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## 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.

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## Selected 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
- NeurIPS Workshop 2019 **OpenGPT-2: Replicating a 1.5 Billion Parameter Language Model**  
Aaron Gokaslan\*, **Vanya Cohen\***, Ellie Pavlick, Stefanie Tellex  
*NeurIPS NewInML Workshop*, 2019
- 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

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## 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.

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## Honors & Awards

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

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## 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- International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI)
- 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.