Allison Chen

she/her/hers | allisonchen@princeton.edu
Github: allisonchen23 | LinkedIn: allisonchen2 | Website: allisonchen.us

EDUCATION

Princeton University SEP 2022-Present
Ph.D. Candidate, Computer Science GPA: 4.0/4.0
Advisor: Dr. Olga Russakovsky

University of California, Los Angeles SEP 2018-JUN 2022
Summa Cum Laude GPA: 3.993/4.0
B.S. in Computer Science | Minor in Cognitive Science

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Allison Chen, Sunnie S. Y. Kim, Amaya Dharmasiri, Olga Russakovsky, Judith E. Fan. "***Portraying Large Language Models as Machines, Tools, Or Companions Affects What Mental Capacities Humans Attribute to Them***".
To appear in **Extended Abstracts of CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 'EA) 2025**. [paper] [poster]
To appear in **Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) 2025**.

Allison Chen, Ilia Sucholutsky, Olga Russakovsky, Thomas L. Griffiths. "***Analyzing the Roles of Language and Vision in Learning from Limited Data***". **Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) 2024**. [paper] [poster]

Tian Yu Liu*, Parth Agrawal*, **Allison Chen***, Byung-Woo Hong, Alex Wong. "***Monitored Distillation for Positive Congruent Depth Completion***". **European Conference for Computer Vision (ECCV), pp. 35-53, 2022**. * = equal contribution [code] [paper]

Alex Wong*, **Allison Chen***, Yangchao Wu, Safa Cicek, Alexandre Tiard, Byung-Woo Hong, and Stefano Soatto. *"**Small Lesion Segmentation in Brain MRIs with Subpixel Embedding**".* **MICCAI Brain Lesion Workshop, pp. 75-87, 2021**. Oral Presentation. * = equal contribution [code] [paper]

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant JUN 2024-Present
Princeton University | *Visual AI Lab*

- Lead independent and collaborative research projects with external collaborators in human-AI interaction.

Teaching Assistant JAN 2024-MAY 2024
Princeton University | *Art and Robotics Independent Work*

- Advised 10+ undergraduate students in independent projects combining art with programmable Arduinos.
- Developed Arduino tutorial materials organized public-facing exhibition attracting over 40 local students.

Head Teaching Assistant SEP 2023-DEC 2023
Princeton University | *Introduction to Machine Learning*

- Managed classroom, assignment, and exam logistics. Developed assignments and teaching materials.

- Led weekly discussion section for 30+ students and organized exam review sessions.

Software Engineering Intern JUN 2021-SEP 2021
Microsoft | *Azure Communication Services*

- Implemented device & network tests in **Typescript** to predict audio and video calling capabilities.

Software Engineering Intern JUN 2020-SEP 2020
Oracle Corporation | *Performance, Scalability, and Reliability Team*

- Developed **Node.js** framework in **Typescript** to aid internal teams with developing unified functional and performance tests on user interfaces.

Machine Learning Application Intern JUN 2019-AUG 2019
The Field Museum – Chicago, IL | *Botany Research Team w/ Dr. Matt von Konrat*

- Developed deep learning models in **TensorFlow** and **Keras** to classify botanical specimen image

HONORS & AWARDS

Fellowships/Scholarships

- 2024- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2022-23 Intel Graduate Diversity Scholarship
- 2021-22 APLUS Scholarship
- 2021-22 Tau Beta Pi Forge No. 111 Scholarship
- 2021-22 Society of Women Engineers Los Angeles Scholarship
- 2020-21 Cornelius Leondes UCLA Undergraduate Scholarship
- 2020-21 National Society of Women Engineers Intel Undergraduate Scholarship
- 2020-21 Society of Women Engineers Los Angeles Scholarship
- 2020-21 Society of Women Engineers at UCLA Scholarship
- 2020-21 UCLA Faculty Women's Club Scholarship
- 2018-19 UCLA Women in Engineering Scholarship

Society Involvement

- 2025 Natural and Artificial Minds Initiative, Graduate Fellow
- 2018-24 Society of Women Engineers
- 2021-22 Google Computer Science Research Mentorship Program
- 2020-22 Upsilon Pi Epsilon Computer Science Honors Society
- 2019-22 Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society

Achievements & Recognition

- 2022 UCLA Engineering Achievement Award in Student Welfare
- 2022 Engineering For Humanity Research Symposium Director
- 2018-22 UCLA Dean's Honors List
- 2018 1st Place at UCLA Idea Hacks Hardware Hackathon

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Effect of Portraying Language Models on People's Beliefs and Attitudes JUNE 2024-Present
Dr. Olga Russakovsky, Dr. Judy Fan (Stanford) **| Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Study the effects of how various descriptions and portrayals around large language models affects the degree of anthropomorphism among lay adults.

