

EDUCATION

PhD Computer Science

Apr 2026

*University of Washington, advised by Yejin Choi**Seattle, WA***MS Computer Science; 4.00**

Aug 2022

*Brigham Young University, advised by David Wingate**Provo, UT*

Incomplete - left to pursue PhD

- GRE, 169 / 170 Quantitative (96th percentile), 165 / 170 Verbal (96th percentile)

BS Applied and Computational Mathematics; 3.89

Apr 2021

*Brigham Young University**Provo, UT*

- ACT, 36 / 36 (99.8th percentile)

EXPERIENCE

Yejin Choi's Xlab, University of Washington - Research Assistant

Sep 2022 - Present

- Researching LLMs, commonsense reasoning, morality+AI, model distillation, and NLP for social good
- Spear-headed joint CS+Philosophy work on value pluralism
- Interest in computational democracy and AI+society

Allen Institute for AI

June 2023 - Sep 2023

- Accepted at AAAI '24. (paper)
- Project exploring AI system's ability to model pluralistic human values, mentored by Chandra Bhagavatula

Perception, Control, and Cognition Laboratory - Research Assistant

Apr 2020 - Sep 2022

- PNAS Paper exploring AI's potential to improve democratic discourse (co-first author, PNAS)
- Demonstrated the effectiveness of mutual information as a prompt selection criterion on 8 datasets and 7 models (first author, ACL)
- Engineered psychology-backed automatic rephrasing technique with GPT-3 to aid productivity of online conversations in collaboration with social scientists at Duke and BYU (in human trials)
- Developed and validated effective prompt compression technique up to 100x for large language models (in review, EMNLP)
- Controlled difficult soft robot in real-time by combining first-principles physics and deep learning (Frontiers in Robotics and AI)
- Contributed to open-source NLP data augmentation library (paper)

Enveda Biosciences - Data Science Intern

Aug 2022 - Sep 2022

- Improved mass spectrometry to chemical structure machine translation model's validation performance by 5% using backtranslation (currently being worked into a paper and deployment)

Double River Investments - Machine Learning Engineer

Jun 2020 - Aug 2021

- Informed live-traded quantitative investment model with transformer-based neural network, combining recent work by implementing and validating 5 research papers
- Deployed production pipeline so model could be used in real time by multi-million dollar hedge fund

Gray Falcon - Deep Learning Consultant

Dec 2019 - Apr 2020

- Sold NLP class project to company for \$10k by solving a crucial business need, saving thousands of man-hours monthly

Math Department, BYU - Competitive Coding Instructor

Jan 2020 - Apr 2020

- Taught 18 students three times a week by developing coursework from scratch
- Helped place several students at top jobs and internships by refining their coding interview skills

Computer Vision - Research Assistant

Feb 2019 - Dec 2019

- Awarded top prize in student research conference for work in pose correspondence
- Developed human-led, AI-assisted video annotation website to be used by MTurk workers

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- **Sorensen***, Argyle*, Bail*, Busby*, Gubler*, Howe*, Rytting*, Wingate* (2023) Leveraging AI for democratic discourse: Chat interventions can improve online political conversations at scale. *Published in PNAS*. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2311627120>. **Equal Contribution*
- **Sorensen**, Jiang, Hwang, Levine, Pyatkin, West, Dziri, Lu, Rao, Bhagavatula, Sap, Tasioulas, Choi (2023) Value Kaleidoscope: Engaging AI with Pluralistic Human Values, Rights, and Duties. *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 38 <https://arxiv.org/abs/2309.00779>
- **Sorensen**, Robinson, Rytting, Shaw, Rogers, Delorey, Khalil, Fulda, Wingate (2022) An Information Theoretic Approach to Prompt Engineering Without Ground Truth Labels. *Association for Computational Linguistics, 2022* <https://aclanthology.org/2022.acl-long.60/>
- West, Le Bras, **Sorensen**, Lee, Jiang, Lu, Chandu, Hessel, Baheti, Bhagavatula, Choi (2023) NovaCOMET: Open Commonsense Foundation Models with Symbolic Knowledge Distillation *Findings of EMNLP 2023*.
- Wingate, Shoeybi, **Sorensen** (2022) Prompt Compression and Contrastive Conditioning for Controllability and Toxicity Reduction in Language Models. *Findings of EMNLP 2022*. <https://aclanthology.org/2022.findings-emnlp.412/>
- Jung, West, Jiang, Brahman, Lu, Fisher, **Sorensen**, Choi (2023) Impossible Distillation: from Low-Quality Model to High-Quality Dataset Model for Summarization and Paraphrasing. *In review*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.16635>
- Rytting, **Sorensen**, Argyle, Busby, Fulda, Gubler, Wingate (2023) Towards Coding Social Science Datasets with Language Models. *Arxiv Preprint* <https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.02177>
- Dhole, Gangal, ..., **Sorensen** (2021) NL-Augmenter: A Framework for Task-Sensitive Natural Language Augmentation <https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.02721>
- Johnson, Quackenbush, **Sorensen**, Wingate, and Killpack (2021) Using First Principles for Deep Learning and Model-Based Control of Soft Robots. *Front. Robot. AI* 8:654398. doi: 10.3389/frobt.2021.654398 <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frobt.2021.654398/full>

SERVICE

Reviewer at AAAI'24, EMNLP'23, Neurips'23, EMNLP'22

Program Committee Member - Neurips 2023 MP2: AI meets moral philosophy and moral psychology

SKILLS

Python, PyTorch, Huggingface, Numpy, Pandas, SQL, Unix/Bash, Git, LaTeX, Docker

Some proficiency in Tensorflow, Julia, Java, C++, data scraping, and web development

RELEVANT PROJECTS

Solve Reinforcement Learning Environments: Used several DL/ML techniques to solve complex control environments from OpenAI's gym, including implementing Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO) from scratch

Deepfake Detector Facebook Competition: Implemented 3D-CNN and CNN/LSTM from scratch to classify video data as real or synthetic, achieving 83% validation accuracy ([link](#))

App Game Development: Independently programmed and released a game on the App Store for iPhone called Flux Ball (10,000+ downloads)