

Mingzhi Chen

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Education

Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech)

Bachelor in Computer Science and Technology

August 2022 – June 2026

GPA: 3.95/4.00 Ranking: 2/166

TOEFL 109 (R30/L27/S24/W28) GRE 327 (V157/Q170)

Research Interests

My research interests broadly lie in deep learning, with an emphasis on vision and language models. A long-term goal of my work is to make deep learning systems more helpful, reliable, and intelligent in real-world applications.

Publications (* Equal Contribution † Equal Advising)

Stronger Normalization-Free Transformers

Mingzhi Chen, Taiming Lu, Jiachen Zhu, Mingjie Sun, Zhuang Liu

In submission to CVPR 2026

MIGA: Mutual Information-Guided Attack on Denoising Models for Semantic Manipulation

Guanghao Li*, Mingzhi Chen*, Hao Yu, Shuting Dong, Wenhao Jiang, Ming Tang†, Chun Yuan†

In submission to ICLR 2026

A First Look at Privacy Cloak Against Visual Place Recognition

Shuting Dong*, Mingzhi Chen*, Feng Lu, Hao Yu, Guanghao Li, Ming Tang†, Chun Yuan†

ICCV 2025

Research Experiences

Princeton University

March 2025 – Present

Undergraduate Researcher

- Investigate what properties make point-wise functions a good choice for normalization-free Transformers.
- Proposed Derf, a point-wise function consistently outperforming normalization-based and other normalization-free architectures across multiple modalities and tasks.
- Demonstrated Derf's performance gains stem from stronger generalization rather than better fitting capacity.
- Advisor: [Zhuang Liu](#)

Tsinghua University

October 2024 – March 2025

Undergraduate Researcher

- Proposed VPR-Cloak, the first real-time privacy-preserving method targeting visual place recognition.
- Achieved state-of-the-art protection and 15× speedup over prior methods while preserving high visual fidelity.
- Outperformed existing methods across multiple datasets and commercial APIs like Google and Microsoft Bing.
- Advisor: [Chun Yuan](#), [Ming Tang](#)

Southern University of Science and Technology

February 2024 – October 2024

Undergraduate Researcher

- Developed MIGA, a semantic adversarial attack that alters denoiser outputs while keeping images visually clean.
- Introduced an MI-guided objective to induce controlled semantic shifts under high perceptual fidelity.
- Achieved state-of-the-art semantic disruption across denoisers and datasets while preserving visual quality.
- Advisor: [Chun Yuan](#), [Ming Tang](#)

Industry Experience

Hangzhou Raycloud Technology Co., Ltd.

LLM Engineer Intern

- Built a multi-LLM evaluation pipeline to assess commercial AI chatbots in e-commerce logistics scenarios.
- Developed domain-specific metrics (e.g., emotional analysis and response accuracy) for systematic assessment.
- Fine-tuned each LLM component with annotated logistics-related data to improve evaluation reliability.
- Deployed across multiple major e-commerce platforms (e.g., TikTok), serving over 250k+ end users.

June 2024 – August 2024

Awards and Honors

SUSTech Motto Scholarship

October 2025

Awarded to only 1 student in SUSTech in 2025

Student of the Year Award

November 2025

Awarded to only 1 student in SUSTech in 2025

BYD Scholarship

October 2025

Awarded to 0.4% students in China in 2025

National Scholarship of China

December 2024

Awarded to 0.2% students in China in 2024

ASC, Second Prize

April 2024

11th Asia Student Supercomputer Challenge (ASC)

ICPC Hangzhou Regional Contest, Silver Medal

December 2022

47th International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) Hangzhou Regional Site

ICPC Jinan Regional Contest, Silver Medal

November 2022

47th International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) Jinan Regional Site

CCPC Mianyang Regional Contest, Silver Medal

November 2022

8th China Collegiate Programming Contest (CCPC) Mianyang Regional Site

Community Engagement

Peer Mentor at SUSTech

September 2024 – Present

- Provided in-person 1:1 mentoring to undergraduates on academics, research, and life matters.
- To date, delivered mentorship to 67 students with a total of 200+ service hours.

Student Representative at SUSTech

September 2022 – Present

- Coordinated student feedback on campus life within the department and submitted proposals to the university.
- Formulated and implemented three new campus policies on shuttle service and athletic field reservations.

Skills and Interests

Programming Languages: Python, Java, MATLAB, C, and HTML

Tools & Frameworks: PyTorch, Git, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy, Linux, and Docker