

# BOWEN GAO

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## EDUCATION

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### Tsinghua University

Ph.D. in Computer Science and Technology

Beijing, China

August 2024 - Present

- Supervised by Professor **Ya-Qin Zhang** and Professor **Yanyan Lan**

### California Institute of Technology

Master of Electrical Engineering

Pasadena, U.S.

October 2019 - June 2021

- GPA: 4.2 / 4.3
- Advised by Professor Yaser Abu-Mostafa and Professor Yisong Yue

### University of Toronto

Bachelor of Computer Science

Toronto, Canada

September 2014 - June 2019

- GPA: 3.85 / 4.0
- Dean's Honour List for all academic years
- Graduated with Highest Honors

## RESEARCH INTEREST

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My research focuses on leveraging artificial intelligence for drug discovery (AIDD), with a particular emphasis on developing and applying deep learning models for the representation and generation of small molecules and proteins. I aim to build **data-centric** methods to address the data scarcity problem in the AIDD domain.

## EMPLOYMENTS

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### Institute for AI Industry Research, Tsinghua University (AIR)

Full Time Research Engineer

September 2022 - August 2024

### Applied Machine Learning (AML) at ByteDance

Full Time Machine Learning Engineer

July 2021 - September 2022

### Uber ATG

Autonomous Driving Algorithm Intern

June 2020 - September 2020

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. Yinjun Jia\*, **Bowen Gao\***, Jiaxin Tan\*, Jiqing Zheng\*, Xin Hong\*, Wenyu Zhu, Haichuan Tan, Yuan Xiao, Yanwen Huang, Yue Jin, Yafei Yuan, et al. **Deep contrastive learning enables genome-wide virtual screening.** *Science*, 2025. Accepted.
2. Bowei He, **Bowen Gao**, Yankai Chen, Yanyan Lan, Chen Ma, Philip S. Yu, Ya-Qin Zhang, and Wei-Ying Ma. **Drug: Bridging Protein Sequence and 3D Structure in Contrastive Representation Learning for Virtual Screening.** In *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2026.
3. Jianhui Wang\*, Wenyu Zhu\*, **Bowen Gao\***, Xin Hong, Ya-Qin Zhang, Wei-Ying Ma, and Yanyan Lan. **Learning Protein-Ligand Binding in Hyperbolic Space.** In *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2026.
4. **Bowen Gao\***, Yanwen Huang\*, Yiqiao Liu, Wenxuan Xie, Bowei He, Haichuan Tan, Wei-Ying Ma, Ya-Qin Zhang, and Yanyan Lan. **CIDD: Collaborative Intelligence for Structure-Based Drug Design Empowered by LLMs.** In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2025.
5. Wenyu Zhu\*, Jianhui Wang\*, **Bowen Gao\***, Yinjun Jia, Haichuan Tan, Ya-Qin Zhang, Wei-Ying Ma, and Yanyan Lan. **AAANet: Virtual Screening under Structural Uncertainty via Alignment and Aggregation.** In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2025.

6. Yanwen Huang<sup>\*</sup>, **Bowen Gao<sup>\*</sup>**, Yinjun Jia, Hongbo Ma, Wei-Ying Ma, Ya-Qin Zhang, and Yanyan Lan. **SIU: A Million-Scale Structural Small Molecule-Protein Interaction Dataset for Unbiased Bioactivity Prediction**. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025.
7. **Bowen Gao<sup>\*</sup>**, Haichuan Tan<sup>\*</sup>, Yanwen Huang, Minsi Ren, Xiao Huang, Wei-Ying Ma, Ya-Qin Zhang, and Yanyan Lan. **Reframing Structure-Based Drug Design Model Evaluation via Metrics Correlated to Practical Needs**. In *The Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2025.
8. **Bowen Gao<sup>\*</sup>**, Minsi Ren<sup>\*</sup>, Yuyan Ni, Yanwen Huang, Bo Qiang, Zhi-Ming Ma, Wei-Ying Ma, and Yanyan Lan. **Rethinking Specificity in SBDD: Leveraging Delta Score and Energy-Guided Diffusion**. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2024.
9. **Bowen Gao<sup>\*</sup>**, Yinjun Jia<sup>\*</sup>, YuanLe Mo, Yuyan Ni, Wei-Ying Ma, Zhi-Ming Ma, and Yanyan Lan. **Self-supervised Pocket Pretraining via Protein Fragment-Surroundings Alignment**. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2024.
10. **Bowen Gao<sup>\*</sup>**, Bo Qiang<sup>\*</sup>, Haichuan Tan, Yinjun Jia, Minsi Ren, Minsi Lu, Jingjing Liu, Wei-Ying Ma, and Yanyan Lan. **Drugclip: Contrastive protein-molecule representation learning for virtual screening**. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2023.
11. Bo Qiang, Yuxuan Song, Minkai Xu, Jingjing Gong, **Bowen Gao**, Hao Zhou, Wei-Ying Ma, and Yanyan Lan. **Coarse-to-fine: a hierarchical diffusion model for molecule generation in 3d**. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2023.

## PREPRINTS

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1. Wenyu Zhu, Chengzhu Li, Xiaohe Tian, Yifan Wang, Yinjun Jia, Jianhui Wang, **Bowen Gao**, Ya-Qin Zhang, Wei-Ying Ma, and Yanyan Lan. **Coder as Editor: Code-driven Interpretable Molecular Optimization**. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2510.14455*, 2025
2. **Bowen Gao<sup>\*</sup>**, Yanwen Huang<sup>\*</sup>, Yiqiao Liu<sup>\*</sup>, Wenxuan Xie<sup>\*</sup>, Wei-Ying Ma, Ya-Qin Zhang, and Yanyan Lan. **Pharmagents: Building a virtual pharma with large language model agents**. *arXiv:2503.22164*, 2025
3. Yuanle Mo, Xin Hong, **Bowen Gao**, Yinjun Jia, and Yanyan Lan. **Multi-level Interaction Modeling for Protein Mutational Effect Prediction**. *arXiv:2405.17802*, 2024.

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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- Reviewer for International Conference on Learning Representation (ICLR) 2025, 2026
- Reviewer for Annual Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) 2026
- Reviewer for Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2024, 2025
- Reviewer for International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2025
- Reviewer for International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS) 2025
- Reviewer for IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems (TNNLS)