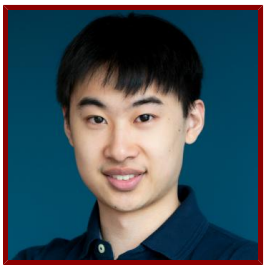
Stanford



Steven Feng

Ph.D. Student in Computer Science, admitted Autumn 2022

Bio

BIO

I'm a Stanford Computer Science PhD student and NSERC PGS-D scholar, working with the Stanford AI Lab and Stanford NLP Group. I am co-advised by Michael C. Frank and Noah Goodman as part of the Language & Cognition (LangCog) and Computation & Cognition (CoCo) Labs. I am grateful to receive support from Amazon Science, Microsoft AFMR, and StabilityAI.

My ultimate goal is to blend knowledge from multiple disciplines to advance AI research. My current research centers around aligning foundation model and human learning and capabilities, particularly in reasoning, generalization, and efficiency. I have explored ways to improve the controllability of language and visual generation models, and integrate structured and multimodal information to enhance their reasoning capabilities.

I'm investigating psychologically and cognitively inspired methods for continual learning, self-improvement, and advanced reasoning in foundation models. I'm also exploring methods to bridge the data efficiency gap between human and model learning while shedding further light on human cognitive models and our efficient language and vision acquisition capabilities.

Previously, I was a master's student at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), where I worked with Eduard Hovy and Malihe Alikhani on language generation, data augmentation, and commonsense reasoning. Before that, I was an undergraduate student at the University of Waterloo, where I worked with Jesse Hoey on dialogue agents and text generation.

My research contributions have been recognized with several publications at major conferences and a best paper award at INLG 2021. I am also an Honorable Mention for the Jessie W.H. Zou Memorial Award and CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award.

I am a co-instructor for the Stanford CS25 Transformers course, and mentor and advise several students. I also led the organization of CtrlGen, a controllable generation workshop at NeurIPS 2021, and was involved in the GEM benchmark and workshop for NLG evaluation.

In my free time, I enjoy gaming, playing the piano and guitar, martial arts, and table tennis. I am also the founder and president of the Stanford Piano Society.

LINKS

- Personal Website: https://styfeng.github.io/
- Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.ca/citations?hl=en&user=zwiszZIAAAAJ

- Twitter: https://twitter.com/stevenyfeng
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/steven-feng/
- GitHub: https://github.com/styfeng

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Transformers United V6: CS 25, SYMSYS 25 (Spr)

2024-25

- Transformers United V5: CS 25 (Spr)

2023-24

- Transformers United V4: CS 25 (Aut, Spr)

2022-23

- Transformers United V2: CS 25 (Win)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **A benchmark of expert-level academic questions to assess AI capabilities.** *Nature*
  Center for AI Safety, Scale AI, HLE Contributors Consortium, Phan, L., Gatti, A., Li, N., Khoja, A., Kim, R., Ren, R., Hausenloy, J., Zhang, O., Mazeika, M., Hendrycks, D., Han, Z., et al
  2026; 649 (8099): 1139-1146