

Mingyang Yao

✉ m5yao@ucsd.com ☎ (858)305-1264 📄 Google Scholar 🌐 Personal Website

Education

University of California, San Diego Sept 2022 – Dec 2025
(expected)
BS in Mathematics and Computer Science
BS in Cognitive Science with spec. in Machine Learning and Neural Computation
GPA: 3.928/4.000

Research Interests

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- Symbolic Music Generation and Music Style Transfer
 - Symbolic Music Information Retrieval
 - Multi-Modality on Music AI, including symbolic, audio, and text

Publications

From Generality to Mastery: Composer-Style Symbolic Music Generation via Large-Scale Pre-training [Paper Link](#) [↗](#)

Mingyang Yao, Ke Chen

The Sixth Conference on AI Music Creativity (AIMC 2025); Oral Presentation

BACHI: Boundary-Aware Symbolic Chord Recognition Through Masked Iterative Decoding on Pop and Classical Music [Paper Link](#) [↗](#)

Mingyang Yao, Ke Chen, Shlomo Dubnov, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick

Full Paper Submitted to ICASSP 2026 and Under Review

The development of FEDUPP: Feeding Experimentation Device Users Processing Package to Assess Learning and Cognitive Flexibility [Paper Link](#) [↗](#)

Mingyang Yao*, Avraham M Libster*, Shane Desfor, Freiya Malhotra, Nathalia Castorena, Patricia Montilla-Perez, Francesca Telese

Full Paper Submitted to Journal and Under Review

Research Experience

Conditional Symbolic Music Generation | Independent Research Fed 2024 - April 2025
Mentor: Ke Chen [↗](#) / *Adobe Research*

- Developed and [released](#) [↗](#) a 16k multi-genre MIDI corpus with curated classical composer subsets and enhanced REMI tokenization with improved time signature handling and finer temporal resolution
- Designed a two-stage training approach combining large-scale pre-training on diverse musical genres with targeted fine-tuning on composer-specific works, achieving superior few-shot style transfer compared to contemporary [NotaGen-finetuned](#) [↗](#).
- Established a comprehensive evaluation framework incorporating quantitative style fidelity metrics, harmonic analysis, structural consistency measures, and human preference studies to assess compositional quality
- Delivered complete research pipeline including reproducible codebase, [demo](#) [↗](#) page, and full manuscript accepted at AIMC 2025

Symbolic Chord Recognition | Independent Research June 2025 - Sept 2025
Mentor: Ke Chen [↗](#), *Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick* / *University of California San Diego*

- Architected boundary-aware transformer combining piano-roll patch embeddings with FiLM-based bound-

- ary conditioning and confidence-ordered masked decoding for chord root, quality, and bass prediction
- Demonstrated that confidence-ordered prediction strategy, inspired by human annotation practices, achieves state-of-the-art performance with more than 8% improvement over the best baseline on classical music benchmarks
- Curated POP909-CL dataset based on [POP909](#) with expert chord annotations, enabling robust evaluation across popular music genres and contributing a valuable resource to the music information retrieval community
- Completed full manuscript currently under review at ICASSP 2026

Telese Lab | Research Assistant

Sept 2023 - Present

Principal Investigator: Francesca Telese

- Developed FEDUPP, the first comprehensive open-source Python [pipeline](#) for automated analysis of FED3 feeding device data, addressing a critical gap in behavioral neuroscience research tools
- Integrated machine learning algorithms including unsupervised clustering for data labeling and LSTM classifiers for temporal feeding pattern analysis, enabling multi-timescale behavioral assessment
- Led manuscript preparation as co-first author, contributing substantial portions of methodology, experimental design, and discussion sections while coordinating post-submission revision process
- Implemented computer vision pipeline using fine-tuned YOLOv11 and DeepLabCut software for automated video data processing and mouse trajectory tracking, demonstrating technical leadership in an interdisciplinary research environment

Teaching Experience

Instructional Apprentice

Fall 2023

Course: Cogs 18 - Introduction to Python / Instructor: Eric Morgan

- Hold Discussion and Office Hour for 3 hours per week
- Grade weekly programming assignments and exams
- 100% student recommendation rate

Reader/Grader

April 2024 - Dec 2024

- Math 154 - Discrete Math and Graph Theory (Spring 2024; Professor William Wesley)
- Math 20D - Introduction to Differential Equations (Fall 2024; Professor Rishabh Dixit)

Related Honors and Awards

Chinese Musicians' Association (CMA) Piano Graded Examination (Amateur), Level 10 Certificate (2015)

UCSD Provost Honor (2022-2025)

UCSD Health Student Research Assistant Summer Fellowship (2024)