

Yichen Feng

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EDUCATION

University of Washington

Seattle, USA

Ph.D. Student

Present

Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering

2024–2026

Advisor: Professor Radha Poovendran

Research Interest:

Industry Experience:

Amazon Web Services (Seattle), Agent-Driven SQL Generation and Web Visualization, 2025 Summer

University of Electronic Science and Technology of China & University of Glasgow Chengdu, China

B.Eng. in Electronics and Electrical Engineering

2020–2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Visual Aesthetic Benchmark: Can Frontier Models Judge Beauty?

Introduced an expert-grounded benchmark for visual aesthetics across art, photography, and illustration, revealing a substantial gap between 20 frontier vision-language models and expert judgment.

COLM 2026. [Paper](#) | [Project](#)

BadScientist (*Best Paper Award, Agents4Science 2025*)

Studied whether automated research agents can produce convincing but unsound papers that deceive LLM reviewers, and evaluated weaknesses in automated peer review.

ACL 2026. [Paper](#) | [Project](#)

JobBench (*Adopted by Meta Muse Spark, Kimi K3, and Qwen3.8*)

Developed a benchmark of 130 agentic tasks across 35 occupations, evaluating workflows that human experts prioritize for delegation and grading outputs with task-specific rubrics.

Preprint, 2026. [Paper](#) | [Project](#)

VisualSphinx: Large-Scale Synthetic Vision Logic Puzzles for RL

Created large-scale synthetic visual logic puzzles using a rule-to-image pipeline. Applied reinforcement learning to improve vision-language models' logical reasoning and transfer across reasoning tasks.

DataWorld Workshop at ICML 2025. [Paper](#) | [Project](#)

Polyhedral Instability Governs Regret in Online Learning

Characterized how changes in active polyhedral regions govern regret in online learning, with matching theoretical bounds and experiments on combinatorial decision problems.

Preprint, 2026. [Paper](#)

The WidthWall: A Strict Expressivity Hierarchy for Hypergraph Neural Networks

Established a strict expressivity hierarchy for hypergraph neural networks, identifying structural limitations of bounded-width architectures and motivating density-aware models.

Preprint, 2026. [Paper](#)