

Xinyi (Linda) Wang

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ABOUT ME

I am a final-year Ph.D. candidate in the Computer Science department at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). My research focuses on developing a principled understanding of large foundation models, especially LLMs, with the goal of improving their capabilities, addressing their limitations, and optimizing their application across diverse domains.

EDUCATION

- **University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)** Santa Barbara, CA, US
Ph.D. in Computer Science (expected) 9.2020 - 6.2025
 - GPA: 4.0/4.0
 - Advisor: William Yang Wang
- **The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)** Hong Kong, China
B.Sc in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science 9.2016 - 7.2020
 - GPA: 3.7/4.3 (Dean's Honors List)
- **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** Los Angeles, CA, US
Term exchange in Mathematics (Non-degree) 9.2019 - 12.2019
 - GPA: 3.9/4.0 (Dean's Honors List)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- J.P. Morgan AI PhD Fellowship J.P. Morgan AI, 2024
- Computer Science Outstanding Publication Award UCSB, 2024
- Second place in the Alexa Prize Simbot Challenge Amazon, 2023
- Academic Excellence Fellowship UCSB, 2020-2024
- Joseph Needham Merit Scholarship Hong Kong, 2020-2024
- The 15th Epsilon Fund Award HKUST, 2020
- Chern Class Scholarship HKUST, 2017-2020
- HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund - Reaching Out Award Hong Kong, 2019-2020
- University's Scholarship Scheme for Continuing Undergraduate Students HKUST, 2017-2020

PUBLICATIONS

* denotes equal contribution.¹

- **Xinyi Wang**, Shawn Tan, Mingyu Jin, William Yang Wang, Rameswar Panda, Yikang Shen. *Do Larger Language Models Imply Better Reasoning? A Pretraining Scaling Law for Reasoning*. Arxiv 2025. [\[paper\]](#)
- Xunjian Yin, **Xinyi Wang**, Liangming Pan, Xiaojun Wan, William Yang Wang. *Gödel Agent: A Self-Referential Agent Framework for Recursive Self-Improvement*. Arxiv 2024. [\[paper\]](#)
- Sitao Cheng, Liangming Pan, Xunjian Yin, **Xinyi Wang**, William Yang Wang. *Understanding the Interplay between Parametric and Contextual Knowledge for Large Language Models*. Arxiv 2024. [\[paper\]](#)

