

Zhilan Zhou

Education

2020-2024

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
PhD Computer Science

Qualified to teach in Department of Computer Science
Dissertation: "An Examination of Analytic Focus and Perception during Exploratory Visual Analysis"
Advisor: David Gotz

2017-2020

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
MS Computer Science

"UI Virtualization on Smartwatches"
Advisor: Don Porter

2014-2017

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
BS Computer Science

Graduated with the Highest Distinction
Minored in Mathematics and Japanese

Research experience

2025-2026

Nanyang Technological University
Research Fellow, National Institute of Education

- Serving as the project leader for the development of advanced, interactive visual analytics systems that leverage emotion recognition algorithms designed specifically for classroom environments.

2022-2024

Dissertation The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Advisor: David Gotz

- Led a project on summarizing how visualization systems surface relevant information to users and introduced a design space for content recommendation.
- Led a project on investigating priming and anchoring effects on visual analytic platforms.

2023

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Visiting Student, VISLab

- Collaborated on a Research project to improve the learning process for K-12 education and published one paper.

	2020-2021	School of Information and Library Science, UNC Chapel Hill Research Assistant , David Gotz □ Led a project on modeling users' analytic focus during visual analysis of medical data and using the information to suggest relevant medical literature that contextualize the corresponding data.
	2019	Department of Radiation Oncology, UNC School of Medicine Research Assistant , Lukasz Mazur □ Developed an internal electronic checklist system for physicists and dosimetrists in the department, which replaced the paper checklists used for years and added new features such as automatically checking the correctness of some of the radiation doses. □ Collaborated with the clinicians in the department closely to support their work to help improve the cancer patient safety and treatment quality.
	2017-2018	Department of Computer Science, UNC Chapel Hill Research Assistant , Don Porter □ Led a project on exploring and creating a UI porting system to afford different interactions on multiple devices while sharing a unified runtime backend, under the NSF project on UI Virtualization.
	2015-2016	Department of Computer Science, UNC Chapel Hill Undergraduate Research , Tamara Berg □ Recognized images with category predictions using Caffe in MATLAB, and adapted the Microsoft SDK in C++ to collect data from Kinect. □ Established an alpha site for the human-tagged database of indoor images.
Teaching experience	2025-2026	Nanyang Technological University Research Fellow , National Institute of Education □ Mentoring two junior college students through the Nanyang Research Programme (NRP).
	2023	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Visiting Student , VISLab □ Mentored junior graduate students.
	2019	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Teaching Assistant , The Department of Computer Science □ Assisted in teaching <i>Algorithms and Analysis</i>. □ Held regular office hours. □ Graded assignments, quizzes, and exams. □ Delivered a lecture on Breadth-First Search and Depth-First Search.
Publications	2023	Sheng, Rui, Leni Yang, Haotian Li, Yan Luo, Ziyang Xu, Zhilan Zhou, David Gotz, and Huamin Qu. "Knowledge Compass: A Question Answering System Guiding Students with Follow-Up

		Question Recommendations." In Adjunct Proceedings of the 36th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology, pp. 1-4. 2023. Guo, Mengtian, Zhilan Zhou, David Gotz, and Yue Wang. "Grafts: Graphical faceted search system to support conceptual understanding in exploratory search." ACM Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems (2023).
	2022	Zhou, Zhilan, Wenyuan Wang, Mengtian Guo, Yue Wang, and David Gotz. "A Design Space for Surfacing Content Recommendations in Visual Analytic Platforms." IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (2022).
	2021	Zhou, Zhilan, Ximing Wen, Yue Wang, and David Gotz. "Modeling and leveraging analytic focus during exploratory visual analysis." In Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, pp. 1-15. 2021.
	2020	Zhou, Zhilan, Jian Xu, Aruna Balasubramanian, and Donald E. Porter. "A Survey of Patterns for Adapting Smartphone App UIs to Smart Watches." In 22nd International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction with Mobile Devices and Services, pp. 1-11. 2020.
Honors and awards	2022	Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-financed Students Abroad
Presentations and invited lectures	2022	Paper Presentation "A Design Space for Surfacing Content Recommendations in Visual Analytic Platforms", IEEE VIS
	2021	Paper Presentation "Modeling and leveraging analytic focus during exploratory visual analysis", ACM CHI
	2020	Paper Presentation "A Survey of Patterns for Adapting Smartphone App UIs to Smart Watches", ACM Mobile CHI
Professional training	2021	CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women Workshop Computing Research Association A workshop designed to provide critical mentoring, networking, and professional development opportunities to increase the representation of women and gender-marginalized students in graduate studies in computing.
Professional service	2023-Present	Peer-Reviewed Articles for: IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1236-1287

Languages

Chinese	Native
English	Advanced
Japanese	Advanced
Italian	Novice

Computer skills

Programming	Python, JavaScript, C++
Applications	AutoCAD, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Audition, Ableton Live, Max, Premiere

References

Dr. David Gotz	Professor, School of Information and Library Science University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill gotz@unc.edu, 919.962.3435
Dr. Danielle Szafir	Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill danielle.szafir@cs.unc.edu, 919.590.6074