MATHEUS KUNZLER MALDANER

mkunzlermaldaner@ufl.edu | matheus.wiki | github.com/matheusmaldaner

ACADEMIC

University of Florida — Gainesville, FL
M.S. in AI Systems — Aug. 2025 – Present
- GPA: 4.0/4.0

University of Florida — Gainesville, FL
B.S. in Data Science, Minor in Computer Science, AI Certificate — Aug. 2021 – May 2025
- GPA: 3.9/4.0, Summa Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mem0 — San Francisco, CA
Incoming Research Intern — Jan. 2027 – Apr. 2027
- Incoming research intern on agent memory for LLM applications, reporting to the CTO

Nexus Games — Remote
Research and Data Engineer — Sep. 2026 – Present
- Benchmarking multi-agent and human-agent collaborative gameplay, reporting to the CEO

FuguUX — Pittsburgh, PA
Research and Software Engineering Intern — May 2026 – Present
Mentor: Dr. Jason Hong
- Built UXScore and Nautilus, a public UX benchmark ranking 28,000+ websites on UI/UX
- Combined symbolic signals (Playwright, axe, Lighthouse) with neural LLM judges, plus a live scoring service and a human pairwise arena

Microsoft Research, AI Frontiers — Redmond, WA
Research Intern — May 2025 – Apr. 2026
Mentor: Dr. Hussein Mozannar, Dr. Gagan Bansal, Dr. Adam Fourney
- First-author of SentinelBench, a benchmark for long-running monitoring agents
- Co-author of Magentic-UI, an open-source human-centered multi-agent interface (10k+ GitHub stars)
- Enabled agentic systems to perform longer-running tasks in the AI Frontiers group

Carnegie Mellon University, Human Computer Interaction Institute — Pittsburgh, PA
Research Intern — May 2024 – May 2025
Mentor: Dr. Jason Hong, Dr. Motahhare Eslami, Dr. Kenneth Holstein, Wesley Deng
- Auditing generative text-to-image models at CMU's Human-Computer Interaction Institute
- Built MIRAGE, a full-stack tool for comparing multiple text-to-image models
- First-author demo papers at HCOMP '24 and ACM CI '25

University of Florida, Florida Institute for National Security — Gainesville, FL
Research Assistant — Aug. 2023 – May 2026
Mentor: Dr. Damon Woodard, Dr. Domenic Forte, Dr. Olivia Dizon-Paradis, Stephen Wormald
- Researched Neurosymbolic AI for transparent, interpretable models
- Optimized Differentiable Logic Gate Networks on HiPerGator
- Co-authored eXpLogic (ITNG '25 Best Student Paper) and Abstracting General Syntax for XAI (Artificial Intelligence Review '25)

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

[J1] S. Wormald, **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, K. O'Connor, et al. Abstracting General Syntax for XAI after Decomposing Explanation Sub-Components. *Artificial Intelligence Review (Springer)*, 2025.

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP & DEMO PAPERS

[C5] E. Park, W. H. Deng, C. Jin, **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, et al. MM-SCALE: Evaluating Evidence-Grounded Moral Judgment in Vision-Language Models. *NeurIPS (Evaluations & Datasets Track)*, 2026.

[C4] **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, R. Valle, J. Kim, et al. Plato's Cave: A Human-Centered Research Verification System. *AAAI Spring Symposium (MAKE)*, 2026.

[C3] S. Wormald, D. Koblah, **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, et al. eXpLogic: Explaining Logic Types and Patterns in DiffLogic Networks. *ITNG*, 2025. (Best Student Paper)

[C2] **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, W. H. Deng, J. I. Hong, et al. Seeing Twice: How Side-by-Side T2I Comparison Changes Auditing Strategies *(demo)*. *ACM CI*, 2025.

[C1] **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, W. H. Deng, J. I. Hong, et al. MIRAGE: Multi-model Interface for Reviewing and Auditing Generative Text-to-Image AI *(demo)*. *HCOMP*, 2024.

