

Tim Hua

Website: timhua.me Alignment Forum: [Tim Hua](#)

EDUCATION

Middlebury College

BA, *summa cum laude*, Economics (GPA 3.97/4.00)

D.K. Smith Economics Prize for best thesis (*Fox News's Effect on Social and Moral Preferences*).

- Thesis cited by Harvard economist Benjamin Enke in [Moral Boundaries](#)

Middlebury, VT

May 2023

Harvard College

Visiting Undergraduate Student (GPA: 4.0/4.0)

- Took coursework in economics, math, and statistics

Cambridge, MA

2021 - 2022 School Year

RESEARCH

Steering Evaluation Aware Models to Act Like They Are Deployed [[arXiv](#), [Alignment Forum](#)]

Tim Hua*, Andrew Qin*, Samuel Marks*, Neel Nanda*

NeurIPS 2025 Mechanistic Interpretability workshop

- Trained model organisms that would act differently in evaluation versus in deployment.
- Made AIs act like they are deployed using activation steering in settings where simple prompting fails.

Discovering Backdoor Triggers [[Alignment Forum](#)]

Andrew Qin*, Tim Hua*, Samuel Marks*, Arthur Conmy*, Neel Nanda*

- Devised methods to uncover triggers to “semantic backdoors” in language models with mixed results.

Combining Cost-Constrained Runtime Monitors for AI Safety [[arXiv](#), [Alignment Forum](#)]

Tim Hua, James Baskerville, Mia Hopman*, Henri Lemoine*, Aryan Bhatt, Tyler Tracy

NeurIPS 2025

- Developed theory and empirical demonstrations on how to optimally combine monitors with different cost and performance profiles.

AI Induced Psychosis: A Shallow Investigation [[LessWrong](#)]

Tim Hua

- Created simulated conversations between AIs and users experiencing psychosis and found concerning sycophantic behavior.
- Received coverage from media outlets ([Business Insider](#), [Futurism](#)) and bloggers ([Zvi](#), [Tyler Cowen](#))

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Neel Nanda and Sam Marks's MATS Scholar

Scholar

Berkeley, CA

Apr 2025 – Current

Tyler Tracy's MARS Mentee in AI Control

Researcher

Berkeley, CA

Jan 2025 – June 2025

Alice Rigg's AI Safety Camp Mentee in Mechanistic Interpretability

Researcher

Remote

Jan 2025 – June 2025

Walmart Economics Team

Manager, Economist

New York, NY

Intern in summer 2022, full time July 2023 – Aug 2024

Brookings Institution

Research Assistant for Professor Carol Graham

Remote

June 2021 – May 2022