Large Scale Less-Than-One-Shot Learning Using Language MAY 2024-Present

Dr. Olga Russakovsky, Dr. Ilia Sucholutsky, Dr. Tom Griffiths | **Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Develop method of leveraging language to teach a model image classification with more classes than training images.

Role of Language in Vision-Language Learning SEPT 2023-MAY 2024

Dr. Olga Russakovsky, Dr. Tom Griffiths | **Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Analyzed the contribution of language to Vision-Language model performance by hypothesizing a cognitive architecture of the models and ablating various components.

Monitored Distillation OCT 2021-JUN 2022

Dr. Stefano Soatto | **UCLA Vision Lab**

- Built an ensemble of teachers by computing a criterion based on reprojection error to train a lightweight student model in unsupervised sparse to dense depth completion.
- Addressed weaknesses of each teacher model and ensemble holistically by balancing distilled loss with typical unsupervised color and structural reprojection losses using similar criteria.

Small Lesion Segmentation MAR 2020-OCT 2021

Dr. Stefano Soatto | **UCLA Vision Lab**

- Proposed a technique using subpixel methods to retain details of a brain MRI scan that are often lost through rapid spatial downsampling and max-pooling in medical image segmentation works.
- Devised method that outperforms the state of the art while reducing memory requirements by 72.3% and 57.5% for training and testing respectively.

Monotonicity Verification Extension APR 2021-JUN 2021

Dr. Guy Van den Broeck | **Statistical and Relational Artificial Intelligence Lab (StarAI)**

- Extended monotonicity verification system for small fully connected networks to actor-critic based models.
- Developed **Python** scripts to convert between checkpoint save formats between **TFLearn** and **Keras** APIs for **TensorFlow** to extend generalizability.

LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH

Mentorship

- Mentor for First Year Grad Students (2 mentees) SEP 2023-Present
- Mentor for Society of Women Engineers @ UCLA Undergrad (1 mentee) OCT 2024-Present
- UCLA Alumni Mentor (3 mentees) SEP 2022-Present

Graduate Fellow, Natural and Artificial Minds Initiative, *Princeton University*

- Facilitate cross-disciplinary connections for researchers studying intelligence JAN 2025-Present

Lab Learning Program Mentor, *Princeton University*

- Advise and mentor two high school interns conducting independent research JUL 2023-AUG 2023

Prison Teaching Initiative, *Princeton University*

- Math and science tutor for incarcerated students JAN 2023-MAY 2023

Aquinas Institute Bible Study Leader, *Princeton University*

- Organize and host weekly Bible studies for graduate students SEP 2024-Present

Graduate Society of Women Engineers, *Princeton University*

- Chapter co-founder at Princeton University OCT 2022-MAY 2024
- Princeton Computer Science Pre-Application Mentor NOV 2022

Society of Women Engineers, *UCLA*

- Internal Vice President and Executive Board Member APR 2021-JUN 2022
- Evening with Industry External Director and Executive Board Member APR 2020-APR 2021
- SWE Families Head OCT 2020-JUN 2021
- Student Relations Director and Executive Board Member APR 2019-APR 2020

Grad2Mentor Program, *UCLA*

- Co-founded high school mentorship program for underrepresented students in CS APR 2021-SEP 2021

SKILLS

- Languages: Python, R, C++/C, Typescript/Javascript, Java, HTML/CSS
- Frameworks/Packages: Pytorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Numpy, React
- Large-scale Surveys: Qualtrics, Prolific
- Technologies: Unix, Git, Latex
- Hobbies: Spikeball, dance, cooking, and reading! Currently reading: *Dreams from my Father* by Barack Obama