PREPRINTS & UNDER REVIEW

[P2] **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, A. Fourney, A. Swearngin, et al. SentinelBench: A Benchmark for Long-Running Monitoring Agents. *arXiv:2606.05342*, 2026.

[P1] H. Mozannar, G. Bansal, C. Tan, A. Fourney, V. Dibia, J. Chen, J. Gerrits, T. Payne, **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, et al. Magentic-UI: Towards Human-in-the-loop Agentic Systems. *arXiv:2507.22358v1*, 2025.

THESIS

Matheus Kunzler Maldaner. Efficient and Transparent Machine Learning: Exploring Applications of Differentiable Logic Gate Networks. *Undergraduate Thesis, University of Florida*, 2025.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

TALKS

[T6] Fireside Chat on Research, Mentorship, and Student Leadership, **Engineering Leadership Circle (ELC), University of Florida** (Invited speaker) 2026
[T5] Research & Creativity Panel: Graduate Student Life, **University of Florida** (Panelist) 2026
[T4] Introduction to AI Research, **Florida Institute for National Security (FINS), University of Florida** (Guest talk) 2026
[T3] Plato's Cave: A Human-Centered Research Verification System, **AAAI 2026 Spring Symposium Series (MAKE), Burlingame, CA** (Paper presentation) 2026
[T2] Neurosymbolic AI and Long-Horizon Agent Monitoring, **Falling Walls Lab, Texas A&M University** (3-minute pitch) 2026
[T1] Maximizing Your Time as a Student, **Florida Institute for National Security (FINS), University of Florida** (Guest talk) 2025

WORKSHOPS

[W3] AI Chronicles: A Journey Through Time, **ColorStack, DSI, and GAITOR joint event, University of Florida** (Co-presented) 2024
[W2] Data Science Workshop, **SHPE and DSI joint event, University of Florida** 2023
[W1] Intro to R, **UF American Statistical Association** 2023

POSTERS (n=20)

[PS6] SentinelBench and Sentinel Steps: long-running monitoring agents, **YCML Research Symposium 2026; Warren B. Nelms IoT 2025; UF AI Days 2025; Microsoft Research Symposium 2025** 2025 – 2026
[PS5] FPGA-accelerated Differentiable Logic Gate Networks for real-time inference and AI security, **UF Spring Symposium 2025; FURC 2025; Warren B. Nelms IoT 2024** 2024 – 2025
[PS4] MIRAGE and Seeing Twice: side-by-side auditing of text-to-image models, **ACM CI 2025; HCOMP 2024; UF Fall Symposium 2024; McKnight Fellows Conference 2024; UF AI Days 2024; Carnegie Mellon 2024** 2024 – 2025
[PS3] The Ineffectiveness of the Information Maximization Algorithm on Spectrally Sparse Signals, **SHPE Symposium 2025** 2025
[PS2] eXpLogic: Explaining Logic Types and Patterns in DiffLogic Networks, **HiPerGator Symposium 2024** 2024
[PS1] Neurosymbolic AI for transparency, and its ethical horizons, **Sigma Xi 2024; UF Spring Symposium 2024; SHPE Symposium 2024; DSI Spring Symposium 2024; FURC 2024** 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming & AI/ML: Python, JavaScript, C++, SQL, HTML/CSS, Neurosymbolic AI, Deep Learning, Machine Learning Interpretability, Generative AI (Text-to-Image Models), Agentic Systems, Differentiable Logic Gate Networks, Sentiment Analysis, Natural Language Processing, PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, pandas, NumPy, Flask, Django

Frameworks & Tools: React, Node.js, D3.js, Svelte, Jekyll, REST APIs, Flutter, Discord Bot Development, Docker, Visual Studio Code, Linux/Unix

Certifications: Microsoft Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900), Microsoft AI Fundamentals (AI-900), Microsoft Networking Fundamentals (M40366), Python Fundamentals (SS3520), Agile Project Management (SS3398), Network Administration (SS3136), NVIDIA Deep Learning Fundamentals

