

Kevin Y. Wu

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- Education**
- New York University** 9/2025 – Present
Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
- PhD Candidate in Computer Science
 - Advisor: Lerrel Pinto
- University of Chicago** 9/2020 – 6/2024
4-Year Joint BS/MS Degree
- BS in Computational and Applied Math; MS in Computer Science
 - GPA: 3.95/4.00; *Summa Cum Laude*

Papers

* denotes equal contribution.

PROGRESSOR: A Perceptually Guided Reward Estimator with Self-Supervised Online Refinement

Tewodros W. Ayalew, Xiao Zhang*, **Kevin Yuanbo Wu***, Tianchong Jiang, Michael Maire, and Matthew R. Walter

International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2025

[arXiv](#) | [code](#) | [website](#)

EMERGENET: A Digital Twin of Sequence Evolution for Scalable Emergence Risk Assessment of Animal Influenza A Strains

Kevin Yuanbo Wu, Jin Li, Aaron Esser-Kahn, and Ishanu Chattopadhyay

arXiv Preprint, 2024

[arXiv](#) | [code](#) | [website](#)

Riemman-Roch through the Dollar Game

Kevin Yuanbo Wu

University of Chicago Mathematics REU, 2021

[paper](#)

Awards

DoD NDSEG Fellowship – Awarded to 4% of applicants 2025 – 2028

Enrico Fermi Scholar – Top 5% of Physical Sciences Division 2023, 2024

Dean's List – Awarded each year of undergrad 2021 – 2024

Phi Beta Kappa – Elected junior year 2023

Robert Maynard Hutchins Scholar – Top 10% of class 2022

Experience

MathWorks 9/2024 – 9/2025

Software Engineer, Engineering Development Group

- Implemented continuous collision detection between convex shapes in C++ using Gilbert-Johnson-Keerthi (GJK) and the Expanding Polytope Algorithm (EPA).
- Model joints for physical simulation with Simscape Multibody.

Robotic Intelligence through Perception Lab at TTIC 3/2024 – 9/2024

Advisor: Matthew Walter

- Worked on [PROGRESSOR](#), a self-supervised reward model capable of learning task rewards from unlabeled human videos. Benchmarked the reward function using the DrQ-v2 reinforcement learning (RL) algorithm, and tested it on real-robot tasks via reward-weighted imitation learning.

- Implemented two teleoperation systems for a UR5 robot with Leap Motion hand-tracking camera and Meta Quest 3. Exhibited at the Museum of Science in Chicago and enabled efficient collection of task demonstrations.
- Designed and built a fully-programmable 4-DoF robotic arm module for [Duckietown](#), a company offering small autonomous vehicles for education and research.

Zero Knowledge Discovery Lab at UChicago Medicine 11/2021 – 7/2024
Advisor: Ishanu Chattopadhyay

- Developed [EMERGENET](#), a model for assessing the emergence risk of non-human Influenza A strains. Wrote an open-source Python package.
- Validated EMERGENET on $\sim 220k$ sequences from 2003 - 2023, outperforming WHO vaccine recommendations for H1N1/H3N2 in 81% of seasons.
- EMERGENET predicted risk scores correlate ($R = 0.721, p = 10^{-4}$) with the CDC's expert-evaluated IRAT (Influenza Risk Assessment Tool) scores.

MathWorks 6/2023 – 8/2023
Software Engineer Intern, Deep Learning Compression Team

- Developed a neural network to classify ECG signals from a wearable device.
- Implemented and trained Neural ODE (NODE) and Deep Equilibrium (DEQ) models to benchmark performance against Residual Network (ResNet).

MathWorks 6/2022 – 9/2022
Software Engineer Intern, Install & Licensing Team

- Built automated tests in Java JUnit and MATLAB for new license borrowing functions and user interface, achieving 100% code coverage.
- Built Python performance tests to optimize MATLAB startup speed.

University of Chicago, Department of Mathematics 6/2021 – 8/2021
REU Student

- Wrote an expository [paper](#) on the chip-firing game and its use in proving the graph-theoretic analogue of the Riemann-Roch theorem.
- Solved problems and attended lectures on combinatorics, geometry, and analysis.

Teaching

Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago (TTIC) 6/2024 – 8/2024
Instructor, Robotic Manipulation Course

- Designed curriculum for a six-week, hands-on robotic manipulation course for three high-school interns from underrepresented communities.
- Taught students to build a low-cost 5-DoF arm from Dynamixel servos and 3D-printed parts and program it to pick-and-place tic-tac-toe pieces.
- Gave lectures on Python programming, robot kinematics, and machine learning.

University of Chicago, Department of Computer Science 9/2023 – 3/2024
Course Grader

- MPCS 50103 – Discrete Mathematics (Fall 2023, 96 students)
- CMSC 27200 – Theory of Algorithms (Winter 2024, 180 students)

Skills

Technical Languages: Python, C++, MATLAB, SQL, \LaTeX

Frameworks: PyTorch, Sklearn, NumPy, Pandas, OpenCV, MuJoCo

Spoken Languages: English (native), Mandarin (native)

Hobbies: LEGO ([YouTube channel](#)), guitar, soccer, basketball, reading