

An Cao

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EDUCATION

University of Toronto

Sep 2024 – Dec 2025

Master of Science in Applied Computing (AI concentration) - GPA: 3.93/4.0

Toronto, Canada

- Recipient of Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence for top 100 AI master's students in Ontario

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Sep 2020 – Jun 2024

Bachelor of Engineering in Software Engineering (AI track) - GPA: 3.96/4.0

Wuhan, China

- Excellent Undergraduate Graduates, Merit Students, Outstanding Undergraduates in Academic Performance

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Language & ML Frameworks:** Python, Pytorch, HuggingFace, DeepSpeed, MLflow, Langchain, OpenAI, Numpy
- **ML Techniques:** Vision-Language Models, Multi-Modal Learning, LLM Finetuning, Segmentation, Audio-Language Models, Explainable AI, Data Augmentation, Computer Vision, LLMs, RAG, Embedding Models, Vector Database
- **Models:** LLaMa, LLaVa, Transformer, BERT, LoRA, SAM, Unet, CLIP, Diffusion, ViT, Audio Flamingo
- **Tools, Infra & Deployment:** GCP, Azure, Pinecone, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, BigQuery, Docker, FastAPI, Flask

EXPERIENCE

Modiface

May 2025 – Present

Machine Learning Intern

Toronto, Canada

Project: *Digital Dermatologist: Foundational Explainable Vision-Language Model for Skin Health*

- Performed multi-modal alignment on LLaMA and ViT, enabling the model to digest medical text and images
- Integrated SAM to multi-modal LLaMa to deliver text insights with segmentation masks to deliver its explainability
- Applied LoRA to finetune the model for medical tasks, reaching 52% segmentation IoU and 0.15 text Cross Entropy
- Leveraged Semi-Supervised learning to finetune the model on partially annotated and modal-incomplete datasets
- Employed LLMs and Unet for data augmentation, expanding dataset by 3 times and imputing 2 absent modals
- Utilized contrastive learning to finetune an embedding model, enabling product recommendations from skin analysis

Vector Institute

July 2025 – Present

AI Technical Assistant

Toronto, Canada

- Incorporated Audio Flamingo and a vector database into an audio-text RAG system as a healthcare voice assistant
- Led a RAG system optimized for live tabular stock market data, achieving 85% recall in relevant stock retrieval
- Designed a multi-agent system to detect inconsistent datapoints, attaining 76% accuracy in Anti-Money Laundering

Vector Institute

Sep 2024 – May 2025

Machine Learning Associate

Toronto, Canada

Project: *DiligenceGPT: AI for Due Diligence*

- Applied multi-modal LLMs to fuse images and texts, structuring data from uncured documents with 89% coverage
- Built a RAG agent with a vector database and minute-level live data sources, providing real-time traceable insights
- Combined Neural Networks and LLMs to quantitatively evaluate companies with analysis, reaching 97% consistency
- Orchestrated async model deployment to parallelize inference, reducing response latency by 70% on average

Project: *Conversational Audience Builder for Synthetic Society*

- Created a RAG agent that analyzes database schema to suggest attributes in dialogues, speeding up customer defining
- Finetuned the embedding model using contrastive learning, improving retrieval recall to 89% in the vector database
- Utilized LLMs to decouple inputs into atomic queries, achieving 82% question-wise attribute recommendation coverage
- Implemented a async streaming backend with FastAPI to maintain low-latency responses under concurrent user loads

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Sep 2021 – Aug 2024

Deep Learning Research Assistant

Wuhan, China

- Built Diff-STAR, a Student-Teacher model combining Diffusion and ViT, achieving SOTA in image harmonization
- Proposed LisaCLIP, a zero-shot text-driven model, enhancing image manipulation precision via adaptive optimization
- Collaborated on Virtual Try-On and Street Semantic Segmentation projects, refining models and doing ablation studies

PUBLICATIONS

[Diff-STAR](#) (First Author, Published by IMAVIS, SCI Q1)

Sep 2023 – Aug 2024

A. Cao and G. Shen, "Diff-STAR: Exploring student-teacher adaptive reconstruction through diffusion-based generation for image harmonization," Image Vis. Comput., vol. 151, p. 105254, Nov. 2024, doi: 10.1016/j.imavis.2024.105254.

[LisaCLIP](#) (First Author, Accepted by IJCNN as ORAL)

Sep 2022 – Feb 2023

A. Cao, Y. Zhou, and G. Shen, "LisaCLIP: Locally Incremental Semantics Adaptation towards Zero-shot Text-driven Image Synthesis," in 2023 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), Jun. 2023, pp. 1–10. doi: 10.1109/IJCNN54540.2023.10191516.