Languages: Portuguese (Fluent), English (Fluent), Spanish (Conversational), German (Beginner)

LEADERSHIP

UF Data Science and Informatics Gainesville, FL
President (Apr. 2024 – May 2026); Workshop Director (Apr. 2023 – Apr. 2024) Apr. 2023 – May 2026
- Oversaw an executive board of 30 students; partnered with NVIDIA and 8 UF departments
- Secured $20K+ in funding and funded 168 students to national hackathons
- Hosted workshops reaching 1,000+ students; grew Discord from 300 to 2,100 members
- Awarded UF Student Organization of the Year among 1,000+ UF organizations

IEEE Signal Processing Society at UF Gainesville, FL
Co-Founder & Vice-President Aug. 2024 – Present
- Co-founded and officialized the UF chapter of the IEEE Signal Processing Society
- Organize weekly journal meetings where students read and discuss new ML research papers

UF AI Club Gainesville, FL
Co-Director of Research Aug. 2024 – Present
- Led the research initiatives for the UF AI Club
- Oversaw a team of 10 students connecting undergraduates with professors for research initiatives
- Organized Gator Hack V with the UF AI² Center (550 registrants), sponsored by NVIDIA, OpenAI, and Vobile

Major League Hacking (MLH) Remote
MLH Coach Sep. 2026 – Present
- Coached &Hacks XII (William & Mary), SteelHacks XIII (Pitt), Hack Dearborn 5 (lead coach), DubHacks 2026 (UW), and UB Hacking 2026
- Mentor teams, judge sponsor tracks, and run GitHub Copilot workshops

UF American Statistical Association (ASA) Chapter Gainesville, FL
Vice President Aug. 2023 – Apr. 2024

- Created a mentorship program to pair 60 students to mentors.

SELECT PROJECTS *full list*

Anki on My Wrist *MonkeyC, FastAPI, Cloudflare Tunnels, Oracle Cloud, AutoHotKey* 2026

- Review Anki flashcards on a Garmin Vivoactive watch through a single self-hosted API bridge

MIRAGE *Python, Django, Docker, AWS* 2025

- Side-by-side auditing of multiple text-to-image models to study bias detection, with demos at HCOMP '24 and ACM CI '25

Plato's Cave *Python, FastAPI, Gatsby, React, Docker, Playwright* 2025

- Verifies research-paper claims using AI agents and knowledge graphs; won 1st Place Overall at UF Gator Hack IV

Magentic-UI *Python, TypeScript, AutoGen, React, Docker* 2025

- Human-in-the-loop agentic web automation with action guards and transparent execution (10k+ GitHub stars)

CureC9 *Node.js, WordPress REST API, Playwright, Kadence, Gutenberg* 2026

- Supported fundraising that reached $552,144 toward CureC9's $12M goal

HONORS AND AWARDS

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP): Three years of graduate research funding 2026
Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting: 1 of 600 students at the 75th meeting 2026
Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS) 2027: Selected to attend in Singapore, Jan. 2027 2026
Simuvaction on AI and Education: 1 of 40 students worldwide, Paris; represented UF 2026
UF Graduate Student Mentoring Award: For mentoring across DSI, IEEE SPS, and UF AI Club 2026
UF Distinguished Engagement Award: For leadership and service through DSI 2026
UF HiPerGator Early Career Award: Only Master's student recipient 2025
Heidelberg Laureate Forum: 1 of 200 young researchers worldwide 2025
ITNG Best Student Paper Award: For eXpLogic on DiffLogic explainability 2025
UF CLAS Excellence Award Finalist: 1 of 12 finalists 2025
UF Outstanding Leader Award: 1 of 7 graduating seniors 2025
UF Student Organization of the Year: Awarded to DSI among 1,000+ UF organizations 2025
UF Career Influencer Award: Awarded to DSI for career development 2025
UF REPU Scholar: Research Excellence Program for Undergraduates 2025
UF Hall of Fame: 1 of 25 students inducted 2025
UF Summa Cum Laude Honors Thesis: Unanimously approved with no revisions 2025
UF William G. Cross Award Finalist: 1 of 3 students recognized 2024
UF Dean's Honor List: All undergraduate semesters (3.75+ GPA) 2021 – 2025

