

## Education

- 2021-Now **Ph.D. in Computer Science**, The University of Texas at Austin.  
○ Advised by [Ray Mooney](#).  
○ Expected Graduation: 05/26
- 2017-2018 **M.Sc. in Computer Science**, Brown University, Providence, RI.  
○ Co-advised by [Stefanie Tellex](#) and [George Konidaris](#).
- 2013-2017 **B.Sc. in Computer Science**, Brown University, Providence, RI.

## Research Experience

- 2021-Now **Machine Learning Research Group - UT Austin**  
Ph.D. Student.  
**Focus Areas:** Grounded natural language processing, reinforcement learning, robotics; Language-driven agents interacting in complex environments.
- 2020-Now **Blackbird.AI**  
AI Scientist '24 & Consultant/ML Engineer '20-'23.  
**Focus Areas:** Multimodal agents for information retrieval, embeddings.
- 2019-2020 **Luminoso Technologies Inc.**  
Machine Learning Engineer.  
**Focus Areas:** Language models for semantic networks; ConceptNet.
- 2017-2019 **Humans to Robots Lab – Brown University**  
Research Assistant; Advised by Stefanie Tellex and George Konidaris.  
**Focus Areas:** Language instruction following for manipulation, human-robot interaction, language grounding.
- 2016-2017 **Brown University Graphics Lab**  
Undergraduate Research Assistant; Advised by [Andy van Dam](#).  
**Focus Areas:** Collaborative gesture & multi-touch user interfaces.

## Honors & Awards

- 2023 **Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society**  
Inducted for academic excellence during Ph.D. program.

## Peer-Reviewed Academic Publications

- TMLR 2024 **Compositional Instruction Following with Language Models and Reinforcement Learning**  
**Vanya Cohen\***, Geraud Nangue Tasse\*, Nakul Gopalan, Steven James, Matthew Gombolay, Ray Mooney, Benjamin Rosman  
*Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR), 2024*

- EMNLP 2024 **CaT-Bench: Benchmarking Language Model Understanding of Causal and Temporal Dependencies in Plans**  
Yash Kumar Lal\*, **Vanya Cohen\***, Nathanael Chambers, Niranjan Balasubramanian, Raymond Mooney  
*Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2024*
- IJCAI Survey Track 2024 **A Survey of Robotic Language Grounding: Tradeoffs Between Symbols and Embeddings**  
**Vanya Cohen\***, Jason Xinyu Liu\*, Raymond Mooney\*, Stefanie Tellex\*, David Watkins\*  
*International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence: Survey Track (IJCAI: Survey Track), 2024*
- ICRA 2024 **CAPE: Corrective Actions from Precondition Errors using Large Language Models**  
Shreyas Sundara Raman, **Vanya Cohen**, Ifrah Idrees, Eric Rosen, Ray Mooney, Stefanie Tellex, David Paulius  
*IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), 2024*
- IROS 2019 **Grounding Language Attributes to Objects using Bayesian Eigenobjects**  
**Vanya Cohen\***, Benjamin Burchfiel\*, Thao Nguyen\*, Nakul Gopalan, Stefanie Tellex, George Konidaris  
*IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2019*

---

## Non-Archival Publications & Preprints

- ACL 2023 Workshop **Using Planning to Improve Semantic Parsing of Instructional Texts**  
**Vanya Cohen**, Raymond Mooney  
*Workshop on Natural Language Reasoning and Structured Explanations at ACL, 2023*
- CoRL 2022 Workshop **End-to-End Learning to Follow Language Instructions with Compositional Policies**  
**Vanya Cohen\***, Geraud Nangue Tasse\*, Nakul Gopalan, Steven James, Ray Mooney, Benjamin Rosman  
*Workshop on Language and Robotics at the Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL), 2022*
- NeurIPS 2022 Workshop **Planning with Large Language Models via Corrective Re-Prompting**  
Shreyas Sundara Raman, **Vanya Cohen**, Eric Rosen, Ifrah Idrees, David Paulius, Stefanie Tellex  
*Foundation Models for Decision Making Workshop at NeurIPS, 2022*
- AAAI-FSS 2021 **Learning to Follow Language Instructions with Compositional Policies**  
**Vanya Cohen\***, Geraud Nangue Tasse\*, Nakul Gopalan, Steven James, Matthew Gombolay, Benjamin Rosman  
*AI-HRI Symposium at AAAI Fall Symposium Series (AAAI-FSS), 2021*
- NeurIPS 2019 Workshop **OpenGPT-2: Replicating a 1.5 Billion Parameter Language Model**  
Aaron Gokaslan\*, **Vanya Cohen\***, Ellie Pavlick, Stefanie Tellex  
*NeurIPS NewInML Workshop, 2019*

---

## Invited Articles

XRDS 2020 **OpenGPT-2: Open Language Models and Implications of Generated Text**  
**Vanya Cohen**, Aaron Gokaslan  
*XRDS: Crossroads, The ACM Magazine for Students, Fall 2020*

---

## Speaking & Interviews

Hack@Brown **Brown University Hackathon Alumni Panelist**  
2024 Invited speaker for the alumni panel at Brown's annual hackathon.  
Wired **OpenAI Said Its Code Was Risky. Two Grads Re-Created It Anyway.**  
August 2019 Interviewed by Tom Simonite.

---

## Other Work Experience

2017-2018 **National Bureau of Economic Research - UCLA/Brown**  
Part-time Research Engineer.  
Developed AWS web-scrapers and parsers to construct large-scale datasets of financial disclosures for an econometrics research team.  
Summer **TripAdvisor**, Palo Alto, CA  
2016 Software Engineering Intern (Full-stack iOS Developer).  
Optimized iOS map features, cutting load times by 50%, and redesigned travel guides to boost user engagement.

---

## Professional Activities

### Workshop Organization

NeurIPS **Co-Organizer for NewInML: A Workshop for Newcomers to Machine Learning at NeurIPS 2020**  
2020  
Workshop Zhen Xu (UPSaclay), **Vanya Cohen**, Shruti Mishra (Harvard), MingYu Lu (UW)

### Reviewer

2025- Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) Rolling Review (ARR)  
2025- International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence: Survey Track (IJCAI: Survey Track)  
2024- Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)  
2023 International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)

### University Service

2022-2024 Organized the Connecting Language and Machine Perception (CLAMP) Reading Group, bringing together students and faculty from NLP, robotics, CV, linguistics, and CogSci to discuss recent grounded language processing papers.