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Alex Chen

PhD Candidate in Computer Science

Education

2022–Present **PhD in Computer Science**, *Stanford University*, Stanford, CA, USA
Expected Graduation: May 2026. Advisor: Prof. Evelyn Reed. Specialization: Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing.

2020–2022 **M.S. in Computer Science**, *Stanford University*, Stanford, CA, USA
Thesis: "Advancements in Few-Shot Learning for Specialized Domains"

2016–2020 **B.S. in Computer Science**, *University of California, Berkeley*, Berkeley, CA, USA
Summa Cum Laude, Minor in Statistics

Awards and Honors

2024 Tom Wilson Leadership Award (Finalist)

2023 [COMPANY] PhD Fellowship (Fictive)

2022 Stanford Graduate Fellowship

2021 Scholarship (2.7%) $2,000 award.

2020 Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award, UC Berkeley

2019 Dean's High Honors List (Multiple Semesters), UC Berkeley

2018 ACM ICPC Regional Competitor

Academic Research Experiences

Summer 2024 **Student Researcher (Anticipated)**, *[COMPANY] Research*, Mountain View, CA (or Remote)
Working with [COMPANY] research scientists on open-ended exploratory projects in advanced machine learning algorithms and their applications.

2022–Present **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Stanford AI Lab (SAIL)*, Stanford, CA, USA

- Conducting research on robust and interpretable Natural Language Understanding models, focusing on cross-lingual transfer learning and commonsense reasoning.
- Developing novel deep learning architectures for efficient information extraction from large-scale unstructured text data.
- Collaborating with a team of 5 researchers, contributing to algorithm design, experimental setup, and manuscript preparation.
- Mentored junior PhD students in experimental design and paper writing.

2021–2022 **Master's Thesis Researcher**, *Stanford NLP Group*, Stanford, CA, USA

- Investigated and developed few-shot learning techniques for text classification in specialized domains with limited labeled data.
- Implemented and benchmarked various meta-learning algorithms, achieving state-of-the-art results on several internal datasets.

2019–2020 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, *Berkeley AI Research (BAIR) Lab*, Berkeley, CA, USA

- Assisted Prof. Ben Carter with projects on adversarial attacks and defenses for computer vision models.
- Contributed to the development of a new dataset for evaluating model robustness.

Publications

Chen, A., Lee, S., & Reed, E. (2024). "Cross-Lingual Alignment Strategies for Zero-Shot Commonsense Reasoning." *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*. (To Appear)

Chen, A., & Reed, E. (2023). "Efficient Transformers for Low-Resource Language Understanding." *Findings of Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. pp. 1234-1245.

Kim, J., **Chen, A.**, & Davis, M. (2023). "Probing the Limits of Pre-trained Language Models in Scientific Literature." *Workshop on Scholarly Document Processing, NeurIPS*.

Chen, A. (2022). "Advancements in Few-Shot Learning for Specialized Domains." *Stanford University M.S. Thesis Archive*.

Carter, B., **Chen, A.**, & Zhao, L. (2020). "A Benchmark for Evaluating Robustness of Object Detection Models to Synthetic Perturbations." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.XXXXX*.

Industry Experience

Summer 2023 **Machine Learning Research Intern**, *Leading AI Startup X*, Palo Alto, CA, USA

- Designed and implemented a novel recommendation system using graph neural networks, resulting in a 15% improvement in user engagement metrics.
- Collaborated with software engineering teams to integrate the ML model into the production environment.
- Presented research findings and model performance to senior leadership.

Internship Experience

Summer 2019 **Software Engineering Intern**, *Tech Solutions Inc.*, San Francisco, CA, USA

- Developed and tested new features for a large-scale data analytics platform using Python and Java.
- Participated in agile development sprints, code reviews, and system design discussions.
- Gained experience with cloud computing platforms (AWS).

Teaching Experience

Spring 2023 **Teaching Assistant**, *CS224N: Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning*, Stanford University
- Led weekly discussion sections for 30+ students, explaining complex concepts and guiding them through assignments.
- Graded homework, quizzes, and exams, providing constructive feedback.
- Held office hours and assisted students with project development.

Fall 2022 **Teaching Assistant**, *CS109: Introduction to Probability for Computer Scientists*, Stanford University
- Assisted in preparing course materials and grading assignments.
- Conducted review sessions before midterms and final exams.

Speaker Experience

2023 **Presenter, "Efficient Transformers for Low-Resource Language Understanding"**, *EMNLP 2023 Conference, Singapore*

2023 **Guest Lecturer, "Introduction to Meta-Learning"**, *Stanford CS330: Deep Multi-Task and Meta Learning*

2022 **Poster Presenter, "Few-Shot Learning for Medical Text Classification"**, *Bay Area NLP Meetup*

Academic Service

2023–Present **Reviewer**, *ACL, EMNLP, NeurIPS, ICML Conferences*

2023 **Volunteer**, *NeurIPS 2023 Conference, New Orleans*

2022–2023 **PhD Admissions Committee Student Representative**, *Stanford Computer Science Department*

2021 **Organizer**, *Stanford AI Lab Seminar Series*

DEI Panels

2025 **Panelist**, *Students Panel at The Bush School*

2024 **Panelist**, *"Navigating Academia as an Underrepresented PhD Student"*, Stanford School of Engineering DEI Summit

2023 **Participant**, *"Building Inclusive Research Environments" Workshop*, Stanford University

News and Other Coverage

2023 **"Stanford Researchers Tackle Language Barriers in AI"**, *Stanford Engineering News (Fictive article mentioning our EMNLP paper)*

2020 **"Berkeley Undergrad Shines in AI Robustness Research"**, *The Daily Californian (Fictive article about BAIR Lab project)*

Other Activities

2023–Present **Member**, *National Association of Students*

2022–Present **Member**, *Stanford Alpine Club, Stanford Cycling Team*

2016–2020 **Volunteer Tutor**, *Berkeley High School (Mathematics and Computer Science)*

Proficient in English (Fluent), Mandarin (Conversational)

Programming Languages: Python (Expert), Java (Proficient), C++ (Intermediate), JavaScript (Basic)

Frameworks/Libraries: TensorFlow, PyTorch, Scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy, Hugging Face Transformers

Developer Tools: Git, Docker, SLURM, AWS, GCP