

Education

Purdue University PhD in Computer Science Advisor: Ruqi Zhang	2026-08 – 2031-05 (Estimated)
The University of Hong Kong BEng in Computer Science	2022-09 – 2026-06 First Class Honors
Purdue University (Exchange) BS in Computer Science	2025-01 – 2025-05

Publications

- [VERA-V: Variational Inference Framework for Jailbreaking Vision-Language Models](#)
Qilin Liao, Anamika Lochab, Ruqi Zhang
ICML 2026
- [BOOD: Boundary-based Out-Of-Distribution Data Generation](#)
Qilin Liao, Shuo Yang, Bo Zhao, Ping Luo, Hengshuang Zhao
ICML 2025

Experiences

Purdue University Research Internship Supervisor: Ruqi Zhang	May 2025 - Apr 2026
• Trustworthy AI: Conducted research on safety alignment of foundation models (LLM/VLM/Agent/VLA), proposed a VLM jailbreak methodology VERA-V. VERA-V casts black-box jailbreak prompting as a variational inference problem, training a small attacker LLM to approximate the target VLM’s posterior over adversarial prompts. The attacker can generate diverse jailbreak prompts for a target query without re-optimization. This first-authored work has been accepted by ICML 2026.	
The University of Hong Kong Research Assistant Supervisor: Hengshuang Zhao, Shuo Yang	May 2024 - May 2025
• Data-Centric AI: Conducted research on Out-Of-Distribution (OOD) detection, proposed a framework which synthesizes auxiliary informative decision boundary-based OOD samples to enhance model’s ability in detecting OOD inputs. This first-authored work has been accepted by ICML 2025.	

Research Interests

- AI Safety
- Alignment

Honors and Awards

ICML Travel Award	ICML 2025
Dean’s List & Semester Honors	Purdue 2025 Spring
Reaching Out Award (ROA) Scholarship	HKU 2025

Service

Reviewer: ICLR 2026	
Student ambassador of HKU	2022-2026