

Leyao Wang

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[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] 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

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 ≥ 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