

Zhanxi Yan

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YanCORANV

Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Aug. 2024 – May 2028 (Expected)

B.S. in Computer Engineering, GPA: 3.95/4.00

Urbana, IL

Zhejiang University (ZJU-UIUC Dual-Degree Program)

Aug. 2024 – May 2028 (Expected)

B.Eng. in Electronic and Computer Engineering, GPA: 4.17/4.30

Hangzhou, China

Selected Coursework (all A/A+): CS 225 Data Structures, ECE 313 Probability, MATH 257 Linear Algebra, MATH 213 Discrete Mathematics

Technical Skills

Machine Learning: PyTorch, NumPy, Pandas, Hugging Face Transformers, vLLM, OpenCV

Robotics & Simulation: LeRobot, MuJoCo, Isaac Sim, LIBERO

Languages: Python, C/C++, TypeScript/JavaScript, Bash, RISC-V Assembly

Development Tools: Git, Linux/UNIX, Docker, Slurm, Conda, GDB

Research Experience

School of Software Technology, Zhejiang University

Nov. 2025 – Present

Undergraduate Research Assistant Advisor: Prof. Juncheng Li

Hangzhou, China

Multimodal benchmark development and evaluation for behavior foundation models.

Website Dataset

- Co-authored *Benchmarking Behavioral Steerability in Behavior Foundation Models* (arXiv 2026, second author).
- Identified a structural mismatch among task hierarchy, dataset organization, and evaluation samples that obscured capability-level evaluation; proposed and contributed to adopted taxonomy and I/O specification revisions.
- Contributed to evaluation sample specifications and quality audits across text-motion alignment, annotations, and consistency for a benchmark spanning **773,716 tasks** from **38,522 source motions**.

ICI Lab, Zhejiang University

Jun. 2025 – Sep. 2025

Undergraduate Research Assistant Advisor: Prof. Liuqing Chen

Hangzhou, China

Human-AI co-creation and generative user interfaces.

- Co-authored *Setting the PACE: A Progressive App Co-creation Environment for Complex App Design*, ICIC 2026 (LNCS).
- Co-developed a progressive LLM-driven app design system with structured intermediate representations, modular prompting, and node-level editing using **React, TypeScript, and React Flow**.
- Contributed to the **16-participant** comparative study vs. Google Stitch; PACE achieved **19.4%** higher design consistency and **23.4%** higher creativity support.

Projects

SmolVLA Language Robustness on LIBERO

Independent Project GitHub

Python, PyTorch, LeRobot, SmolVLA, LIBERO, MuJoCo

- Fine-tuned **SmolVLA** with **PyTorch/LeRobot** on one LIBERO-Spatial task; implemented **paired BC** and **frozen-teacher flow consistency** under matched training controls, comparing canonical-only FT, language augmentation, and paired BC.
- In **153 frozen final rollouts** on the single task, paired BC observed **16/17 (94.1%)** canonical successes vs. **12/17 (70.6%)** for canonical-only FT, but did not improve unseen-paraphrase robustness; flow consistency failed its development selection gate.
- Conducted a separate **75-rollout development pilot** of **untuned SmolVLA** across 5 competence-screened tasks/3 LIBERO suites (25 task-state groups): observed **21/25 (84%)** canonical vs. **4/50 (8%)** pooled paraphrase success (**76-pp observed gap**); analyzed **12 evidence-backed behavior cases** (10 failures, 2 success controls) using action and end-effector trajectory diagnostics.