

Ivan Lee

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EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego Ph.D., Computer Science and Engineering	La Jolla, CA
University of California, San Diego M.Sc., Computer Science and Engineering	La Jolla, CA
University of California, Davis B.Sc., Nutrition Science	Davis, CA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher University of California, San Diego Advisor: Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick	La Jolla, CA 2023–present
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PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Conference Publications

- [1] [The Format Tax](#)
Ivan Lee, Loris D’Antoni, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick
Conference on Language Modeling (COLM), 2026.
- [2] [Optical Context Compression Is Just \(Bad\) Autoencoding](#)
Ivan Lee, Cheng Yang, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick
Conference on Language Modeling (COLM), 2026.
- [3] [From Reasoning to Pixels: Benchmarking the Alignment Gap in Unified Multimodal Models](#)
Cheng Yang, Chufan Shi, Bo Shui, Yaokang Wu, Muzi Tao, Huijuan Wang, **Ivan Lee**, Yong Liu, Xuezhe Ma, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick
Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2026.
- [4] [Readability \$\neq\$ Learnability: Rethinking the Role of Simplicity in Training Small Language Models](#)
Ivan Lee, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick
Oral Spotlight (top 5.7%) *Conference on Language Modeling (COLM)*, 2025.
- [5] [Optimizing Hidden Markov Language Models: An Empirical Study of Reparameterization and Initialization Techniques](#)
Ivan Lee, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick
North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL Findings), 2025.
- [6] [Is attention required for ICL? Exploring the Relationship Between Model Architecture and In-Context Learning Ability](#)
Ivan Lee, Nan Jiang, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2024.

[7] [HeLo: Learning-Free Lookahead Decoding for Conversation Infilling](#)

Ivan Lee, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick

Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP Findings), 2022.

[8] [Masked Measurement Prediction: Learning to Jointly Predict Quantities and Units from Textual Context](#)

Daniel Spokoyny, **Ivan Lee**, Zhao Jin, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick

North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL Findings), 2022.

Refereed Workshop Publications

[9] [Good-Enough Structured Generation: A Case Study on JSON Schema](#)

Ivan Lee, Loris D’Antoni, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick

Deep Learning For Code in the Agentic Era (DL4C) @ NeurIPS, 2025.

WORK IN PREPARATION

[10] Structured Outputs as an Attack Surface

Ivan Lee, Earlene Fernandes, Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick.

FELLOWSHIPS

CSE Department Fellowship, UC San Diego, 2023–2024

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant, UC San Diego

Instructor: Taylor Berg-Kirkpatrick

- DSC 258R — Natural Language Processing
- CSE 251A / 151A — Machine Learning

Spring 2026

Winter 2026

HONORS & AWARDS

Gold Reviewer Award (top 25% of reviewers), ICML, 2026

Oral Spotlight (top 5.7% of accepted papers), COLM, 2025

INVITED PARTICIPATION

Schmidt Sciences Trustworthy AI Convening, New Orleans, LA, March 2026

SERVICE

Reviewer: ACL Rolling Review (ARR) 2026; ACL Student Research Workshop 2025; COLM 2026; ICLR 2025, 2026; ICML 2026 (Gold Reviewer Award)