Howard Yen

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EDUCATION

Princeton University — Princeton, NJ
Ph.D. in Computer Science, Advisor: Danqi Chen — 2024–Current

Princeton University — Princeton, NJ
M.S.E. in Computer Science, GPA: 4.00/4.00 — 2023–2024
Thesis: "Long-Context Language Modeling with Parallel Context Encoding", Advised by Danqi Chen.

Princeton University — Princeton, NJ
B.S.E. in Computer Science, Highest Honors (*summa cum laude*), GPA: 3.99/4.00 — 2019–2023
Honors: Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, Sigma Xi Book Award, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

* denotes equal contribution.

1. **Howard Yen**, Ashwin Paranjape, Mengzhou Xia, Thejas Venkatesh, Jack Hessel, Danqi Chen, Yuhao Zhang. "Lost in the Maze: Overcoming Context Limitations in Long-Horizon Agentic Search". *Preprint*, 2025. [Paper] [Code]

2. Jacqueline He, **Howard Yen***, Margaret Li*, Shuyue Stella Li, Zhiyuan Zeng, Weijia Shi, Yulia Tsvetkov, Danqi Chen, Pang Wei Koh, Luke Zettlemoyer. "Precise Information Control in Long-Form Text Generation". In *Proceedings of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2025. [Paper] [Code]

3. Wuwei Zhang, Fangcong Yin, **Howard Yen**, Danqi Chen, Xi Ye. "Query-Focused Retrieval Heads Improve Long-Context Reasoning and Re-ranking". In *Proceedings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2025. [Paper] [Code]

4. Xi Ye, Fangcong Yin, Yinghui He, Joie Zhang, **Howard Yen**, Tianyu Gao, Greg Durrett, and Danqi Chen. "LongProc: Benchmarking Long-Context Language Models on Long Procedural Generation". In *Proceedings of the Second Conference on Language Modeling*, 2025. [Paper] [Code] [Website]

5. Tianyu Gao*, Alexander Wettig*, **Howard Yen**, and Danqi Chen. "How to Train Long-Context Language Models (Effectively)". In *Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2025. [Paper] [Code]

6. Ryan Liu, **Howard Yen**, Raja Marjieh, Thomas L. Griffiths, and Ranjay Krishna. "Optimizing Interpersonal Communication by Simulating Audiences with Large Language Models". In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2025. [Paper] [Code]

7. **Howard Yen**, Tianyu Gao, Minmin Hou, Ke Ding, Daniel Fleischer, Peter Izsak, Moshe Wasserblat, and Danqi Chen. "HELMET: How to Evaluate Long-Context Language Models Effectively and Thoroughly". In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025. [Paper] [Code] [Website]

8. Hongjin Su*, **Howard Yen***, Mengzhou Xia*, Weijia Shi, Niklas Muennighoff, Han-yu Wang, Haisu Liu, Quan Shi, Zachary S. Siegel, Michael Tang, Ruoxi Sun, Jinsung Yoon, Sercan O. Arik, Danqi Chen, Tao Yu. "BRIGHT: A Realistic and Challenging Benchmark for Reasoning-Intensive Retrieval". In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025. **Spotlight, top 5.1%.** [Paper] [Code] [Website]

9. Kenneth Enevoldsen, Isaac Chung, Imene Kerboua, ..., **Howard Yen**, ..., Orion Weller, Siva Reddy, Niklas Muennighoff. "MMTEB: Massive Multilingual Text Embedding Benchmark". In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025. [Paper] [Code]

10. **Howard Yen**, Tianyu Gao, and Danqi Chen. "Long-Context Language Modeling with Parallel Context Encoding". In *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2024. [Paper] [Code]

11. Tianyu Gao, **Howard Yen**, Jiatong Yu, and Danqi Chen. "Enabling Large Language Models to Generate Text with Citations". In *Proceedings of the Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2023. [Paper] [Code]

12. **Howard Yen**, Tianyu Gao, Jinhyuk Lee, and Danqi Chen. "MoQA: Benchmarking Multi-Type Open-Domain Question Answering". In *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Dialogue and Conversational Question Answering (DialDoc) @ ACL*, 2023. **Oral.** [Paper] [Code]

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Samaya AI — Mountain View, California
PhD ML Research Intern — Summer 2025
Supervisors: Yuhao Zhang, Ashwin Paranjape, Jack Hessel

Meta Reality Labs — Seattle, Washington
Software Engineering Intern — Summer 2022

Facebook AI Applied Research — Menlo Park, California
Software Engineering Intern — Summer 2021

TEACHING

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** at Princeton University — Spring 2024
  Natural Language Processing (COS484)
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** at Princeton University — Fall 2023
  Introduction to Machine Learning (COS324)
- **Research Instructor** at Princeton University — Summer 2023
  Princeton AI4ALL Summer Camp
- **Undergraduate Course Assistant** at Princeton University — Spring 2022, Spring 2023
  Natural Language Processing (COS484)
- **Undergraduate Course Assistant** at Princeton University — Spring 2020 – Fall 2022
  Algorithms and Data Structures (COS226)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- The William A. Dippel '50 *55 Graduate Fellowship — 2025
- Outstanding Student Teaching Award — 2023
- International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) North America Finalist — 2021
- Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence — 2021
- Citadel Terminal Live 2nd Place — 2020
- North Dallas Toyota Scholarship — 2019

INVITED TALK

- NVIDIA, "HELMET: How to Evaluate Long-Context Language Models Effectively and Thoroughly" — 2024/10
- Sierra.AI, "Enabling Large Language Models to Generate Text with Citations" — 2023/08

Professional Services

Organizer

– ICML 2025 Workshop on Long Context Foundation Models (LCFM).

Reviewer

– Conference on Language Modeling (COLM): 2025.
– International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR): 2025, 2026.
– ACL Rolling Review (ARR): February 2025.
– ICML 2024 Workshop on Long Context Foundation Models (LCFM).