¹Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=3vvbplcAAAAJ>

- **Xinyi Wang***, Antonis Antoniadis*, Yanai Elazar, Alfonso Amayuelas, Alon Albalak, Kexun Zhang, William Yang Wang. *Generalization v.s. Memorization: Tracing Language Models’ Capabilities Back to Pretraining Data*. ICLR 2025, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Jiachen Li, Weixi Feng, Tsu-Jui Fu, **Xinyi Wang**, Sugato Basu, Wenhui Chen, William Yang Wang. *T2V-Turbo: Breaking the Quality Bottleneck of Video Consistency Model with Mixed Reward Feedback*. NeurIPS 2024, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Alon Albalak, Yanai Elazar, Sang Michael Xie, Shayne Longpre, Nathan Lambert, **Xinyi Wang**, Niklas Muennighoff, Bairu Hou, Liangming Pan, Haewon Jeong, Colin Raffel, Shiyu Chang, Tatsunori Hashimoto, William Yang Wang. *A Survey on Data Selection for Language Models*. TMLR 2024. [\[paper\]](#)
- **Xinyi Wang**, Alfonso Amayuelas, Kexun Zhang, Liangming Pan, Wenhui Chen, William Yang Wang. *Understanding the Reasoning Ability of Language Models From the Perspective of Reasoning Paths Aggregation*. ICML 2024, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Iain Xie Weissburg, Mehro Arora, **Xinyi Wang**, Liangming Pan, William Yang Wang. *Tweets to Citations: Unveiling the Impact of Social Media Influencers on AI Research Visibility*. ICML 2024 (position paper), poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- **Xinyi Wang**, Lucas Caccia, Oleksiy Ostapenko, Xingdi Yuan, William Yang Wang, Alessandro Sordani. *Guiding Language Model Math Reasoning with Planning Tokens*. COLM 2024, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Liangming Pan, Michael Saxon, Wenda Xu, Deepak Nathani, **Xinyi Wang**, William Yang Wang. *Automatically Correcting Large Language Models: Surveying the landscape of diverse self-correction strategies*. TACL 2023. [\[paper\]](#)
- Liangming Pan, Alon Albalak, **Xinyi Wang**, William Yang Wang. *Logic-LM: Empowering Large Language Models with Symbolic Solvers for Faithful Logical Reasoning*. Findings of EMNLP 2023. [\[paper\]](#)
- Wenhui Chen, Ming Yin, Max Ku, Pan Lu, Yixin Wan, Xueguang Ma, Jianyu Xu, **Xinyi Wang**, Tony Xia. *TheoremQA: A Theorem-driven Question Answering dataset*. EMNLP 2023, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Wanrong Zhu, **Xinyi Wang**, Yujie Lu, Tsu-Jui Fu, Xin Eric Wang, Miguel Eckstein, William Yang Wang. *Collaborative Generative AI: Integrating GPT-k for Efficient Editing in Text-to-Image Generation*. EMNLP 2023, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- **Xinyi Wang**, Wanrong Zhu, Michael Saxon, Mark Steyvers, William Wang. *Large Language Models Are Latent Variable Models: Explaining and Finding Good Demonstrations for In-Context Learning*. NeurIPS 2023, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Wenhui Chen, Xueguang Ma, **Xinyi Wang**, William W. Cohen. *Program of Thoughts Prompting: Disentangling Computation from Reasoning for Numerical Reasoning Tasks*. TMLR 2023. [\[paper\]](#)
- **Xinyi Wang**, Michael Saxon, Jiachen Li, Hongyang Zhang, Kun Zhang, William Yang Wang. *Causal Balancing for Domain Generalization*. ICLR 2023, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Michael Saxon, **Xinyi Wang**, Wenda Xu, William Yang Wang. *Relation Leakage in Elicited Natural Language Inference Datasets*. EACL 2023, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Wenhui Chen, **Xinyi Wang**, William Yang Wang. *A Dataset for Answering Time-Sensitive Questions*. NeurIPS 2021 Datasets and Benchmarks Track, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- **Xinyi Wang**, Wenhui Chen, Michael Saxon, William Yang Wang. *Counterfactual Maximum Likelihood Estimation for Training Deep Networks*. NeurIPS 2021, poster. [\[paper\]](#)
- Michael Saxon, Sharon Levy, **Xinyi Wang**, Alon Albalak, William Yang Wang. *Modeling Disclosive Transparency in NLP Application Descriptions*. EMNLP 2021, oral. [\[paper\]](#)
- **Xinyi Wang***, Haiqin Yang*, Liang Zhao, Yang Mo and Jianping Shen. *RefBERT: Compressing BERT by Referencing to Pre-computed Representations*. IJCNN 2021, oral. [\[paper\]](#)
- **Xinyi Wang**, Yi Yang. *Neural Topic Model with Attention for Supervised Learning*. AISTATS 2020, poster. [\[paper\]](#)

INTERNSHIPS

- **Research Intern at MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab** Cambridge, MA, US
Mentor: Yikang Shen, Rameswar Panda 6.2024 - 9.2024
 - Topic: theory of constructing pretraining data to facilitate language models' reasoning ability.
- **Research Intern at Microsoft Research** Montreal, QC, Canada
Mentor: Alessandro Sordoni 6.2023 - 10.2023
 - Topic: parameter-efficient fine-tuning to improve math reasoning ability of large language models.

SERVICES

- Conference reviewer: AAAI (2022, 2023), NeurIPS (2021-2025), ICLR (2024, 2025), ICML (2024, 2025), COLM (2024, 2025), AISTATS (2025)
- Journal reviewer: TPAMI (2024)
- Workshop organizer: Open Science for Foundation Models (ICLR 2025)