




# TIAN CHENG "RICCARDO", XIA

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Research Intern** · National Institute of Informatics, Tokyo, Japan      July 2025 – Jan 2026

Worked on research projects carried out by the laboratory of Prof. Akiko Aizawa:

- Designed and implemented a controlled multi-agent LLM + RAG pipeline using OpenAI and open-source models for automated scientific paper generation, improving citation accuracy and factual grounding, leading to the acceptance of 2 papers at the Agents4Science conference held by Stanford University.
- Co-designed and annotated a multimodal (image, text, and tables) dataset for scientific claim verification, which has been released for the SciClaimEval shared task.
- Conducted experiments to assess the effects of hedges and boosters in scientific writing with the goal of evaluating the adversarial effects of certain linguistic patterns on LLMs.

**Research Intern** · SmartData Research Group, Bologna, Italy      Apr 2023 – Sept 2023

Worked on research projects carried out by the laboratory of Prof. Danilo Montesi:

- Surveyed LLM applications in biomedical NLP, which resulted in an internal technical report that guided the research direction of the group.
- Designed a biomedical summarization pipeline by fine-tuning transformer models on PubMed with a focus on reliability and accuracy, which achieved a +5% improvement in ROUGE and BERTScore on the state-of-the-art and led to the publication of a journal paper.

**IT/IS Office Intern** · Toyota Material Handling Manufacturing, Bologna, Italy      Dec 2019, July 2019, Feb 2019

- Automated SQL reporting pipelines and assembly-line data tasks using Bash, PowerShell, and Python scripts.
- Audited network infrastructure across the production plant and documented rack connectivity.

## EDUCATION

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**M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence** · University of Bologna, Italy      2023 – 2026

Thesis title: A Self-Supervised Attribution Method for Explaining Neural Networks

Graduation grade: 110/110 *cum laude* · GPA: 29.6/30 (top 5%)

**B.Sc. in Computer Science** · University of Bologna, Italy      2020 – 2023

Thesis title: Subtopic-Oriented Biomedical Summarization using Pretrained Language Models

Graduation grade: 110/110 *cum laude* · GPA: 29.52/30 (top 5%)

## SKILLS

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<b>Artificial Intelligence</b>	PyTorch · TensorFlow · HuggingFace · LangChain · LangGraph · Scikit-learn LLM fine-tuning · Multi-agent systems · RAG · Multimodal models Explainable AI · Symbolic AI · Constraint programming
<b>Infrastructure</b>	AWS · Google Cloud · Docker · Ansible · CI/CD
<b>Web Development</b>	NodeJS · FastAPI · Flask · Vue · Nuxt · React · AstroJS · SQL · MongoDB
<b>Programming Languages</b>	Python · C · C++ · Java · Kotlin · Javascript

## LANGUAGES

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<b>Italian</b>	native speaker
<b>English</b>	CEFR C1 (IELTS 7.5)
<b>Chinese</b>	conversational

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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**1st Place at LauzHack 2024, BMS Challenge** · EPFL, Lausanne, [Project repository](#)  
Switzerland  
Developed an explainable time-series forecasting model using Gaussian Processes and Shapley values to predict pharmaceutical demand, ranking 1st out of 12 teams in the Bristol Myers Squibb hackathon challenge.

**1st Place at Tablut AI Agent Challenge** · University of Bologna, Italy [Project repository](#)  
Designed and developed an AI player for the asymmetric board game Tablut using adversarial search and heuristic evaluation. The player ranked 1st out of 10 agents.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Xanh Ho, Yun-Ang Wu, Sunisth Kumar, **Tian Cheng Xia**, Florian Boudin, Andre Greiner-Petter, Akiko Aizawa. (2026).

“SciClaimEval: Cross-modal Claim Verification in Scientific Papers”.  
*Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC)*. arXiv: 2602.07621.

**Tian Cheng Xia**, Flavio Bertini, Danilo Montesi. (2025).  
“Large Language Models Evaluation for PubMed Extractive Summarisation”.  
*ACM Transactions on Computing for Healthcare*. DOI: 10.1145/3766905.

Paolo Ciancarini, Raffaele Giancarlo, Gennaro Grimaudo, Marcello Missiroli, **Tian Cheng Xia**. (2025).

“The Design and Realization of a Self-Hosted and Open-Source Agile Internal Development Platform”.  
*IEEE Access*. DOI: 10.1109/ACCESS.2025.3564141.