Jaejun Brandon **Lee**

Computer Vision · Natural Language Processing · Speech Recognition · Robotics

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Introduction

Drawing from seven years of research experience across computer vision, speech recognition, natural language processing, and robotics, I believe that multi-modal representation learning is not only effective in capturing knowledge about our world but also in controlling and interpreting a model's internal representations. With that in mind, **I am particularly interested in building a vision system that perceives the world as humans do, leveraging the effective alignment of visual and textual data**.

Education

University of Waterloo
Waterloo, ON, Canada

Master of Mathematics in Computer Science, Advisor: Dr. Jimmy Lin — *2020*

- Thesis title: In-Browser Personalization for Ubiquitous Keyword Spotting
- Research area: Information retrieval and deep learning (natural language processing & speech recognition)

University of Waterloo
Toronto, ON, Canada

Bachelor of Computer Science — *2018*

- Completed co-operative program and graduated with distinction
- Recipient of President's Scholarship and Faculty of Mathematics Scholarship

Scholarships

2013-2018	**Scholarship**, Faculty of Mathematics Scholarship, University of Waterloo	*value of CAD 25,000*
2013	**Scholarship**, President's Scholarship, University of Waterloo	*value of CAD 2,000*
2013	**Scholarship**, Winnipeg North Rotary Club Scholarship	*value of CAD 5,000*
2013	**Scholarship**, Loblaw Scholarship	*value of CAD 1,500*

Experience

Research Scientist
Markham, ON, Canada

Epson Canada - Computer Vision & Robotics Lab — *Mar. 2023 - Present*

- Conducting research to develop a novel interpretable 2D object and attribute detection system designed for non-expert users.
  - Invented a two-stage adapter-based domain adaptation method that utilizes a contrastive loss focused on hard-negative samples.
  - Enabling effective verification of the model's representations by establishing a strong understanding of primitive concepts.
- Proposed and developed a prompt-based 2D keypoint detection pipeline that eliminates keypoint-specific training needs while remaining robust in multi-instance scenarios (a first-author paper under review for TAI [14]).

Lead Research Scientist
Toronto, ON, Canada

Roboeye.ai — *Jul. 2021 - Mar. 2023*

- Developed a real-time (<1 sec) 6D pose estimation pipeline integrating latest computer vision techniques.
  - Point cloud reconstruction + instance segmentation (Mask R-CNN & DetectoRS) + pose estimation (FCGF-based RANSAC & PVN3D) + pose refinement (ICP) + detection filtering (3D NMS).
- Led a team of 20+ engineers in deploying and maintaining 50+ bin-picking systems for continuous operation without failure.

Research Scientist
Toronto, ON, Canada

Roboeye.ai — *Mar. 2020 - Jul. 2021*

- Implemented an intuitive vision-driven bin-picking solution leveraging a 6D pose estimation pipeline.
  - Fully automated online model training system using PyTorch, NVIDIA Isaac Sim, OpenCV, and AWS.
  - C++ application designed for bin-picking tasks using ROS, Qt5, Protobuf, OpenCV, and PCL.
  - Online object detection performance tracking system using AWS, Docker, W&B, Django.

Research Scientist
Remote

Mozilla - Emerging Technologies Team — *Mar. 2020 - Oct. 2020*

- Developed a wake-word detection system for Firefox, Howl, publishing a first-author paper at an EMNLP 2020 workshop [4].
- Integrated Howl with Firefox Voice to provide a completely hands-free experience to over 8,000 users.

Research Scientist Intern
Mountain View, CA, USA

Samsung Research America - Visual Display Intelligence Lab
Apr. 2019 - Aug. 2019

- Invented a novel co-clustering algorithm leveraging GANs, resulting in a first-author paper at ICME 2021 [3] and two patents [10, 11].
  - Proposed combining two modality-specific InfoGANs to maximize mutual information between the modalities, identifying unique clusters within dual-modal data that are challenging to detect from a single-modality perspective.
  - Integrated into a recommendation system that captures complex relationships between TV programs and viewers.

Graduate Student Researcher
Waterloo, ON, Canada

University of Waterloo - Data Systems Group, Advisor: Prof. Jimmy Lin
Sep. 2018 - Dec. 2019

- Honkling: Personalized Keyword Spotting System – two first-author papers at EMNLP 2019 [7] and IUI 2019 [9].
  - Implemented keyword spotting with convolutional neural networks in pure JavaScript that runs in any standards-compliant browser.
  - Applied fine-tuning based accent adaptation and studied its efficiency in the browser.
- Efficient Domain Adaptation of Language Models
  - Investigated the effects of freezing various BERT layers for multi-task and multilingual tasks – a first-author manuscript [12].
  - Developed memory- and latency-efficient inference techniques for BERT – a paper at ACL 2020 [6].

