

XIAOYAN GUO (FLORA)

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EDUCATION

University of Science and Technology of China(USTC), Hefei, China

Sep 2022-Jun 2026

School of the Gifted Young

Major in Computer Science and Technology

Overall GPA: 3.79/4.3 (88.14%)

Core Courses

Data Structure(95) , Graph Theory(90), Analog and Digital Circuits(92) , Introduction to Computing Systems(92) , Computer Systems in Detail(A) , Object Oriented Design and Programming(90)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AI-assisted Software engineering development, LLM, Software testing

PUBLICATION & WORKING PAPERS

1. Jinghan Li, Junfeng Fang, Jinda Lu, Yuan Wang, **Xiaoyan Guo**, Tianyu Zhang, Tao Liang, Xiang Wang, Xiangnan He. *Enhancing Multi-Modal LLMs Reasoning via Difficulty-Aware Group Normalization*. Accepted by ICML 2026. PDF.
2. Jingyi Chen, **Xiaoyan Guo**, Songqiang Chen, Shing-Chi Cheung, Jiasi Shen. *Multi-Agent Systems for Dataset Adaptation in Software Engineering: Capabilities, Limitations, and Future Directions*. arXiv.

EXPERIENCE

AI-Driven Multi-Agent Frameworks for Adaptive Code Completion

Aug 2025 – Present

Research Assistant *Assistant Professor Jiasi Shen, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, HKUST*

- **Objective:** Develop and evaluate multi-agent systems that adapt code completion methods to new datasets, thereby advancing AI-assisted software development.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Co-designed and conducted experiments to evaluate multi-agent systems' capability of adapting established code completion technologies to unseen project datasets, thereby analyzing robustness and generalization in cross-project adaptation scenarios.
 - Investigated the effectiveness and structural design of fixing prompts through automated prompt engineering, employing sequential fixing strategies to reduce specific error types in code generation.
 - Identified substantial behavioral differences between GPT and Claude; captured Copilot's internal prompts using mitmdump and container-based packet interception when direct certificate installation was restricted.
 - Developed a VSCode extension (GitHub) to enable Python-based interaction with GitHub Copilot and partially automate evaluation workflows.
- **Progress and Next Steps:**
 - Completed initial experiments on adaptation and correction, with an associated arXiv preprint.
 - Contributed to the development of a unified multi-agent framework integrating adaptation and error-correction strategies, aiming for more reliable AI-assisted code generation.

Enhancing MLLMs Reasoning via Difficulty-Aware Group Normalization

Jul. 2025 - Sep. 2025

Research Assistant

Prof. Xiangnan He, School of Data Science, USTC

- **Objective:** To address limitations in the RL algorithm Group Relative Policy Optimization (GRPO)¹, applied within the framework of Reinforcement Learning with Verifiable Rewards (RLVR) for multimodal reasoning, specifically its instability on multimodal inputs caused by uniform group-wide rewards.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Analyzed item correctness frequencies and performed difficulty-aware re-grouping, using data-centric (image entropy) and model-centric (response confidence) indicators as the primary criteria for determining sample difficulty.
 - Evaluated the proposed method across multiple multimodal(text-image) reasoning benchmarks.
 - Drafted major sections of the paper, including Preliminaries, Related Work, Experiments, and Appendix, and contributed to overall academic writing and analysis.
- **Achievements:**
 - Developed an effective algorithmic enhancement that preserves intra-group distinctions, avoids data loss, and mitigates the influence of extreme reward distributions, achieving consistent improvements across five multimodal reasoning benchmarks on Qwen2.5-VL-7B-Instruct (up to **+8.8** on MathVista and **+1.2–2.0** average gains over GRPO/DAPO baselines).
 - Preprint under review at ICLR 2026 (an available version from google drive).

Knowledge-Enhanced Agents Based on RAG² and Web Search in LLM

Apr 2024 - May 2025

Team Member, Presenter

Dr. Feng Zhao, School of Information Science and Technology, USTC

- **Objective:** Improve a large-language-model agent framework agent by (i) enhancing domain-specific expertise in responses, (ii) reducing hallucinations, and (iii) achieving both through real-time grounding with web retrieval and RAG modules.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Led the design and implementation of the WebSearch subsystem, integrating real-time web evidence into LLMs via a dual-agent architecture.
 - Co-designed and developed key components of the WebSearchAgent, including plugins for Google Search, Google Scholar, and arXiv via the Serper API.
 - Refined the logic of the WebPlannerAgent, using stream-based planning strategies to coordinate retrieval and generation actions
 - Contributed to the RAG subsystem by implementing diverse document parsers and enhancing the multi-layer knowledge graph pipeline to support retrieval and context enrichment.
- **Achievements:**
 - Successfully deployed a real-time, plugin-enhanced LLM system supporting complex information retrieval and open-domain question answering.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

¹GRPO (Group Relative Policy Optimization) is a variant of policy-optimization in RL that samples multiple responses per prompt and uses reward normalization across the group rather than a value network.

²RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation): a paradigm that enhances language models by retrieving relevant external knowledge to ground generation.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Standardization Examination Scholarship	<i>Nov 2023</i>
Excellent undergraduate scholarship (bronze medal)	<i>Sep 2023, Sep 2024</i>
Qiangwei Scholarship	<i>Sep 2023</i>
Outstanding Freshman Scholarship (Third Prize)	<i>Sep 2022</i>

AWARDS

The 15th National College Student Mathematics Competition (Second Prize)	<i>Dec 2023</i>
Member of Talented Youth Initiative, School of Psychological and Cognitive Sciences, PKU	<i>Aug 2022</i>

SKILL SETS

Computer Languages	C, C++, Python, JAVA, Rust
Language	TOEFL(111), CET-4(623), GRE(324+3.5)