

Laerdon Kim

<https://laerdon.github.io/>
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Education

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|---|---|
| Cornell University <i>Mathematics and Computer Science. GPA: 4.18/4.0</i> | Aug 2024 – Expected May 2027 <i>Ithaca, NY</i> |
| Phillips Academy Andover <i>GPA: 5.75/6.0. Dean's List.</i> Harold J. Sheridan Award for Athletics. Martin Luther King Jr. Award. | Sep 2020 – Jun 2024 <i>Andover, MA</i> |

Research Experience

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| Researcher <i>Cornell University, Zissou Lab</i> | Sep 2024 – Present <i>Ithaca, NY</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Developing models for forecasting online conversational dynamics and toxicity escalation, using “pivotal moments” as supervisory signals.– Solo-authored NAACL 2025 CLPsych Workshop paper; built evaluation pipeline for LLM span identification of self-states in mental health data. System ranked 3rd/14. Automated training workflows with Bash scripting on Linux HPC clusters.– Designed PIVDelay, a novel fine-tuning technique reducing false positives by 13% in toxicity forecasting. Presented results at the BURE Symposium. | |
| Researcher <i>Cornell University, CornellNLP</i> | Sep 2024 – Present <i>Ithaca, NY</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Co-authored EMNLP 2025 Main paper exposing a limitations of state-of-the-art lexical semantic change detection methods and proposing a new evaluation metric based on performance “in the wild.”– Designed clustering-based evaluation methods for semantic change, reducing error rates in discovery tasks.– Conducted paper replication study on false positive suppression method proposed by Liu et al., 2021. | |
| Visiting Researcher <i>Illinois Institute of Technology</i> | Jun 2024 – Aug 2024 <i>Chicago, IL</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Implemented custom CUDA fused attention and LayerNorm kernels for diffusion models, achieving 1.2× inference speedup.– Explored z-score and absolute-value threshold outlier masking on LLaMA 2, lowering perplexity by 6% and memory use by 13%.– Re-implemented SmoothQuant and LLM-AWQ on OPT-8B for text completion inference. | |

Other Experience

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| Academic Team Lead <i>Association of Computer Science Undergraduates</i> | Sep 2024 – Present <i>Ithaca, NY</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Lead Cornell CS Reading Group (~10 students), covering ML theory papers and fostering research-oriented discussion.– Organize academic events for hundreds of undergraduates in the CS community. | |

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| Maintainer | Sep 2024 – Present |
| <i>ConvoKit (Open-source NLP Package)</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Built modular wrapper for HuggingFace/custom models; modernized backend forecasting with Docker; wrote 6 demo notebooks. – Engineered CI/CD pipelines, added 4 datasets, reviewed and merged PRs. | |
| Outreach Intern | Jul 2023 – Sep 2023 |
| <i>Office of State Senator Robert Martwick</i> | <i>Chicago, IL</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Led census-based canvass across 87 neighborhoods. – Used Python, NGPVan, and VoteBuilder to expand access to social services for 135k constituents. | |
| Software Engineering Intern | May 2023 – Aug 2023 |
| <i>Innocuous AI</i> | <i>Remote</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developed startup website and branded landing page in React/Node.js, reducing latency by 40% with bundled assets. – Designed custom visual assets in Figma and Photoshop for VC presentations. | |

Publications & Presentations

Khonzoda Umarova, Lillian Lee, Laerdon Kim. *Current Semantic-change Quantification Methods Struggle with Discovery in the Wild.* EMNLP 2025 Main.

Laerdon Kim. *A Baseline for Self-state Identification and Classification in Mental Health Data: CLPsych 2025 Task.* NAACL CLPsych Workshop. PI: Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil. arXiv:2504.14066

Laerdon Kim, Jenny Jin, Ajahla Jefferson, Tina Zeng, Brian Chica-Herrera. “Social Mobility in the Mission Hill/Roxbury Area.” Opportunity Insights Lab, Harvard University, May 2024.

Laerdon Kim. “Altruism and Our Kinship Crisis.” TEDx Presentation, Andover, MA, Apr 2024.

Honors

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| University of Oxford Human-AI Interaction Lab Cosmos Grantee | 2025 |
| <i>Cosmos Institute</i> | \$4,500 awarded |
| Bowers-CIS Undergraduate Research Experience Fellow | 2025 |
| <i>Cornell University</i> | \$7,000 awarded |
| Milstein Scholar in Technology and Humanity | 2024 |
| <i>Cornell University</i> | |
| 1st Place, MIT AI+Education Hackathon | 2024 |
| <i>MIT</i> | |
| National Latin Exam, Summa Cum Laude | 2022 |
| <i>American Classical League</i> | |

Skills

Languages: Python (proficient), Java (proficient), Swift (proficient), C++ (intermediate),
HTML/JS/TS/CSS (proficient)

Tools: PyTorch, TensorFlow, CUDA, Supabase, AWS, SQL, PostgreSQL, React, Vue, Tailwind,
Flask, Docker, Kubernetes, Git, Linux

Familiar with common ML libraries: scikit-learn, pandas, numpy, seaborn, huggingface
transformers