

Daewon Chae

✉ daewon@umich.edu

🔗 <https://daewon88.github.io/>

Research Interest

My long-term research goal is to develop capable and robust AI agents. To achieve this, my current research focuses on advancing generative foundation models, such as large language models (LLMs) and text-to-image diffusion models. Specifically, I have focused on exploring the property of generative modeling (e.g., next-token prediction) and developing effective post-training methods (e.g., RL fine-tuning) for generative foundation models.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor <i>Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering (Advisor: Prof. Hunseok Kim)</i>	Sep. 2025 - Present
Korea University <i>M.S. in Computer Science and Engineering (Advisor: Prof. Jinkyu Kim)</i>	Mar. 2023 - Aug. 2025
Korea University <i>B.S. in Electrical Engineering</i>	Mar. 2017 - Aug. 2022

Publications

* : equal contributions

• ENTP: Encoder-only Next Token Prediction

Ethan Ewer*, Daewon Chae*, Thomas Zeng*, Jinkyu Kim, Kangwook Lee

Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR), 2025

NeurIPS Workshop on What Can('t) Transformers Do? (Spotlight Presentation), 2025

• Hard-Negative Prototype-Based Regularization for Few-Shot Class-Incremental Learning

Seongbeom Park, Hyunju Yun, Daewon Chae, Sungyoon Kim, Suhong Moon, Minwoo Kang, Seunghyun Park, Jinkyu Kim

Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR), 2025

• A Training-Free Approach for Handling Loosely Aligned Visual Conditions in ControlNet

Woosung Joung*, Daewon Chae*, Jinkyu Kim

British Machine Vision Conference (BMVC), 2025

• VersaPRM: Multi-Domain Process Reward Model via Synthetic Reasoning Data

Thomas Zeng, Shuibai Zhang, Shutong Wu, Christian Classen, Daewon Chae, Ethan Ewer, Minjae Lee, Heejun Kim, Wonjun Kang, Jackson Kunde, Ying Fan, Jungtaek Kim, Hyung Il Koo, Kannan Ramchandran, Dimitris Papailiopoulos, Kangwook Lee

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) (Oral Presentation), 2025

• DiffExp: Efficient Exploration in Reward Fine-tuning for Text-to-Image Diffusion Models

Daewon Chae*, June Suk Choi*, Jinkyu Kim, Kimin Lee

AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) (Oral Presentation), 2025

• Scene Graph-Guided Proactive Replanning for Failure-Resilient Embodied Agent

Che Rin Yu, Daewon Chae, Dabin Seo, Sangwon Lee, Hyeongwoo Im, Jinkyu Kim

RSS Workshop on Semantic Reasoning and Goal Understanding in Robotics (RSSW), 2024

• InstructBooth: Instruction-following Personalized Text-to-Image Generation

Daewon Chae, Nokyung Park, Jinkyu Kim, Kimin Lee

ICML Workshop on Foundation Models in the Wild (ICMLW), 2024

- **Clustering-based Image-Text Graph Matching for Domain Generalization**

Nokyung Park, Daewon Chae, Jeongyong Shim, Sangpil Kim, Eun-Sol Kim, Jinkyu Kim
International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), 2024

- **Text-driven Prototype Learning for Few-Shot Class-Incremental Learning**

Seongbeom Park*, Haeji Jung*, Daewon Chae, Hyunju Yun, Sungyoon Kim, Suhong Moon, Seunghyun Park, Jinkyu Kim
International Conference on Pattern Recognition (ICPR), 2024

- **Re-ID Technology for V2I based Cooperative Driving Protocol**

Junhyek Jang, Kitaeg Lim, Sanghun Yoon, Daewon Chae, Soohyun Jang
International Conference on Ubiquitous and Future Networks (ICUFN), 2023

Experience

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Lee Lab

Visiting Researcher (Advisor: Prof. Kangwook Lee)

Jul. 2024 - Sep. 2024

Korea Electronics Technology Institute

Assistant Researcher (Mentor: Soohyun Jang)

Oct. 2022 - Feb. 2023

NAVER Clova, High-quality DNN Text-to-Speech (HDTs) Team,

Research Intern (Mentor: Eunwoo Song)

Sep. 2021 - Feb. 2022

Seoul National University, Music and Audio Research Group

Research Intern (Mentor: Juheon Lee)

Dec. 2020 - Feb. 2021

Honors and Awards

Scholarship

Hyundai On-dream Future Industrial Talent Scholarship

2023 - 2024

Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Foundation

- Full tuition and living expenses support for graduate studies

Cheonman Scholarship

2017 - 2022

Cheonman Scholarship Foundation

- Full tuition and living expenses support for undergraduate studies

Awards

Image Sound matching AI Competition, 2nd place (\$1500 as awards)

2022

National Information Society Agency (NIA)

Korean STT AI Competition, 5th place (\$3000 as awards)

2022

National Information Society Agency (NIA) and Hyundai Motor

Multi-Camera Multi-Object Tracking Challenge, 3rd place (\$500 as awards)

2022

Korean Conference on Computer Vision (KCCV) Workshop organized by 42dot

Teaching & Leadership Experience

Teaching Assistant: Data Science (COSE471), Korea University

Spring 2023

Club President: EE programming club (One and Zero), Korea University

2020 - 2021

Academic Services

Reviewer: CoRL2025, ICML2025, NeurIPS 2025, AISTATS 2025,