HACKATHONS AND COMPETITIONS

UF Gator Create 2026, **1st Place Overall** for a set design for Ibsen's A Doll's House 2026
NexHacks, agent that watches study sessions, then quizzes gaps 2026
SHPE Code for Change 2026, AI asset dashboard, used to ship a full Roblox game 2026
NASA GeoEMERGE, **App Improvement Track Winner** for offline-first GLOBE Observer rebuild, 75x smaller 2026
UF SwampHacks XI, **Best Use of MongoDB Atlas** for ranked 1v1 Roblox building game with Gemini coaching 2026
Microsoft Intern Puzzle Day, **Fastest Solver** for all warm-up puzzles 2025
UF Gator Create 2025, **3rd Overall, won 3 of 7 tracks** for ComfyUI and ControlNet image series 2025
UF DataFest 2025, **Best Visualization (undergraduate)** for data-analysis competition 2025
UF SwampHacks X, **1st Place, AI Track** for interactive DiffLogic visualizer (PyTorch, D3) 2025
UF Gator Hack IV, **1st Place Overall** for agents verify each claim in a paper's claim graph 2025
USCLAP 2024, **2nd Place, Intermediate Statistics** for course feedback vs. scores with local-LLM clustering 2024
UF Gator Create 2024, **2nd Place Overall** for Flux and LoRA image series on social media 2024
OSC MiniHack, **2nd Place Overall and Best AI Hack** for Discord message-trend classifier bot 2024
UF DataFest 2024, **Best Overall (undergraduate)** for CourseKata engagement analysis 2024
ShellHacks 2024, **Clout Prize** for Gemini-powered mental-health companion app 2024
UF Gator Hack III, **Most Popular** for DiffLogic on FPGA, 239 µs vs. 1,087 µs on an A100 2024
UF Gator Hack II, **Top 10 Finalist** for GPT knowledge trees tailored to a learner's major 2023

SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

Fondation Brocher, “Young Scientist interview at the 75th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting” 2026
Microsoft Research, “Day in the Life of a Research Intern at Microsoft Research” 2026
UF News, “University of Florida students earn 15 prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowships” 2026
UF Department of Engineering Education, “EEd's Maldaner wins an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship” 2026
UF Electrical & Computer Engineering, “'On the right track': Student AI researcher wins HiPerGator Award” 2026
University of Florida AI² Center, “Matheus Kunzler Maldaner Wins HiPerGator Early Career Award” 2025
UF Department of Engineering Education, “UF's Maldaner mixes and mingles with global AI experts” 2025
Florida Institute for National Security, “FINS Team Wins 1st Place @ UF AI Days” 2025
Microsoft Research Blog (co-author), “Tell me when: Building agents that can wait, monitor, and act” 2025

University of Florida AI² Center, “UF AI Scholar Matheus Kunzler Maldaner” 2025
UF Center for Undergraduate Research, “Matheus Kunzler Maldaner Biography” 2025
Parkland Talk, “Parkland's Matheus Kunzler Maldaner Named to UF Hall of Fame” 2025
UF Artificial Intelligence and Informatics Research Institute, “Maldaner inducted in the UF Hall of Fame” 2025

SERVICE

REVIEWING

Ninja Reviewer, **CHI** (ACM SIGCHI) 2025
Author Reviewer, **SEA** (NeurIPS) 2025
Student Program Reviewer, **AIES-25** (AAAI & ACM) 2025

ORGANIZING

Student Lead Organizer, **Gator Hack V (UF AI Days Hackathon)**, UF AI² Center 2026
Main Organizer, **Data Science and Informatics Symposium**, University of Florida 2026
Main Organizer, **Data Science and Informatics Symposium**, University of Florida 2025

