

# Kento Nishi

✉ kentonishi@college.harvard.edu |  GitHub |  LinkedIn |  Google Scholar |  Garmin

## EDUCATION

**Harvard University** — Bachelor's & Master's in Computer Science Aug. 2022 – Present

- Concurrent four-year AB/SM Program, w/ Honors. GPA: 3.971. Graduating May 2026.

## SKILLS

**Programming:** Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, C++, Java, Svelte, OpenGL, Bash, Git, Docker,  $\LaTeX$ .  
**Research:** PyTorch, CNNs, transformers, diffusion models, mechanistic interpretability, representation learning, explainability, multi-modal learning, data augmentation, LLMs, audio processing, GPU/CUDA.  
**Misc.:** bilingual English/Japanese (professional-level), teaching, distance running, music composition.

## AFFILIATIONS

**Physics of AI (PAI) Group @ Harvard/NTT**, w/ H. Tanaka & E. S. Lubana. Mar. 2023 – Present

**Visual Computing Group (VCG) @ Harvard**, w/ H. Pfister. Aug. 2022 – Present

**Four Eyes Lab @ UC Santa Barbara**, w/ T. Höllerer. Jun. 2020 – Aug. 2022

## GRANTS

**Ezoe Memorial Recruit Foundation Scholarship** Apr. 2023 – Present

- \$95,000/year, covering tuition and living expenses. Support through BA, MS, and PhD.
- Oldest & most selective scholarship program in Japan (approx. 6 recipients/year).

## EMPLOYMENT

**Comcast** — Applied AI Labs, Speech AI Team.....

**Part-Time Contractor** (post-internship extension, remote) Sep. 2025 – Present

- Continuing research to mechanistically probe biases in Text-to-Speech diffusion models.
- Aiming for a tier-1 conference paper submission and a proprietary patent filing.

**Grad-Level Summer Research Intern** (Washington DC, in-person) Jun. – Aug. 2025

- Worked on production TTS models that serve over 50 million daily users.
- Uncovered and diagnosed train-test distribution gaps in time-domain diffusion models.

**Harvard SEAS**.....

**CS 79 Course TA** Aug. 2025 – Present

- Teaching Assistant for CS 79: Design of Useful and Usable Interactive Systems by K. Gajos.
- Serving as the Studio Planning Lead; sole undergraduate member of course staff.

## DISTINCTIONS

**Tier-1 Conference Reviewer:** ICLR 2026 (invitation-only). 2025

**Harvard AI Safety Team Program Director:** Research Compute Lead at AISST. 2023 – Present

**John Harvard Scholar:** top 5% GPA in the Harvard College class of 2026. 2023, 2025

**Advanced Half-Marathon Runner:** 1h25m10s PR (Nov. 2024). 4x race finisher. 2021 – Present

**Regeneron STS Top 300 Scholar:** the oldest, most prestigious high school STEM award. 2022

## RESEARCH THEMES

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### Diffusion models, sequential tasks, control & alignment

- Developing a theory on train/test-time gaps in diffusion models w/ time-domain data (paper soon).
- Began in **MATS 2025** (ML Alignment & Theory Scholars Program); \$12K grant & \$10K for GPUs.
- Extended into mech-interp work at Comcast, debugging production Text-to-Speech diffusion models.
- Advised by H. Tanaka (PAI Group), H. Pfister (Harvard VCG), K. Kumar & R. Tang (Comcast).

### Transformers, representation learning, model mechanisms

- Explaining deep learning mechanisms w/ interpretable & controllable tasks on synthetic graphs.
- Published **first-author ICML 2025** paper; co-authored **2x ICLR** and **2x NeurIPS** papers.
- Funded by PRISE 2024 (Harvard Prog. for Research in Science and Eng.); \$3K + housing & meals.
- Funded by CBS-NTT Fellowship (Physics of Intelligence Program); \$5K summer 2023 stipend.
- Advised by H. Tanaka & E. S. Lubana (PAI Group).

### Computer vision, semi-supervised learning, model robustness

- Designing compute-efficient ways to train accurate vision models under partial/noisy supervision.
- Published **first-author CVPR 2024** paper as a sophomore undergrad.
- At age 16, published **first-author CVPR 2021** paper & **first-author AAAI 2021** short paper.
- Won Regeneron STS Top 300 Award & gave invited talk at Forum on Information Technology in 2022.
- Advised by H. Pfister (Harvard VCG) since 2022; prev. T. Höllerer (UCSB Four Eyes Lab).

## TECHNICAL PROJECTS

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### LiveTL Apps

Nov. 2020 – Present

- Lead dev of three modular addons that improve YouTube and Twitch (LiveTL, HyperChat, YtcFilter).
- 100K+ total users; 900+ repo stars; 20+ code contributors. Free, open-source, and cross-platform.

### holoEN Christmas Advent Calendar

Nov./Dec., 2022 – Present

- Full-stack dev of the event platform (holoen-advent.com); officially commissioned by Cover Corp.
- 250K+ total users; a beloved yearly tradition in the hololive English community.

### Exio UI Elements — npm

May 2024

- A customizable, framework-agnostic web UI library used across my open-source websites and apps.

### Torch Pitch Shift — PyPI

Jun. 2021

- The first Python library for pitch-shifting on GPU at the time; later added to PyTorch upstream.
- 750K+ downloads/month; 135+ GitHub stars; used by torch-audiomentations (1.1K+ stars).

## ALL PUBLICATIONS

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### Representation Shattering in Transformers: A Synthetic Study with Knowledge Editing

ICML 2025, as **first author**.

Our interpretable task reveals why edits to model weights can destroy representation geometries.

### In-Context Learning of Representations

ICLR 2025, as co-author.

We explain how LLMs reorganize representations in-context to align with task-specific structures.

### Structured In-Context Task Representations

NeurIPS 2024 NeurReps Workshop, as co-author.

A precursor to “In-Context Learning of Representations.”

## Stepwise Inference in Transformers: Exploring a Synthetic Graph Navigation Task

NeurIPS 2023 R0-FoMo Workshop, as co-author.

Our synthetic DAG navigation task clarifies when chain-of-thought might help autoregressive models.

## Joint-Task Regularization for Partially Labeled Multi-Task Learning

CVPR 2024, as **first author**.

We propose a regularizer to train models using partially labeled data with linear complexity.

## Augmentation Strategies for Learning with Noisy Labels

CVPR 2021, as **first author**.

Our decoupled augmentation strategy improves model robustness under noisy-label scenarios.

## Improving Label Noise Robustness with Data Augmentation and Semi-Supervised Learning

AAAI 2021 Student Abstract Track, as **first author**.

A precursor to “Augmentation Strategies for Learning with Noisy Labels.”

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request.