Undergraduate Research Assistant
Waterloo, ON, Canada

University of Waterloo - Advisor: Prof. Jimmy Lin
May. 2018 - Aug. 2018

- Studied the suitability of JavaScript as an environment for deep learning execution – a first-author manuscript [13].

Software Engineer Intern
Menlo Park, CA, USA

Meta (Facebook) - Dynamic Ads Infrastructure
Jan. 2018 - Apr. 2018

- Applied KNN algorithms on product-level and user-level embeddings to enhance the quality of personalized advertisements.
- Redesigned the advertisements selection pipeline to retrieve user embeddings at an earlier stage, reducing loading time by 7%.

Undergraduate Research Assistant
Waterloo, ON, Canada

University of Waterloo - Advisor: Prof. Ken Salem
Sep. 2017 - Dec. 2017

- Implemented an RDD usage report generator for Spark and analyzed the impact of caching replacement policies on performance.

Undergraduate Research Assistant
Waterloo, ON, Canada

University of Waterloo - Advisor: Prof. Khuzaima Daudjee
Sep. 2017 - Dec. 2017

- Analyzed latency and throughputs of Apache Storm and Spark Streaming; benchmarked against TPCx-IoT specifications.

Software Engineer Intern
Palo Alto, CA, USA

Uber - Complex Data Processing / Spark Team
May. 2017 - Aug. 2017

- Integrated TensorFlowOnSpark on Uber's infrastructure and evaluated its stability.
- Transformed MLlib pipeline into a Spark job with TensorFlow; reduced training time from 33 to 3 hours.

Software Engineer Intern
Toronto, ON, Canada

Zynga Inc - Central Technology Organization
Aug. 2016 - Dec. 2016

- Developed a new architecture for the internal search system.
  - Improved data integrity led to 30% increase in search usage (Amazon Elasticsearch, Amazon Kinesis Streams and Amazon SQS).

Software Engineer Intern
Waterloo, ON, Canada

SAP - Emerging Technologies Team
Jan. 2016 - Apr. 2016

- Designed and developed a distributed SQLA back-end system with support for the OData protocol.
- Integrated Robot framework, an automated testing tool, to reduce QA cycle from 3 days to 4 hours.

Software Engineer Intern
Toronto, ON, Canada

Mozzaz Corporation
May. 2015 - Aug. 2015

- Developed a cross-platform web application using Cordova and Angular.js; performed back-end development with C#.

Publications and Patents

* equal contribution

Publications

[1] Hwayeon Danielle Shin*, **Jaejun Lee***, Federica Guccini. Mining Public Voices: Analyzing Suicide Related Thoughts and Behaviors in YouTube Videos and Comments Using Topic Modeling. ***FHLIP***, 2025

[2] Tomasz Palczewski*, **Jaejun Lee***, Lenin Mookiah*. Production-Ready Applied Deep Learning. ***Packt Publishing***, ISBN: 9781803238050, 1803238054, 2022

[3] **Jaejun Lee**, Hyun Chul Lee, Tomasz Palczewski. CI-GAN: Co-Clustering By Information Maximizing Generative Adversarial Networks. ***ICME***, 2021

[4] Raphael Tang*, **Jaejun Lee***, Afsaneh Razi, Julia Cambre, Ian Bicking, Jofish Kaye, Jimmy Lin. Howl: A Deployed, Open-Source Wake Word Detection System. ***EMNLP-NLPOSS***, 2020

[5] Raphael Tang, **Jaejun Lee**, Ji Xin, Xinyu Liu, Yaoliang Yu, Jimmy Lin. Showing Your Work Doesn't Always Work. ***ACL***, 2020

[6] Ji Xin, Raphael Tang, **Jaejun Lee**, Yaoliang Yu, Jimmy Lin. DeeBERT: Dynamic Early Exiting for Accelerating BERT Inference. ***ACL***, 2020

[7] **Jaejun Lee**, Raphael Tang, Jimmy Lin. Honkling: In-Browser Personalization for Ubiquitous Keyword Spotting. ***EMNLP-IJCNLP***, 2019

[8] Ryan Clancy, **Jaejun Lee**, Zeynep Akkalyoncu Yilmaz, Jimmy Lin. Information Retrieval Meets Scalable Text Analytics: Solr Integration with Spark. ***SIGIR***, 2019

[9] **Jaejun Lee**, Raphael Tang, Jimmy Lin. Universal Voice-Enabled User Interfaces using JavaScript. ***IUI***, 2019

