

# Leyao Wang

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Website | Google Scholar | LinkedIn

## EDUCATION

### • Yale University

- 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

*New Haven, CT*

*Aug 2025 – May 2027*

### • Vanderbilt University

- 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

*Nashville, TN*

*Aug 2022 – May 2025*

### • University of California, Irvine

- Bachelor of Science, Computer Science*  
◦ GPA: 4.00/4.00;  
◦ Honors: Dean's List all quarters

*Irvine, CA*

*Sep 2021 – Jun 2022*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### • YaleNLP Lab, Yale University

- Graduate Researcher* | *Co-advisor: Dr. Arman Cohan*  
◦ Focus: Agent for Evaluation; LLM Interpretability

*New Haven, CT*

*May 2025 – Present*

### • Graph and Geometric Learning Lab, Yale University

- Graduate Researcher* | *Co-advisor: Dr. Rex Ying*  
◦ Focus: LLM Personalization; LLM Interpretability

*New Haven, CT*

*May 2025 – Present*

### • Network and Data Science Lab, Vanderbilt University

- 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](#)]

*Nashville, TN*

*Jan 2024 – Aug 2025*

### • Chatterjee Lab, Duke University

- Undergraduate Researcher* | *Advisor: Dr. Pranam Chatterjee*  
◦ Focus: AI4Science; LLM Post-training [[Paper 7](#)]

*Remote*

*May 2024 – Dec 2024*

### • Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MIT

- Research Assistant* | *Mentor: Dr. Wenqiang Chen*  
◦ Focus: Multi-modality; HCI [[Paper 8](#)]

*Remote*

*Mar 2024 – May 2024*

### • SPHERE Lab, Vanderbilt University

- Undergraduate Researcher* | *Advisor: Dr. Zhijun Yin*  
◦ Focus: LLM for Health [[Paper 9](#)]

*Nashville, TN*

*Apr 2023 – Apr 2024*

## 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

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- **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

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- **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

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- **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

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