

Yichen Li

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Education

Boston University

September 2014 - September 2018

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (SUMMA CUM LAUDE)

Major GPA: 3.98/4.00

- No.1 graduating academic performance (Top 1%): College Prize for Excellence in Computer Science
- Courses: Data Structures, Algorithms, Systems, Optimization Methods, Geometric Algorithms, Software Engineering

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MATHEMATICS AND ECONOMICS (SUMMA CUM LAUDE)

Major GPA: 4.00/4.00

- Courses: Probability Theory, Linear Algebra, Applied Statistics, Data Science, Econometrics, Advanced Calculus

Skills

Programming and Software Engineering

Python, Haskell, Java, Ruby, C#, C++, C, Objective-C, Swift, Android Studio

Computer Graphics/Vision and AR/VR

Unity3D, ARKit, ARCore, Tango, Geometry Processing, TensorFlow, PyTorch*, OpenCV*

Data Analytics

R, Matlab, STATA IC, Pandas, Seaborn, MongoDB, Bloomberg

Experience

Boston University Department of Computer Science Shape Lab | IVC | AIR

Boston, MA

RESEARCHER

September 2017 - Current

- Work with researchers and experts across various fields to formulate research project through defining novel applications of human machine interaction technologies, including AR/VR, to existing computer graphics problems
- Learn related research works and technologies by self-teaching, searching and understanding relevant literatures
- Implement algorithms from existing literatures for geometry-based physical property inferences and propose new algorithms for stabilization optimization in mesh form ready to be 3d-printed
- Use ARKit and Google Tango to achieve AR-enabled 3D model auto-recognition and physical property visualization
- Create Augmented Reality user interface for iOS and Android platforms and conduct user experience experiments

Spark! Lab x Global Joy

Boston, MA

SOFTWARE ENGINEER AND CONSULTANT

- Develop user interface and major app functions, including Diet, News Feed, and Catalog, in Java/Android Studio collaborating with a team of five for the Health and Fitness start-up company Global Joy
- Hold weekly meetings with clients and design new development strategies to satisfy new customer needs in an agile development environment
- Work on a machine learning algorithm in a team of three to optimize the matching between health coach and customer

Revlon Inc.

London, UK

DATA ANALYST SUMMER INTERN

May 2017 - August 2017

- Use machine learning algorithms to perform analysis and prediction on both company and industrial financial data
- Conduct multi-factor data analysis with respect to time, location, SKUS, and brand launches to provide retail insights
- Use Python and other data mining and machine learning tools to analyze the macro market and seasonal industrial trends to help strategic planning for future marketing, branding, and product innovation efforts

Research Projects

Augmented Reality and Geometry-Based Physical Stability Properties

LI, YICHEN., WHITING, EMILY., OCHSENDORF, JOHN,

2019

- Abstract: Existing techniques for stability analysis and stabilization solutions for priceless art pieces or historical artifacts require complicated hardware setup and time-consuming support design process. In this paper, we present a novel approach by using simple additive manufacturing techniques for model stabilization to help with sculpture conservation. We also integrate Augmented Reality (AR) technology to enable more intuitive user-interaction and visualization, and our platform can be installed on any AR-enabled device, which would allow professionals to work with sculptures. Our platform constructs mesh of different types of support structures in real-time subjected to user-specified preferences ready to be 3D printed and attached to the object of interest for added stability. We demonstrate that the 3D-printed support structure generated by our model provides the sufficient stability but is a lot faster, cheaper, and more convenient than the state-of-the-art system.

Open-vocabulary Phrase detection

PLUMMER, BRYAN., SHIH, KEVIN., LI, YICHEN., XU, KE., SCLAROFF, STAN., LAZEBNIK, SVETLANA., SAENKO, KATE.

2019

- Abstract: Most existing work that grounds natural language phrases in images starts with the assumption that the phrase in question is relevant to the image, limiting their potential applications. In this paper we address a more open and practical version of the natural language grounding task where we must both localize and identify if the phrase is relevant to an image. This is more akin to the standard object detection task and can be evaluated in the same way. Our approach to this task uses a Faster R-CNN-style network that has been adapted to relate image regions and phrases. By carefully initializing the classification layers of our network using canonical correlation analysis (CCA), we encourage a solution that is more discerning when reasoning between similar phrases, resulting in over double the performance compared to a naive adaptation. We evaluate our approach on two popular phrase grounding datasets: Flickr30K Entities and ReferIt Game. ArXiv paper: 1811.07212

Honors and Leadership

2018	College Prize for Excellence in Computer Science , Boston University	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2018	Summa Cum Laude , Boston University	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2018	Boston University Arts Initiative Research Award , Boston University Arts Initiative	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2018	UROP Summer Research Award , Boston University UROP Program	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2014 - 2018	Dean's List (All Semesters) , Boston University	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2016 - 2018	Commended Member , LOCK Honorary Service Society at Boston University	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2016 - 2018	Questrom Member , Beta Gamma Sigma Honorary Society at Boston University	<i>Boston, MA</i>

Academic Projects

Color and Material Augmented Photometric 3D Reconstruction (IP) This project aims to improve the real-time photogrammetry precisions of monochrome objects, especially for the sculptures made of clay or marble. The model does so by sampling physical properties of objects including dimension, material, and color to supervise the reconstruction process. The first step involves a depth-noise-filtered voxelization of an AR-enabled bounding frustum by combining both surface and color detection misses. The reconstruction precision is further improved with a color-and-material-consistency-augmented shadow carving process. The model will iteratively apply adjustment on the voxel created in the first step from different angles. It uses a set of pre-learned, material-specific properties to minimize the disparity between the re-projection of the reconstructed model in constant color texture wrapper and the actual photo taken. The procedure uses the presumption that the geometry to reconstruct is of one single color and by using one pre-produced constant colored texture, it manipulate the mesh to approximate the ground truth one.

Stock and Market Indices Prediction (IP) This project aims to compare different methods for stock prediction, concentrating on the traditional statistical methods using multiple regression, classic economic models such as CAPM and stochastic processes, and the relatively newer machine learning methods including SVM and LSTM models. Specifically, the project experiment with different aspects of stock prediction such as market momentum, market section comparison, and macro trend analysis. We wish to develop more machine learning models that not only utilizes classical financial economic theory as supervision measures but also pick up on humanly-unintelligible reasonings for market fluctuations.

Other Skills and Activities

Media Production and Other Avid Media Composer, Adobe Creative Suite, Maya, 3Ds Max, Blender

Language Skills Bilingual proficiency in Mandarin Chinese, Conversational proficiency in French

2016 - 2018	Volunteer , Women In CS at Boston University	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2016	VFX and Editor , Master Thesis Film Projects Produced at Boston University	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2015 - 2018	Volunteer , Brighton Food Pantry	<i>Brighton, MA</i>
2015 - 2018	Junior Analyst , Boston University Finance Club	<i>Boston, MA</i>
2014 - 2018	Volunteer , Massachusetts Production Coalition	<i>Boston, MA</i>