

SHORT BIO	MA Zhixin is currently a Research Scientist at Singapore Management University. He earned his Ph.D. from Singapore Management University in 2024 and his Bachelor's degree from Shandong University in 2019. His research interests span multimedia computing and human-in-the-loop interactive systems. His current work focuses on the grounding and reasoning of MLLMs.	
EXPERIENCE	Research Scientist	2025 - present
	<i>Singapore Management University</i>	Singapore
	Research area: Cross-Modality Reasoning of MLLMs	
	Research Assistant	2019 - 2020
EDUCATION	<i>National University of Singapore</i>	Singapore
	- Advisor: Prof. Wenqiang Lei & Prof. Tat-Seng Chua - Research area: Semantic Parsing	
	Singapore Management University	Singapore
	<i>School of Computing and Information Systems</i>	
	<i>Ph.D. in Computer Science</i>	2020 - 2024
	- Advisor: Prof. Chong-Wah Ngo - Dissertation topic: Interactive Video Search on Large-Scale Corpora	
	Shandong University	Jinan, China
	<i>School of Computer Science and Technology</i>	
PRE-PRINT	<i>B.E. in Computer Science and Technology (Elite Class)</i>	2015 - 2019
	Advisor: Prof. Tian Gan & Prof. Liqiang Nie	
	1. Zhixin Ma* , Yutong Zhou*, Yongqi Li, Chong-Wah Ngo, Wenjie Li. Beyond APIs: Probing the Limits of MLLMs in Physical Tool Use, 2026.	
	2. Burak Satar*, Zhixin Ma* , Cheng Yu-Tong, Huy Hoang Tran, Phuong Anh Nguyen, Chong-Wah Ngo. Cultural Moment Benchmark: Evaluating Video Cultural Reasoning and Grounding in Southeast Asia, 2026.	
PUBLICATIONS	1. Chao Chen, Zhixin Ma , Yongqi Li, Yupeng Hu, Yinwei Wei, Wenjie Li, Liqiang Nie. Reasoning in the dark: Interleaved vision-text reasoning in latent space. <i>Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Findings</i> , 2026.	
	2. Dongjie Cheng, Yongqi Li, Zhixin Ma , Hongru Cai, Wenjie Wang, Liqiang Nie, Wenjie Li. Omni-R1: Towards the Unified Generative Paradigm for Multimodal Reasoning. <i>Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Findings</i> , 2026.	
	3. Burak Satar*, Zhixin Ma* , Patrick A. Irawan, Wilfried A. Mulyawan, Jing Jiang, Ee-Peng Lim, Chong-Wah Ngo. Seeing Culture: A Benchmark for Visual Reasoning and Grounding. <i>The Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing</i> , 2025.	
	4. Zhixin Ma , Chong-Wah Ngo. Robust Relevance Feedback for Interactive Known-Item Video Search. <i>ACM International Conference on Multimedia Retrieval</i> , 2025.	
	5. Zhixin Ma , Jiaxin Wu, Chong-Wah Ngo. Leveraging LLMs and Generative Models for Interactive Known-Item Video Search. <i>International Conference on Multimedia Modeling</i> , 2024.	

PUBLICATIONS	6. Zhixin Ma , Chong-Wah Ngo. Interactive Video Corpus Moment Retrieval using Reinforcement Learning. <i>ACM International Conference on Multimedia</i> , 2022. Oral & Top rated paper award : 13 out of 690 accepted papers (1.88%) 7. Zhixin Ma , Jiaxin Wu, Zhijian Hou, Chong-Wah Ngo. Reinforcement Learning-Based Interactive Video Search. <i>International Conference on Multimedia Modeling</i> , 2022. 8. Wenqiang Lei, Weixin Wang, Zhixin Ma , Tian Gan, Wei Lu, Min-Yen Kan and Tat-Seng Chua. Re-examining the Role of Schema Linking Text-to-SQL. <i>EMNLP</i> , 2020.	
AWARDS AND HONORS	• Presidential Doctoral Fellowship, Singapore Management University • Dean's List, Singapore Management University • The Second Runner-up, Video Browsing Showdown • Top Rated Paper Award, ACM Multimedia • Student Travel Grant, ACM Multimedia • The Second Runner-up, Video Browsing Showdown	2023 2023 2023 2022 2022 2021
INVITED TALK	• Bridging Cognitive Foundation and Efficient Specialization ICMR, Chicago, US • Reinforcement Learning Enhanced Interactive Video Retrieval NExT++ Research Centre, NUS, Singapore	2025 2023
COMMUNITY SERVICES	• <i>Reviewer</i>: IEEE Transactions on Multimedia (TMM), ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications (TOMM), IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE), IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology (TCSVT), ACM Transactions on the Web (TWeb), ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (TIST), ACM International Conference on Multimedia (MM), Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI); <i>Organizer</i>: Volunteer Chair in ICMR 2027.	
TEACHING ASSISTANT	• SMT481: Smart-City Operations Research • IS446: Managing Customer Relations with Analytics: Asian Insights • CS702: Computational Interaction • CS601: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	AY2024 AY2023 AY2022 AY2021