

# Leyao Wang

New Haven, CT | [leyao.wang.lw855@yale.edu](mailto:leyao.wang.lw855@yale.edu) | (949) 508-6809  
[Website](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

## EDUCATION

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

## PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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

- [S.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.** (preprint / in submission)
- [S.2] Bo Ni, Leyao Wang, *et al.* **Large Language Models for Conversational User Simulation: A Comprehensive Survey.** (preprint / in submission)
- [S.3] 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.4] Bo Ni, Zheyuan Liu<sup>†</sup>, **Leyao Wang<sup>†</sup>**, Yongjia Lei<sup>†</sup>, *et al.* **Towards Trustworthy Retrieval Augmented Generation for Large Language Models: A Survey**. (preprint / in submission)
- [C.1] Xutao Mao, Ezra Xuanru Tao, **Leyao Wang**. **MindVote: When AI Meets the Wild West of Social Media Opinion**. In AAAI 2026 (**Oral**).
- [C.2] Wenqiang Chen\*, Jason Cheng\*, **Leyao Wang**, Wei Zhao, Wojciech Matusik (2024). **Sensor2Text: Enabling Natural Language Interactions for Daily Activity Tracking Using Wearable Sensors**. In ACM UbiComp/IMWUT 2024.
- [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.
- [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.

Notes: \* equal contribution; <sup>†</sup> alphabetical co-first/co-equal as noted.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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