Patents

[10] **Jaejun Lee**, Hyun Chul Lee, Tomasz Palczewski. Co-Informatic Generative Adversarial Networks for Efficient Data Co-Clustering. ***International Patent***, Pub. WO/2021/066530, 2021

[11] **Jaejun Lee**, Hyun Chul Lee, Tomasz Palczewski. Co-Informatic Generative Adversarial Networks for Efficient Data Co-Clustering. ***US Patent***, Pub. 20210097372, 2021

Manuscripts

[12] **Jaejun Lee**, Raphael Tang, Jimmy Lin. What Would Elsa Do? Freezing Layers During Transformer Fine-Tuning. *arXiv*: 1911.03090, 2019

[13] **Jaejun Lee**, Raphael Tang, Jimmy Lin. JavaScript Convolutional Neural Networks for Keyword Spotting in the Browser: An Experimental Analysis. *arXiv*: 1810.12859, 2018

Under Review

[14] **Jaejun Lee**, Aristide Tossou, Sandra Wang, Dibyendu Mukherjee. LAM: Few-Shot Random Keypoint Detection in Any Scene through Open-set Object Segmentation. ***TAI***

Presentation

2025 Future of Health Leadership, Informatics and Policy (FHLIP) Conference — *Toronto, ON, Canada*
Oral Presentation — *Feb., 2025*
- Mining Public Voices: Analyzing Suicide Related Thoughts and Behaviors in YouTube Videos and Comments Using Topic Modeling.

2024 American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium — *San Francisco, CA, USA*
Poster Presentation — *Nov., 2024*
- Analyzing YouTube Videos on Suicide-Related Thoughts and Behaviours: A Study Using Topic Modeling and Discourse Analysis.

2024 IHPME Research and Impact Day — *Toronto, ON, Canada*
Oral Presentation — *Apr., 2024*
- Analyzing YouTube Videos on Suicide-Related Thoughts and Behaviours: A Study Using Topic Modeling and Discourse Analysis.

Epson's Global Information Sharing Meeting — *Virtual*
Oral Presentation — *Apr., 2024*
- Advances in Large Vision and Language Models Driven by Prompt Engineering for Efficient Domain Adaptation.

2024 Annual Meeting of the Society for Digital Mental Health — *Virtual*
Poster Presentation — *Apr., 2024*
- Analyzing YouTube Videos on Suicide-Related Thoughts and Behaviours: A Study Using Topic Modeling and Discourse Analysis.

Epson's Canadian Information Sharing Meeting — *Markham, ON, Canada*
Oral Presentation — *Nov., 2023*
- Enhancing 2D Object Detection Efficiency through Prompt Engineering.

2nd Workshop for Natural Language Processing Open Source Software (NLP-OSS) — *Virtual*
Poster Presentation — *Nov., 2020*
- Howl: A Deployed, Open-Source Wake Word Detection System.

2019 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) and 9th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (IJCNLP) — *Hong Kong, China*
Poster Presentation — *Nov., 2019*
- Honkling: In-Browser Personalization for Ubiquitous Keyword Spotting.

24th International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI) — *Los Angeles, CA, USA*
Poster Presentation — *Mar., 2019*
- Universal Voice-Enabled User Interfaces using JavaScript.

Professional Development

Teaching Assistantship

CS 452/652 – Real-time Programming *Waterloo, ON, Canada*
University of Waterloo, Instructed by Prof. Bill Cowan *Fall 2019*

CS 480/680 – Introduction to Machine Learning *Waterloo, ON, Canada*
University of Waterloo, Instructed by Prof. Edith Law *Winter 2019*

CS 451/651 – Data Intensive Distributed Computing *Waterloo, ON, Canada*
University of Waterloo, Instructed by Prof. Jimmy Lin *Fall 2018*

- Led weekly discussion sessions consisting of 10∼20 students and held office hours each week to assist those who needed additional support.
- Graded assignments and exams, and conducted exam preparation sessions.

Academic & Professional Mentorship

Allen Tao *Markham, ON, Canada*
Research Intern *May. 2024 - Present*

- Mentoring a research project on few-shot object and attribute detection.

Sandra Wang *Markham, ON, Canada*
Research Intern *Mar. 2023 - May. 2024*

- Mentored research projects on 3D scene understanding and few-shot keypoint detection (one paper under review for TAI [14]).

Xinyu (Mavis) Liu *Waterloo, ON, Canada*
Undergraduate Research Assistant *Jan. 2018 - Aug. 2018*

- Mentored a research project on keyword spotting.