

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Meta AI, Fundamental AI Research (FAIR Labs)

New York, NY, USA

Research Scientist Intern with Dr. Karen Ullrich, Matthew Muckley & Dr. Ricky Chen

2022-09 – 2023-05

Developing ideas at the intersection of generative modeling and neural compression.

Topics: generative models, compression, information theory, representation learning, autoencoding

Stanford University, Stanford AI Laboratory

Palo Alto, CA, USA

Visiting Research Scholar with Prof. Stefano Ermon

2021-06 – 2021-11

Introduce self-referential operators for fractal data encoding, efficient compression, and controllable creative generation.

Topics: score-based generative models, diffusion processes, latent variable models, implicit representation learning

Google Research, Brain Team

Mountain View, CA, USA

Research Scientist Intern / Student Researcher with Dr. Igor Mordatch & David Dohan

2021-10 – 2022-08

(1) Improve Decision Transformer models to extrapolate in creative and general ways towards embodied game play and online decision-making. (2) Develop spectral diffusion models leveraging resolution agnostic architectures and signal adaptive scheduling. (3) Formalize language models as probabilistic programs via *Cascades* framework.

Topics: diffusion models, Transformers, large language models, reinforcement learning, robotics, decision-making

Vector Institute & University of Toronto

Toronto, ON, Canada

Undergraduate Researcher with Prof. David Duvenaud

2020-01 – 2021-01

Derive variance-reducing gradient estimator and improve Neural ODE robustness through Bayesian inference w/ SDEs.

Topics: stochastic differential equations, Bayesian neural networks, variational inference

Oxford University, OATML

Oxford, United Kingdom

Research Intern with Prof. Yarin Gal

2021-01 – 2021-08

Derive data efficient algorithms that leverage information theoretic proxy selection and uncertainty-aware heuristics.

Topics: Bayesian active learning, model disagreement, curriculum learning, coresets selection

Princess Margaret Cancer Research, Computational Biology

Toronto, ON, Canada

Research Intern with Prof. Michael Hoffman

2018-05 – 2018-09

Develop annotation pipelines and unsupervised learning techniques to predict 20+ cancer-linked epigenetic factors.

Topics: next-generation sequencing (ChIP-seq, exo, RNA-seq), genome annotations

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

- [7] Linqi Zhou, Michael Poli, **Xu, Winnie**, Stefano Massaroli, and Stefano Ermon, “Deep latent state space models for time-series generation,” International Conference on Machine Learning, 2023.
- [6] David Dohan, **Winnie Xu**, Aitor Lewkowycz, Jacob Austin, David Bieber, Raphael Gontijo Lopes, Yuhuai Wu, Henryk Michalewski, Rif A. Saurous, Jascha Sohl-dickstein, Kevin Murphy, and Charles Sutton, “Language model cascades,” *Beyond Bayes: Paths Towards Universal Reasoning Systems, International Conference on Machine Learning* [Contributed Talk], 2022.
- [5] Soon Hoe Kim, N. Benjamin Erichson, Francisco Utrera, **Winnie Xu**, and Michael Mahoney, “Noisy feature mixup,” *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2022.
- [4] †Kuang-Hui Lee*, Ofir Nachum*, Mengjiao Yang, Lisa Lee, **Winnie Xu**, Daniel Freeman, Sergio Guadarrama, Ian Fischer, Eric Jang, Henryk Michalewski, and Igor Mordatch*, “Multi-game decision transformers,” *Neural Information Processing Systems* [Oral Award], 2022.
- [3] †Sören Mindermann, Jan Brauner, Muhammed Razzak, Mrinank Sharma, Andreas Kirsch, **Winnie Xu**, Benedikt Holtgen, Adrien Morisot, Aidan N. Gomez, Sebastian Farquhar, Jan Brauner, and Yarin Gal, “Prioritized training on points that are learnable, worth learning, and not yet learned,” *International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2022.

- [2] Michael Poli*, **Winnie Xu***, Stefano Massaroli, Chenlin Meng, and Stefano Ermon, “Self-similarity priors: Neural collages as differentiable fractal representations,” *Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2022.
- [1] **Winnie Xu**, Ricky T.Q. Chen, Xuechen Li, and David Duvenaud, “Infinitely deep bayesian neural networks with stochastic differential equations,” *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, 2022.

UNDER REVIEW

- [2] Allan Zhou, Kaien Yang, Yiding Jiang, Kaylee Burns, **Xu, Winnie**, Sam Sakota, Zico J Kolter, and Chelsea Finn, “Neural functional transformers,” Under Review, 2023.
- [1] Soon Hoe Kim, N. Benjamin Erichson, **Winnie Xu**, Francisco Utrera, Jiang Cao, and Michael Mahoney, “Noisymix: Boosting robustness by combining data augmentations, stability training, and noise injections,” Preprint, 2022.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*co-first authorship, †ordering by seniority

Cohere, Large Neural Language Models

Toronto, ON, Canada

Machine Learning Researcher with Nick Frosst and Aidan Gomez

2021-01 – 2021-06

Apply deep learning algorithms to improve training cost and personalization of billion parameter language models.

