2019
- Simon Fraser University President’s Honour Roll 2014, 2015
- Zhejiang University First-class Academic Excellence Award 2011, 2012

Scholarship & Fellowship

- USC CS Department Fellowship 2017
- UCLA CS Department Fellowship 2016
- Simon Fraser University Entrance Scholarship 2013

PRESS COVERAGE

“BabyWalk AI breaks complex navigation into simple steps”

by Kyle Wiggers, VentureBeat

May 12, 2020

“Facebook aims to be more engaging to humans in latest AI research”

by Tiernan Ray, ZDNet

Oct 26, 2018

ADVISING & MENTORSHIP

Junior Ph.D Mentor

- Bowen Zhang, Ph.D student at USC
- Liyu Chen, Ph.D student at USC

Visiting Scholar & Intern Mentor

- Willis Ma, Student Researcher at Google Deepmind

- Shangyuan Tong, Intern at Google Deepmind
- Ziyu Wan, Student Researcher at Google Deepmind
- Lichang Chen, Student Researcher at Google Deepmind
- Yingcheng Liu, Student Researcher at Google Deepmind
- Kai Zhang, Student Researcher at Google Deepmind
- Yang Chen, Student Researcher at Google Brain
- Jihyung Kil, Student Researcher at Google
- Wang Zhu, SFU, Next: Ph.D student at USC
- Jiacheng Chen, SFU, Next: Ph.D student at USC
- Han-jia Ye, Nanjing University, Next: Assistant professor at Nanjing University
- Risto Vuorio, SK-Brain, Next: Ph.D student at Oxford University
- Shiyi Lan, Fudan University, Next: Ph.D student at UMD
- Linlu Qiu, AI Resident at Google, Next: Ph.D student at MIT

Undergraduate Student Mentor

- Yuna Lee, USC, Next: Software Engineer at Google