Tra My (Chiffon) Nguyen

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Current and future AI systems that reflect and support diverse human experiences: **socio-technical AI alignment** (pluralistic alignment, scalable oversight, evaluation), multilingual and multicultural AI, socially responsible AI, and AI ethics.

EDUCATION

Minerva University, College of Computational Sciences   Sep 2021 — May 2025
B.Sc in Computational Sciences (Machine Learning and Statistics), GPA: 3.7/4.0   *San Francisco, CA, USA*

- Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning (A), AI Ethics, Bayesian Modeling (A), Statistical Modeling and Causal Inference (A), Optimization Methods (A), Probability and Statistics (A-), Software Engineering
- Global Rotation: Seoul (South Korea), Chinese Taipei, Hyderabad (India), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Berlin (Germany)
- Self-study: Technical AI Alignment (ARENA, 2025), Introduction to AI Alignment (Bluedot Impact, 2025)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

AI Research Collaborator   Nov 2025 — Present
Cohere Labs Community (Advisor: Ilia Badanin)   *Remote*

- Topic: Multilingual token optimization via cross-lingual embedding alignment

AI Safety Research Mentee   Oct 2025 — Present
Algoverse AI Research (Advisor: Yeonwoo Jang)   *Remote*

- Topic: Scaling behavior of chain-of-thought monitoring in white-box models

Machine Learning Research Assistant   Jun 2024 — Aug 2024
AI & Mixed Reality Lab, Landshut University of Applied Sciences   *Landshut, Bavaria, Germany*

- Advisors: Prof. Sandra Eisenreich and Prof. Eduard Kromer
- Topic: 3D object detection with PointPillars algorithm on standard and synthetic LiDAR point cloud datasets

Causal Inference Research Intern (Replication and Extension)   Nov 2023 — Dec 2023
Minerva University (Advisor: Prof. Alexis Diamond)   *Remote*

- Replicated and extended Chrisinger (2021)'s analysis of Philadelphia's SNAP benefit redemption in R, analyzing policy impacts across 4 counties and 50+ months of longitudinal data
- Identified critical limitations in dataset reliability and magnitude discrepancies between original and replicated results
- Conducted new leave-one-out robustness analysis on synthetic control models, showing model instability

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- **Curious Cardinals**, *Passion Project & Executive Functioning*, High School Mentor   Nov 2025 - Present
- **Minerva University**, *PR51 Programming with Python*, Lead Peer Tutor and Data Analyst   Spring 2025
- **Minerva University**, *FA51 Algorithmic Thinking and Game Theory*, Lead Teaching Assistant   Spring 2023, 2024
- **Minerva University**, *FA50 Formal Logic, Probability and Statistics*, Lead Teaching Assistant   Fall 2022, 2023

LEADERSHIP & OPEN-SOURCE

Coreteam & Lead Design Engineer @ SEACrowd   Aug 2025 - Present
Evals Contributor @ Humane Bench   Oct 2025

SELECTED PROJECTS

More projects on mychiffonn.com/projects and github.com/mychiffonn

SportConnect: Connect Through Local Sport Events (github.com/mychiffonn/sport-connect)   Nov 2025
Scalable web application connecting users to local recreational sports events, featuring secure multi-provider OAuth authentication, comprehensive event management, easy event discovery and filtering, and real-time RSVP tracking. Two-person full-stack project with TypeScript, React, Express, PostgreSQL, TailwindCSS, DaisyUI, and BetterAuth.

Academic Portfolio Theme for Researchers (github.com/mychiffonn/website)   Aug 2025 — Oct 2025

High-performance academic theme, enabling fast, accessible, and multilingual publishing of publications and technical blogs while ensuring top-tier SEO (99) and Lighthouse (100) scores using Astro, TailwindCSS, and shadcn/ui

Mnemonic Generation for Vocabulary Learning (github.com/mychiffonn/mnemonic-gen)   Oct 2024 — Mar 2025

- Designed an AI chatbot that generated diverse and memorable mnemonic devices for learning and retaining vocabulary, synthesizing 50+ papers across linguistics, psycholinguistics, language education, and large language models
- Utilized chain-of-thought distillation from a teacher model (DeepSeekR1) to instill linguistic chain-of-though reasoning to a student model (Gemma3-1b) through supervised fine-tuning
- Implemented a Direct Preference Optimization (DPO) pipeline for preference modeling on Gemma3-1b using 500 human and LLM-annotated preference pairs (on memorability, imageability, and retention rates)

CERTIFICATES

- **Advanced Web Development**, CodePath (drive.google.com/file/d/1n4dHj4TFM8HWlDXMTt9ZGjEXVIpkP-F-)
- **Natural Language Specialization**, deeplearning.ai (coursera.org/verify/specialization/3FJ3W7QJX8GK)   Nov 2023
- **Applied Data Science**, World Quant University (credly.com/badges/2e1e6902-aae4-47c4-97e2-0ad9265e5561) Aug 2023
- **Machine Learning Specialization**, deeplearning.ai (coursera.org/verify/specialization/G9898XKB9EAV)   Jun 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages**: Python, TypeScript, SQL, R, Bash
- **Machine Learning**: PyTorch, Inspect, unsloth, trl, nnsight/nnterp, scikit-learn, LangGraph, LlamaIndex
- **Web Development**: Astro, React, FastAPI, Flask, Express.js, PostgreSQL, TailwindCSS, shadcn/ui
- **Tools & DevOps**: Git, Docker, Render, Netlify, LaTeX, Zotero, Typst