

Leyao Wang

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Website | Google Scholar | LinkedIn

EDUCATION

- **Yale University** New Haven, CT
Aug 2025 – May 2027
Master of Science, Computer Science | Co-advisors: Dr. Rex Ying, Dr. Arman Cohan
 - Full Scholarship + Teaching Fellowship
 - Research Areas: Trustworthy LLMs, Alignment, LLM Evaluation, AI Safety
- **Vanderbilt University** Nashville, TN
Aug 2022 – May 2025
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science & Mathematics | Minor: Data Science
 - GPA: 3.99/4.00;
 - Honors: *summa cum laude* (Top 5%), Dean's List all semesters
- **University of California, Irvine** Irvine, CA
Sep 2021 – Jun 2022
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
 - GPA: 4.00/4.00;
 - Honors: Dean's List all quarters

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **YaleNLP Lab, Yale University** New Haven, CT
May 2025 – Present
Graduate Researcher | Co-advisor: Dr. Arman Cohan
 - Focus: Agent for Evaluation; LLM Interpretability
- **Graph and Geometric Learning Lab, Yale University** New Haven, CT
May 2025 – Present
Graduate Researcher | Co-advisor: Dr. Rex Ying
 - Focus: LLM Personalization; LLM Interpretability
- **Network and Data Science Lab, Vanderbilt University** Nashville, TN
Jan 2024 – Aug 2025
Undergraduate Researcher | Advisor: Dr. Tyler Derr
 - Focus 1: LLM-based Data Augmentation [[Paper 1](#)] [[Paper 2](#)]
 - Focus 2: LLM Personalization [[Paper 2](#)] [[Paper 4](#)] [[Paper 5](#)]
 - Focus 3: Trustworthy AI [[Paper 6](#)]
- **Chatterjee Lab, Duke University** Remote
May 2024 – Dec 2024
Undergraduate Researcher | Advisor: Dr. Pranam Chatterjee
 - Focus: AI4Science; LLM Post-training [[Paper 7](#)]
- **Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MIT** Remote
Mar 2024 – May 2024
Research Assistant | Mentor: Dr. Wenqiang Chen
 - Focus: Multi-modality; HCI [[Paper 8](#)]
- **SPHERE Lab, Vanderbilt University** Nashville, TN
Apr 2023 – Apr 2024
Undergraduate Researcher | Advisor: Dr. Zhijun Yin
 - Focus: LLM for Health [[Paper 9](#)]

PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

C=CONFERENCE, W=WORKSHOP, J=JOURNAL, S=IN SUBMISSION

- [S.1] Bo Ni, Leyao Wang, et al. **Large Language Models for Conversational User Simulation: A Comprehensive Survey**. (preprint / in submission)
- [S.2] Leyao Wang*, Xutao Mao*, Xuhui Zhan, Yuying Zhao, Bo Ni, Ryan A. Rossi, Nesreen K. Ahmed, Tyler Derr. **Towards Bridging Review Sparsity in Recommendation with Textual Edge Graph Representation**. (preprint / in submission)

- [S.3] Bo Ni, Zheyuan Liu[†], Leyao Wang[†], Yongjia Lei[†], et al. **Towards Trustworthy Retrieval Augmented Generation for Large Language Models: A Survey**. (preprint / in submission)
- [C.1] Leyao Wang, Yu Wang, Bo Ni, Yuying Zhao, Hanyu Wang, Yao Ma, Tyler Derr. **SaVe-TAG: Semantic-aware Vicinal Risk Minimization for Long-Tailed Text-Attributed Graphs**. KDD 2026 .
- [C.2] Xutao Mao, Ezra Xuanru Tao, Leyao Wang. **MindVote: When AI Meets the Wild West of Social Media Opinion**. AAAI 2026 (Oral).
- [J.1] Leyao Wang*, Zhiyu Wan*, Congning Ni, Qingyuan Song, Yang Li, Ellen W. Clayton, Bradley Malin, Zhijun Yin. **Application and Concerns of ChatGPT and Conversational Large Language Models in Healthcare: A Systematic Review**. JMIR.
- [J.2] Wenqiang Chen*, Jason Cheng*, Leyao Wang, Wei Zhao, Wojciech Matusik (2024). **Sensor2Text: Enabling Natural Language Interactions for Daily Activity Tracking Using Wearable Sensors**. IMWUT.
- [W.1] Leyao Wang*, Rishab Pulugurta*, Pranay Vure*, Yinuo Zhang*, Aastha Pal, Pranam Chatterjee (2024). **PepDoRA: A Unified Peptide Language Model via Weight-Decomposed Low-Rank Adaptation**. AIDrugX @ NeurIPS 2024.

Notes: * equal contribution; [†] alphabetical co-first/co-equal as noted.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Institute for Software Integrated Systems (ISIS), Vanderbilt University** Nashville, TN
Apr 2024 – Jun 2024
Research Intern | Advisor: Prof. Gautam Biswas
 - Project: Audio Transcription with WhisperX; Sentiment and affect detection with GPT-4o
 - Research Focus: Multi-modality; LLM for sentiment detection;
- **Metissa.AI (Remote)** Remote
Apr 2023 – Aug 2023
Research & Development Intern
 - Project: OpenAI-powered chatbot (GPT-3.5) for AP Exam questions
 - Research Focus: RAG, LLM Customization

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Dean's Award for Outstanding Scholarship** May 2025
Vanderbilt School of Engineering
 - For achieving *summa cum laude* distinction (GPA \geq top 5% of the previous three years' graduating seniors).
- **Honorable Mention, CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Award** Jan 2025
Computing Research Association
 - For undergraduate students in North America who show outstanding potential in computing research.
- **Vanderbilt University Summer Research Program (VUSRP)** Apr 2024
Vanderbilt University
 - Stipend: \$6000.
- **Data Science Institute Research Program** Apr 2024
Vanderbilt University
 - Stipend: \$6000 (declined due to accepting VUSRP).
- **ISIS Summer Internship Program** Apr 2024
Institute for Software Integrated Systems
 - Stipend: \$8000 (declined due to accepting VUSRP).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Program Committee:** AAAI '26
- **Conference (Sub)Reviewer:** KDD '25; ACL '26; MLoG-GenAI@KDD '25
- **Journal Reviewer:** TKDD
- **Teaching Assistant:** Trustworthy Deep Learning (*Yale University*); Statistics and Probability (*Vanderbilt University*)

TECHNICAL SKILLS & INTERESTS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, C++, Java, HTML/CSS, JavaScript (React.js), MySQL, R, Linux
- **Research Interests:** Natural Language Processing , Large Language Models, Trustworthy AI, AI4Science