

MATHEUS KUNZLER MALDANER

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

ACADEMIC

University of Florida

M.S. in AI Systems

- GPA: 4.0/4.0

Gainesville, FL

Aug. 2025 — Present

University of Florida

B.S. in Data Science, Minor in Computer Science, AI Certificate

- GPA: 3.9/4.0, Summa Cum Laude

Gainesville, FL

Aug. 2021 — May. 2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

FuguUX

Research Intern

Mentor: Dr. Jason Hong

Pittsburgh, PA

May 2026 — Present

- Building UXScore, an AI-judged UX benchmarking platform, end to end across the capture, consensus-judging, and live-scoring pipeline
- Engineered the agreement-gating pipeline that filters 15 candidate AI judges down to a reliable 8-judge consensus panel across 9 UX dimensions
- Distilled the judge panel's consensus scores into a fast student model that powers instant live UX estimates

Microsoft Research · AI Frontier Group

Research Intern

Mentor: Dr. Hussein Mozannar, Dr. Gagan Bansal, Dr. Adam Fourney

Redmond, WA

Summer 2025 — Apr. 2026

- 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

Research Intern

Mentor: Dr. Jason Hong, Dr. Motahhare Eslami, Dr. Kenneth Holstein, Wesley Deng

Pittsburgh, PA

Summer 2024 — May 2025

- 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

Research Assistant

Mentor: Dr. Damon Woodard, Dr. Domenic Forte, Dr. Olivia Dizon-Paradis, Stephen Wormald

Gainesville, FL

Fall 2023 — Present

- Researching Neurosymbolic AI for transparent, interpretable models
- Optimizing Differentiable Logic Gate Networks on HiPerGator
- Co-authored eXpLogic (ITNG '25 Best Student Paper)
- Co-authored Abstracting General Syntax for XAI (Springer AI '24)

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

[J1] S. Wormald, **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, K. O'Connor, et al. [Abstracting General Syntax for XAI after Decomposing Explanation Sub-Components](#). *Springer AI*, 2024.

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP & DEMO PAPERS

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

[P3] E. Park, W. H. Deng, C. Jin, **Matheus Kunzler Maldaner**, et al. [MM-SCALE: Grounded Multimodal Moral Reasoning via Scalar Judgment and Listwise Alignment](#). *arXiv:2602.03665*, 2026.

[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.

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 Fall 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 Fall 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
Director of Research Fall 2024 — May 2026

- Led the research initiatives for the UF AI Club
- Oversaw a team of 10 students connecting undergraduates with professors for research initiatives

UF American Statistical Association (ASA) Chapter Gainesville, FL
Vice President Fall 2023 — Spring 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

CI'25 & HCOMP'24

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

- Verifies research-paper claims using AI agents and knowledge graphs

1st Place Overall

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

- Human-in-the-loop agentic web automation with action guards and transparent execution

10k+ GitHub Stars

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

UF Graduate Student Mentoring Award — For mentoring across DSI, IEEE SPS, and UF AI Club 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

NexHacks — AI study companion 2026

SHPE Code for Change 2026 — AI game-dev dashboard 2026

NASA GeoEMERGE — **Best App Improvement Track** for citizen-science app 2026

UF SwampHacks XI — **Best Use of MongoDB** for 1v1 Roblox building game 2026

Microsoft Intern Puzzle Day — Fastest Solver for all warm-up puzzles	2025
UF Gator Create 2025 — Won 3 of 7 Tracks for digital art	2025
UF DataFest 2025 — Best Visualization for data-analysis competition	2025
UF SwampHacks X — Best AI Hack for DiffLogic visualizer	2025
UF Gator Hack IV — 1st Place Overall for AI paper verifier	2025
USCLAP 2024 — 2nd Place Overall for data-analysis study	2024
UF Gator Create 2024 — 2nd Place Overall for digital art	2024
OSC MiniHack — 2nd Place Overall and Best AI Hack for toxicity-detection bot	2024
UF DataFest 2024 — 1st Place Overall for data-analysis competition	2024
ShellHacks 2024 — Most Popular for mental-health companion app	2024
UF Gator Hack III — Most Popular for DiffLogic on FPGAs	2024
UF Gator Hack II — adaptive learning platform	2023

SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

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
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

MENTORING

Maryam Elfakir — UF Undergraduate Student, Information Systems and Operations Management	2024 — Present
Jaime Breitreutz — 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

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
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
Apple Pathways Alliance Fellow — Apple’s inaugural higher-education program	2024
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
ITIAS Hack Space Con Scholarship — \$750 for Hack Space Con and Kennedy Space Center	2025
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/	