Ian Yang

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EDUCATION

University of Washington   **2025 - Present**
Ph.D., Information Science

Advisor: Aylin Caliskan

Georgia Institute of Technology   **2020 – 2024**
B.S., Computer Science, *summa cum laude*
Threads: Intelligence and Theory

Advisor: Mark Riedl
Thesis: Relationship Extraction via Language Models for Normativity Analysis

AWARDS & HONORS

Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP), National Science Foundation   **2025 - Present**

Gell Mason Endowed Fellowship, University of Washington   **2025**

Zell Miller Scholarship, Georgia Institute of Technology   **2020 – 2024**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Georgia Institute of Technology   **2022 – Present**
Research Assistant | Advisor: Mark Riedl

University of Minnesota   **2024 – 2025**
Visiting Researcher | Advisors: Dongyeop Kang and Mingyi Hong

Carnegie Mellon University   **2023 – 2025**
Research Assistant | Advisor: Norman Sadeh

Carnegie Mellon University   **Summer 2023**
REU Student | Advisor: Norman Sadeh

The Ohio State University   **2021 – 2022**
Research Assistant | Advisor: Dong Xuan

PUBLICATIONS   * equal contribution

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers
Lea Duesterwald, **Ian Yang**, and Norman Sadeh. 2025. "Can a Cybersecurity Question Answering Assistant Help Change User Behavior? An In Situ Study". *15th Usable Security and Privacy Symposium (USEC 2025).*
Full Paper: https://usableprivacy.org/static/files/duesterwald_2024.pdf

Kaige Xie, **Ian Yang**, John Gunerli, and Mark Riedl. 2025. "Making Large Language Models into World Models with Precondition and Effect Knowledge". *31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2025).*
Full Paper: https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.12278

Ananya Balaji*, Lea Duesterwald*, **Ian Yang***, Aman Priyanshu, Costanza Alfieri, and Norman Sadeh. 2024. "Generating Effective Answers to People's Everyday Cybersecurity Questions: An Initial Study". *Twenty-Fifth International Web Information Systems Engineering Conference* (*WISE 2024*).
Full Paper: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-0576-7_27

Abhilasha Ravichander*, **Ian Yang***, Rex Chen, Shomir Wilson, Thomas Norton, and Norman Sadeh. 2024. "Incorporating Taxonomic Reasoning and Regulatory Knowledge into Automated Privacy Question Answering". *Twenty-Fifth International Web Information Systems Engineering Conference* (*WISE 2024*).
Full Paper: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-0579-8_31

Peer-Reviewed Journal Papers
David Rodríguez, **Ian Yang**, José M. Del Álamo, and Norman Sadeh. 2024. "Large Language Models: A New Approach for Privacy Policy Analysis at Scale". *Springer Computing,* 1-25.
Full Paper: https://doi.org/10.1007/s00607-024-01331-9

Submissions Under Review
Ryan Koo, **Ian Yang**, Vipul Raheja, Mingyi Hong, Kwang-Sung Jun, and Dongyeop Kang. 2025. "Learning Explainable Dense Reward Shapes via Bayesian Optimization". *Under Review.*
Full Paper: https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.16272

Preprints
Louis Castricato, Alexander Havrilla, Shahbuland Matiana, Michael Pieler, Anbang Ye, **Ian Yang**, Spencer Frazier, and Mark Riedl. 2022. "Robust Preference Learning for Storytelling via Contrastive Reinforcement Learning". *arXiv.*
Full Paper: https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.07792

POSTERS/PRESENTATIONS

Ian Yang and Norman Sadeh. 2023. "You Shouldn't Know That! Natural Language Processing Towards Enhancing Android Privacy Label Disclosures". *REU research symposium, Carnegie Mellon University*.

TEACHING/MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

CSE 6040 | Tutor | Georgia Tech   2022 – 2024
Tutor for 1000+ students enrolled in CSE6040 *Computing for Data Analytics*, in the Master of Analytics program.

CS 1100 | Teaching Assistant | Georgia Tech   2021 – 2024
Teaching Assistant for CS1100 *Freshman Leap Seminar*.

Peer Mentor | Georgia Tech   2021 – 2024
Mentored 55 freshmen in their transition to the College of Computing at Georgia Tech.

AP Computer Science A | Tutor   2021 – 2022
Tutored 4 students in preparation for the AP Computer Science A exam.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Software Development Intern | FlightBridge, Inc.   2021 – 2022
FlightBridge is the technology platform connecting Private Aviation with their trusted network of trip service vendors and partners. One-stop online to book and manage FBO and handling requests, hotel reservations, rental car bookings with FBO delivery, catering, fuel, ground transportation, aircraft detailing, security, and much more.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

VOICE Peer Educator | Georgia Institute of Technology   2022 – 2024
VOICE is Georgia Tech's sexual and relationship violence prevention and survivor support initiative, and the peer education program exists to spread domestic violence awareness and prevention resources.

Judge and Coach | Atlanta Urban Debate League   2019 – 2022
The Atlanta Urban Debate League (AUDL) is committed to providing quality debate education programs, services, and opportunities to students, educators, and community members.