Howard Yen

Website: howard-yen.github.io Email: hyen@cs.princeton.edu Google Scholar: Howard Yen GitHub: github.com/howard-yen

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

Thesis: "How to Answer a Question? Rethinking Open-Domain Question Answering with Multi-Type Questions", Advised by Danqi Chen.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. 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". Preprint, 2025. [Paper] [Code]
- 2. 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". Preprint, 2024. [Paper] [Code]
- 3. Tianyu Gao*, Alexander Wettig*, **Howard Yen**, and Danqi Chen. "How to Train Long-Context Language Models (Effectively)". Preprint, 2024. [Paper][Code]
- 4. 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". Preprint, 2024. [Paper][Code]
- 5. **Howard Yen**, Tianyu Gao, and Danqi Chen. "Long-Context Language Modeling with Parallel Context Encoding". In Proc. of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2024. [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". Preprint, 2023. [Paper] [Code]
- 7. Tianyu Gao, **Howard Yen**, Jiatong Yu, and Danqi Chen. "Enabling Large Language Models to Generate Text with Citations". In Proc. of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2023. [Paper] [Code]
- 8. **Howard Yen**, Tianyu Gao, Jinhyuk Lee, and Danqi Chen. "MoQA: Benchmarking Multi-Type Open-Domain Question Answering". In Proc. of the 3rd Workshop on Dialogue and Conversational Question Answering (DialDoc) @ ACL, 2023. [Paper] [Code]

^{*} denotes equal contribution.

Industry Experience

Meta Reality Labs

Software Engineering Intern

Seattle, Washington Summer 2022

- Improved automatic speech recognition generalization with semantic-aware speech augmentation
- Investigated data augmentation techniques, such as pauses, word duplication, and semantic-aware phrase replacement, for training end-to-end automatic speech recognition and natural language understanding models. Our method achieved up to a 1% improvement on the Spoken Task Oriented Parsing (STOP) dataset.

Facebook AI Applied Research

Menlo Park, California Summer 2021

Software Engineering Intern

- Generalization of gradient approximation algorithms on downstream tasks

Analyzed gradient approximation algorithms, such as FetchSGD, for vision and language downstream tasks. We achieved more than 80% reduction in communication costs with less than 5% performance drop on CIFAR10, CelebA, and Sent140.

TEACHING

• Graduate Teaching Assistant at Princeton University
Natural Language Processing (COS484)

Spring 2024

• Graduate Teaching Assistant at Princeton University Introduction to Machine Learning (COS324) Fall 2023

• Research Instructor at Princeton University Princeton AI4ALL Summer Camp Summer 2023

• Undergraduate Course Assistant at Princeton University
Natural Language Processing (COS484)

Spring 2022, Spring 2023

• Undergraduate Course Assistant at Princeton University

Algorithms and Data Structures (COS226)

Spring 2020 – Fall 2022

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

•	Tau Beta Pi	2023
•	Sigma Xi	2023
•	Sigma Xi Book Award	2023
•	Phi Beta Kappa	2022-2023
•	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