

# Alex Chen

PhD Candidate in Computer Science

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## 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 Disability Award (Finalist)
- 2024 Disability Scholarship (2.7%) \$2,000 award.
- 2023 [COMPANY] PhD Fellowship (Fictive)
- 2022 Stanford Graduate Fellowship
- 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.

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## 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*.

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## 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.

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## 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).

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## 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.

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## 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*

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## 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*

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## DEI Panels

- 2025 **Panelist**, *Students with Disability 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

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## 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)

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## Other Activities

- 2023–Present **Member**, *National Association of Students with Disability*
- 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