Topics: GPT, attention, distillation, distributed cloud training, TPUs

Nvidia, Simulations & Robotics

Toronto, ON, Canada

Deep Learning Research Intern with Gavriel State and Prof. Animesh Garg

2020-08 – 2020-12

Build performant GPU-accelerated environments towards time / resource efficient reinforcement learning for robotics.

Topics: Omniverse, IsaacGym, robotics simulation

Google, Tensorflow

Mountain View, CA, USA

Research Engineering Intern with Dr. Tomer Kaftan

2020-05 – 2020-08

Actualize state of the art pre-/post-hoc pruning methods for easy experimentation and efficient hardware computation.

Topics: lottery tickets, dynamic sparsity, Tensorflow Model Optimization Toolkit (contributor)

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

2017 – 2020, 2021 – 2022

Honours Bachelors of Science in *Computer Science, Statistics, Mathematics*

High Distinction

Graduate coursework: Natural Language Processing (CSC401), Probabilistic Reasoning and Uncertainty (CSC412),

Deep Learning (CSC413), Stochastic Processes (STA447), Computer Vision (CSC420)

Natural/Social Sciences (2017-2019): Evolutionary/Molecular Genetics (BIO120/130), Physical/Organic Chemistry

(CHM135/135), Calculus (MAT135/136/235), Political Sciences (MUN101), Global Affairs (MUN102)

TEACHING

CSC258: Intro. to Computer Systems, University of Toronto

Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant with Prof. Steve Engels. Head of content development (labs/assignments). Ran office hours.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Finalist Award, Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher, Computing Research Association (CRA)

2022

Awarded to top undergraduate computer science researchers in North America. Finalist awarded to Top 20 overall.

Scholar Award, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)

2022

Awarded to fund in-person conference attendance for select first-author student presenters.

Cloud TPU Research Award, Google Research

2022

Awarded to fund independent researchers in AI with access to Google’s Cloud TPU compute resources.

Undergraduate Student Research Award, NSERC [*declined*]

2020

Awarded to fund a summer research internship in Canada. Declined due to dual employment in industry internship.

Dean’s List Scholar, University of Toronto

2018, 2019, 2021

Awarded on the basis of grade point average (cGPA).

Trinity College Academic Scholarship , University of Toronto Awarded on the basis of academic standing.	2019
---	------

Best Undergraduate Research Poster , University of Toronto Awarded to top research project in Computer Science at annual summer poster symposium.	2018
---	------

Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship , University of Toronto Awarded to fund a summer research internship in Computer Science at the University of Toronto.	2018
---	------

HONORS

Program Co-Director , Interact Fellowship Leading a community of mission-driven, conscientious technologists. 100 fellows selected worldwide per annum.	2023
---	------

1st Place , Hack the North Awarded to top project of the year at Canada's largest Major League sponsored hackathon.	2019
---	------

1st Place , Google x BCG Hack the Globe Competition Awarded to top project of the year based on social impact and technological delivery.	2019
---	------

1st Place , Sanofi Biogenius Canada Awarded for best research project to qualify for the National Biogenius Challenge.	2017
--	------

Top 20 in Fair , Canada-Wide Science Fair Awarded to top 20 best projects in the Senior category out of over 500 competitors.	2017
---	------

Top 15% Distinction , Waterloo National Mathematics Contest Awarded for ranking among the top 15 participants in the annual Cayley, Fermat, and Euclid contests.	2015, 2016, 2017
--	------------------

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOP PROGRAM CHAIR

Symbiosis of Deep Learning and Differential Equations, Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)	2022
--	------

CONFERENCE PAPER REVIEWING

Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)	2022
---	------

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)	2022, 2023
---	------------

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)	2021
---	------

JOURNAL REVIEWING

Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR)	2022
---	------

INVITED TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PANELS

TALKS

[1] *Infinitely deep bayesian neural networks*, NeurIPS European Bayesian Deep Learning Meetup, Virtual, 2020.

PANELS

[3] *Global event speaker*, Women Who Codes, Virtual, 2022.

[2] *Introduction to AI forum*, Vector Institute, Toronto, Canada, 2021.

[1] *AI student researcher panel*, AI Squared Forum, Toronto, Canada, 2019.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

FOR.ai, Cohere Open research organization Community Leader	Toronto, Canada 2019 – present
--	-----------------------------------

Girls Who ML, Oxford University Workshop leader and academic content creator	Oxford, United Kingdom 2021
--	--------------------------------

Computer Science Mentorship Program, University of Toronto Mentor to various underclassmen in Computer Science	Toronto, ON, Canada 2019 – present
--	---------------------------------------

Machine Intelligence Student Team (MIST), University of Toronto Vice President of Academics	Toronto, ON, Canada 2019 – 2020
---	------------------------------------

Computer Science Orientation Week, University of Toronto Orientation Leader	Toronto, ON, Canada 2019
---	-----------------------------

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, C/C++ , Java, Golang, Bash

Libraries and Tools: JAX, PyTorch, TensorFlow, GCP, TPU, Slurm, Docker, Matplotlib, Git, Unix, L^AT_EX