My (Chiffon) Nguyen

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Research Interests

Human–AI systems to reshape how people access, trust, and collaborate around *knowledge*. My interests include 1) **multilingual and cross-cultural adaptation**, 2) AI alignment, knowledge editing and unlearning, memory mechanisms, and 3) **human-AI collaboration** such as human-AI bidirectional alignment, synergy, and error correction.

Education

Minerva University, College of Computational Sciences Sep 2021 — May 2025
B.S in Computational Sciences (Machine Learning and Statistics), GPA: 3.7/4.0 *San Francisco, CA*
Coursework: Machine Learning, AI Ethics, Bayesian Modeling, Statistical Modeling and Causal Inference, Optimization
Self-study: ARENA for AI Safety (2025 - ongoing), Natural Language Specialization (deeplearning.ai, 2024), Applied Data Science Lab (World Quant University, 2023), Machine Learning Specialization (deeplearning.ai, 2022)

Research Experience

Capstone: Mnemonic Generation via Chain-of-Thought Distillation Oct 2024 — Mar 2025
Minerva University (Advisor: Patrick Watson) *San Francisco, CA*

- Developed LINKSYS, an AI system generating that leverage linguistic features (such as etymology, morphology, phonetics, orthography) for advanced vocabulary learning
- Implemented chain-of-thought distillation pipeline: generated 10k synthetic reasoning examples from DeepSeekR1 teacher model, then fine-tuned Gemma3-1b student model using LoRA (rank-16) via HuggingFace transformers and trl libraries
- Achieved statistically significant improvements over baseline: +22.5% association strength, +30% memorability

Machine Learning Research Assistant May 2024 — Present
AI & Mixed Reality Lab, Landshut University of Applied Sciences *Landshut, Bavaria, Germany*

- Implemented **3D object detection pipeline** using LiDAR point clouds and PointPillars algorithm in PyTorch and NVIDIA TAO Toolkit for autonomous navigation research
- Conducted comparative analysis of model performance across standard vs. synthetic datasets

Causal Inference Research Intern Nov 2023 — Dec 2023
Minerva University (Advisor: Professor Alexis Diamond) *Remote*

- Replicated Chrisinger (2021)'s synthetic control analysis of Philadelphia's beverage excise tax effects on SNAP benefit redemption using causal inference methods in R
- Showed similar trend patterns while identifying limitations in claimed effect size of the policy and dataset

Teaching Experience

Minerva University
Lead Teaching Assistant, Programming with Python Spring 2025
Lead Teaching Assistant, Critical and Analytical Thinking Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

Selected Projects

Astro Academic Theme (github.com/mychiffonn/astro-academic) Jul 2025 — Present

- Portfolio template with support for publications and technical blogging with GitHub-flavored markdown and MDX
- Achieved 80+ SEO score, 100 Lighthouse scores, 50% faster rendering with Astro and 30% reduced memory with caching

SeizureSavvy (seizure management & prediction) (github.com/mychiffonn/SeisureSavvy) Feb 2024 — Apr 2024

- Managed a team of 4 to build a Progressive Web App for intuitive seizure management with machine learning-based predictive alerts in Flask (Python), React, and Chakra UI
- Enhanced logging and medication tracking accuracy by 35% and reduced 40% critical bugs through code reviews

Community Engagement & Services

- Volunteer @ CommonCrawl, helping with web language crawl and identification Jul 2025 - Present
- Organizer @ SEACrowd, research community for Southeast Asian-focused AI May 2025 - Present

Skills

- **Programming Languages**: Python, TypeScript, Bash, R, SQL
- **Machine Learning & Statistics**: HuggingFace's trl, transformers, PyTorch, sklearn, llamaindex, PyMC, scipy