

Huancheng Chen

AI Research Scientist

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Education

2020–2025 **Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering**, *University of Texas at Austin*
GPA: 3.97/4.0 Advisor: Haris Vikalo

2014–2019 **B.Eng. in Electrical Engineering**, *South China University of Technology*
GPA: 3.90/4.0

Research Overview

My research concentrates on developing **scalable, trustworthy and efficient** learning systems and their applications in large language models:

- federated learning with data-heterogeneous and system-heterogeneous clients;
- model compression (pruning, quantization, distillation);
- continual learning with large pretrained foundation models;
- LLM post-training, including SFT, DPO, and RLHF, to align human preferences.

Industry Experience

Since June. **AI Research Scientist**, *Accenture Advanced AI Center*, Mountain View, CA
2025 Building LLM post-training pipeline for customized models

May – Aug. **Research Intern**, *Sony AI*, Tokyo, Japan

2024 **Project: Enhancing Layout Guidance in Text-To-Image Generation**

- Proposed a novel sampling scheme that optimizes backward noises aided by cross-attention maps of input text and enables controlling spatial semantics of images.
- Generation with layout guidance enables to synthesize an arbitrary number of images with bounding boxes for improving object detection capability of the foundation model.

Feb – May. **Research Intern**, *Sony AI*, Austin, Texas

2024 **Project: Forgetting-Resilient Low-Rank Adaptation on Large Pretrained Models**

- Proposed a novel continual learning scheme based on low-rank adaptation (LoRA) that enables the foundation model fine-tuning on a sequence of downstream tasks.
- The proposed fine-tuning strategy prevents cataphoric forgetting problem and preserves performance of old tasks when adapting the foundation model to the new task.

May – Aug. **Research Intern**, *Toyota InfoTech Lab*, Mountain View, California

2022 **Project: Data-Free Knowledge Distillation in Non-IID Federated Learning (FL)**

- Applying knowledge distillation technique to securely extract class-wise representations from clients' private datasets which are not allowed to be shared to the server.
- The server utilizes the extracted representations for regularization to mitigate performance degradation caused by data-heterogeneity cross clients in the server-clients FL system.

Jan. – May. **Research Intern, Nokia Bell Lab**, Murray Hill, New Jersey

2022 **Project: Robust Flaw Detection on Low-Quality Images**

- Developed an end-to-end framework for background removal of equipment's images based on **U-2-Net** that enables removing irrelevant contents might mislead flaw detection.
- Constructed a highly accurate (90%+) and robust deep network based on **Inception-ResNet** for detecting flaws on images of devices in low quality (such as blur, shadow).

Publications

- [1] **Huancheng Chen**, Jingtao Li, Weiming Zhuang, Haris Vikalo, Lingjuan Lyu. [Boundary Attention Constrained Zero-Shot Layout-To-Image Generation](#). Under Review
- [2] **Huancheng Chen**, Jingtao Li, Nidham Gazagnadou, Weiming Zhuang, Chen Chen, Lingjuan Lyu. [Dual Low-Rank Adaptation for Continual Learning with Pre-Trained Models](#). Under Review
- [3] **Huancheng Chen**, Haris Vikalo. [Heterogeneity-Guided Client Sampling: Towards Fast and Efficient Non-IID Federated Learning](#). NeurIPS, 2024
- [4] **Huancheng Chen**, Haris Vikalo. [Recovering Labels from Local Updates in Federated Learning](#). ICML, 2024
- [5] **Huancheng Chen**, Haris Vikalo. [Mixed-Precision Quantization for Federated Learning on Resource-Constrained Heterogeneous Devices](#). CVPR, 2024
- [6] **Huancheng Chen**, Haris Vikalo. [Federated Learning in Non-IID Settings Aided by Differentially Private Synthetic Data](#). CVPR Workshops **Oral**, 2023
- [7] **Huancheng Chen**, Johnny Wang, Haris Vikalo. [The Best of Both Worlds Accurate Global and Personalized Models through Federated Learning with Data-Free Hyper-Knowledge Distillation](#). ICLR, 2023
- [8] Abdullah Mohamed*, **Huancheng Chen***, Zhangyang Wang, Christian Claudel. [Skeleton-Graph: Long-Term 3D Motion Prediction From 2D Observations Using Deep Spatio-Temporal Graph CNNs](#). ICCV Workshops, 2021

Honors

Sept. 2015 **National Encouragement scholarship**, *South China University of Technology*

Sept. 2016 **The First Prize scholarship**, *South China University of Technology*

Skills

Languages English (fluent), Mandarin (native), Cantonese (native)
Programming Python, Java, C/C++, Bash, SQL, Matlab, \LaTeX
Tools Tensorflow, Pytorch, Hugging Face, Git, Docker, Azure ML, Pandas