MENTORING

Maryam Elfakir, UF Undergraduate Student, Information Systems and Operations Management 2024 – Present
Jaime Breitkreutz, UF Undergraduate Student, Data Science 2025 – Present
Ethan Ahmed, UF Undergraduate Student, Computer Science 2025 – Present
Luana Kunzler Maldaner, UF Undergraduate Student, Biomedical Engineering 2025 – Present
Aamogh Sawant, Georgia Tech Undergraduate Student, Computer Science 2025 – Present
Raúl Rojas, UF Undergraduate Student, Computer Science and Anthropology 2025 – Present
Anh Hoang Mai, UF Undergraduate Student, Data Science 2025 – Present
Jhonathan Herrera, UF Computer Science Graduate 2026 – Present
Pranav Bhargava, UF Undergraduate Student, Computer Science and Mathematics 2025 – Present
Alex Freedman, UF Undergraduate Student, Data Science 2026 – Present
Alfred Navarro, UF Undergraduate Student, Computer Engineering 2026 – Present
Mehek Niwas, Rutgers Undergraduate Student, Computer Science and Mathematics 2026 – Present
Cody Nguyen, UF Undergraduate Student, Computer Science 2025 – Present
Lalitha Kantam, UF Undergraduate Student, Computer Science 2025 – Present

GRANTS AND FUNDING

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP), **$111,000** for three-year graduate research fellowship 2026
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, **$25,600** for full-tuition merit scholarship 2021 – 2025
HSF Scholar, Bank of America Scholarship Program, **$5,000** for national scholarship 2026
Hispanic Scholarship Fund, **$1,000** for national scholarship 2024
UF Joe Glover Data Science Scholarship, **$1,000** for top Data Science major, one per year 2024
UF AI Scholar, **$1,750** for AI research collaboration 2024
UF University Scholar, **$1,750** for undergraduate research program 2024
FGLSAMP Scholar, **$1,500** for STEM research support 2024
College Board Opportunity Scholarship, **$1,000** for national College Board scholarship 2020
UF Graduate Student Mentoring Award, **$500** for UF Graduate School mentoring award 2026
Apple Pathways Alliance Fellow, Apple's inaugural higher-education program 2024
Texas A&M Lindau Scholars Sponsorship, **$5,000** for attending the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting 2026
NSF Travel Award, **$1,200** for presenting a first-author demo at HCOMP 2024 2025
FGLSA Travel Support, **$1,000** for presenting DiffLogic work at ITNG 2025 2025
UF Provost Travel Support, **$1,000** for attending the Heidelberg Laureate Forum 2025
ITIAS Hack Space Con Scholarship, **$750** for Hack Space Con and Kennedy Space Center 2025
Y Combinator Startup School Travel Grant, **$500** for attending YC Startup School 2026
FURC Travel Award, **$250** for presenting a first poster at FURC 2024

MISC AND HOBBIES

I like making sushi (I worked as a sushi chef for a couple of years before research); reading (just finished Thinking, Fast and Slow, now on The Importance of Being Educable); Clash of Clans (Town Hall 18); rock climbing (working on a V5); learning new languages (currently picking up German); and running and calisthenics (training for a front lever and a full marathon in December).

REFERENCES

Damon L. Woodard
Professor; Director, Florida Institute for National Security
University of Florida
ece.ufl.edu/people/faculty/damon-woodard

Jason I. Hong
Professor Emeritus
Carnegie Mellon University
hcii.cmu.edu/people/jason-hong

Adam Fourney
Senior Principal Researcher
Microsoft Research
adamfourney.com

Cátia Silva
Instructional Associate Professor
University of Florida
ece.ufl.edu/people/faculty/catia-silva

Elizabeth Johnson
Associate Instructional Professor
University of Florida
stat.ufl.edu/directory/elizabeth-johnson/