Laerdon Kim

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Education

Cornell University   Aug 2024 – Expected May 2027
Mathematics and Computer Science. GPA: 4.13/4.0   *Ithaca, NY*

Phillips Academy Andover   Sep 2020 – Jun 2024
GPA: 5.75/6.0. Dean's List.   *Andover, MA*
Harold J. Sheridan Award for Athletics. Martin Luther King Jr. Award.

Research Experience

Researcher   Jun 2025 – Aug 2025
Cornell University, CornellNLP   *Ithaca, NY*

– 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.

Researcher   Sep 2024 – Present
Cornell University, Zissou Lab   *Ithaca, NY*

– 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.

Visiting Researcher   Jun 2024 – Aug 2024
Illinois Institute of Technology   *Chicago, IL*

– 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

Academic Team Lead   Sep 2024 – Present
Association of Computer Science Undergraduates   *Ithaca, NY*

– 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.

Maintainer   Sep 2024 – Present
ConvoKit (Open-source NLP Package)

- 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
Office of State Senator Robert Martwick   *Chicago, IL*

- 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
Innocuous AI   *Remote*

- 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, <u>Laerdon Kim</u>. *Current semantic-change quantification methods struggle with semantic change discovery in the wild.* EMNLP 2025 Main.

<u>Laerdon Kim</u>. *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

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

<u>Laerdon Kim</u>. "Altruism and Our Kinship Crisis." TEDx Presentation, Andover, MA, Apr 2024.

Honors

University of Oxford Human-AI Interaction Lab Cosmos Grantee   2025
Cosmos Institute   *$4,500 awarded*

Bowers-CIS Undergraduate Research Experience Fellow   2025
Cornell University   *$7,000 awarded*

Milstein Scholar in Technology and Humanity   2024
Cornell University

1st Place, MIT AI+Education Hackathon   2024
MIT

National Latin Exam, Summa Cum Laude   2022
American Classical League

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