

KAIYUE WEN

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Education

Phd, Computer Science Department, Stanford University	Expected 07/2029
BS, Institute for Interdisciplinary Information, Tsinghua University	09/2020-07/2024
Overall GPA: 3.95/4.00	

Awards and Honors

Competitive Mathematics

1 st Prize in National High School Mathematics Olympics Competition	11/2019
1 st Prize in National High School Mathematics Olympics Competition	11/2018
Silver Medal in S.-T. Yau College Student Mathematics Contest on Probability and Statistics (rank 3)	05/2021
Bronze Medal in S.-T. Yau College Student Mathematics Contest Team Track	05/2021
Silver Medal in S.-T. Yau College Student Mathematics Contest on Probability and Statistics (rank 3)	09/2022
Silver Medal in S.-T. Yau College Student Mathematics Contest Team Track (rank 2)	09/2022

Honors

Comprehensive Merit Scholarship of Tsinghua	10/2021
Comprehensive Merit Scholarship of Tsinghua	10/2022
Silver Medal in Yao Award (top scholarship in IIIS; 3 students institute-wide)	09/2023
National Scholarship (top 0.2% national-wide)	10/2023
Stanford Graduate Fellowship	09/2024

Publications and Manuscripts

(* stands for equal contribution.)

[1](ICLR 2025) Kaiyue Wen*, Xingyu Dang*, Kaifeng Lyu. “RNNs are not Transformers (Yet): The Key Bottleneck on In-context Retrieval”

[2](ICLR 2025) Kaiyue Wen, Zhiyuan Li, Jason Wang, David Hall, Percy Liang, Tengyu Ma. “Understanding Warmup-Stable-Decay Learning Rates: A River Valley Loss Landscape Perspective”

[3](ICLR 2025) Kaiyue Wen*, Huaqing Zhang*, Hongzhou Lin, Jingzhao Zhang “From Sparse Dependence to Sparse Attention: Unveiling How Chain-of-Thought Enhances Transformer Sample Efficiency”

[4](Annals of Statistics, 2025) Kaiyue Wen*, Tengyao Wang*, Yuhao Wang. “Residual Permutation Test for High-Dimensional Regression Coefficient Testing”

[5](NeurIPS 2023, Oral) Kaiyue Wen, Zhiyuan Li, Tengyu Ma. “Sharpness Minimization Algorithms Do Not Only Minimize Sharpness To Achieve Better Generalization”

[6](NeurIPS 2023) Kaiyue Wen, Yuchen Li, Bingbin Liu, Andrej Risteski. “(Un) interpretability of Transformers: a case study with Dyck grammars”

[7](ICLR 2023) Kaiyue Wen, Tengyu Ma, Zhiyuan Li. “How Sharpness-Aware Minimization Minimizes Sharpness?”

[8](ICLR 2023) Kaiyue Wen*, Jiaye Teng*, Jingzhao Zhang. “Benign Overfitting in Classification: Provably Counter Label Noise with Larger Models”

[9](EMNLP 2022) Xiaozhi Wang*, Kaiyue Wen*, Zhengyan Zhang, Lei Hou, Zhiyuan Liu, Juanzi Li. “Finding Skill Neurons in Pre-trained Transformer-based Language Models”

[10](NAACL 2022) Yusheng Su*, Xiaozhi Wang*, Yujia Qin, Chi-Min Chan, Yankai Lin, Huadong Wang, Kaiyue Wen, Zhiyuan Liu, Peng Li, Juanzi Li, Lei Hou, Maosong Sun, Jie Zhou “On Transferability of Prompt Tuning for Natural Language Processing”

[11](Manuscript) Haozhe Jiang*, Kaiyue Wen*, Yilei Chen. “Practically Solving LPN in High Noise Regimes Faster Using Neural Networks”

Experience

Research on the interpretability of Transformers when trained on Dyck Grammar 02/2023 –05/2023

Core group member, Supervised by Andrej Risteski, CMU

- Investigate the loss landscape of 2-layer Transformers when trained on GPT task on bounded depth Dyck Grammar.

- Exhibit a variety of “uninterpretable” attention patterns that can perfectly generate Dyck through theoretical calculation and empirical validations.

Research on the limiting dynamics of Sharpness Aware Minimization

06/2022 – 09/2022

Core group member, Supervised by Zhiyuan Li and Tengyu Ma, Stanford

- Investigate the limiting flow of Sharpness Aware Minimization when the learning rate and perturbation radius converges to 0 under the assumption that global minimizers form a Riemannian manifold
- Provably show different implicit bias for Sharpness Aware Minimization in full-batch and stochastic settings
- Show the necessity of the stop gradient step by proving that without which the method will have a different bias

Research on understanding soft prompt tuning via neuron activation

08/2021 – 04/2022

Core group member, Supervised by Xiaozhi Wang and Zhiyuan Liu, Tsinghua NLP Lab

- Discover highly predictive neurons in pretrained language model which consistently emerges in prompt tuning
- Show the importance of these neurons to the performance under various ways of parameter-efficient tuning

Skills

Languages: Familiar with Python and has written C++, R, Matlab, Bash

Maths: Familiar with mathematics analysis, measure theory, linear algebra, abstract algebra, probability theory, statistics, causal inference, and discrete mathematics

Leadership: Class monitor of Yao Class from 2021 to 2024, vice president of the IIIS Student Union from 2023 to 2024

Miscellaneous: Chinese debating (PB: rank 2 school-wide), science fiction novel writing