

# MATTHEW PEIZHI YAN

Ph.D. Candidate at UBC

Founder at Aurora Technology and Solutions Ltd. ([www.auroratns.com](http://www.auroratns.com))

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- **Computer Vision:** 3D face and general object reconstruction from 2D images; image generation.
- **Computer Graphics:** NeRF; 3D Gaussian Splatting (3DGS); 3D face modeling.
- **Machine Learning:** Large-Language-Models; foundational 3D generation models; explainable ML.

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## EDUCATION

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- **The University of British Columbia** Jan. 2021 – Sept. 2025 (Estimated)  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada — *Ph.D. Candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering*  
**Supervisors:** [Dr. Rabab Ward](#), [Dr. Shan Du](#)  
**Thesis:** Learning-based 3D Human Face Creation  
**GPA:** 4.0 / 4.0 (Average Grade: 95%, Letter: A+)
- **Lakehead University** Sept. 2018 – May 2020  
Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada — *M.Sc. in Computer Science*  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Salimur Choudhury  
**Thesis:** Towards Machine Learning Enabled Future-Generation Wireless Network Optimization  
**GPA:** 4.0 / 4.0 (Average Grade: 98%, Letter: A+)  
**Distinction:** Governor-General's Gold Medal
- **Algoma University** Sept. 2016 – May 2018  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada — *B.Sc. in Computer Science*  
**Supervisors:** Dr. Yi Feng, Dr. George Townsend  
**GPA:** 4.0 / 4.0 (Average Grade: 96%, Letter: A+)
- **University of Jinan** Sept. 2014 – June 2019  
Jinan, Shandong, China — *B.Eng. in Computer Science*

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## RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

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<b>The University of British Columbia</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b>	Jan. 2021 – Present
<b>Aurora Tech. and Solutions Ltd.</b>	<b>Founder and Director</b>	2024 – Present
<b>BC Cancer Research Centre</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b>	Jun. 2024 – Oct. 2024
<b>Huawei Canada</b>	<b>Internship</b>	Sept 2021 – May 2022
<b>Lakehead University</b>	<b>Research Assistant and Graduate TA</b>	Sept 2018 – May 2020
<b>Algoma University</b>	<b>Research Assistant at BCI Lab</b>	2017 - 2018

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Lakehead University

- **Guest Lecturer (9 hours):** *Optimization Method* (2020 Spring), graduate-level course, 29 students
- **Guest Lecturer (6 hours):** *Deep Learning* (2020 Winter), graduate-level course, 83 students

- **Guest Lecturer (6 hours):** *Computer Vision (2019 Fall)*, graduate-level course, 70 students
- **Guest Lecturer (9 hours):** *Deep Learning (2019 Spring)*, graduate-level course, 59 students
- **Guest Lecturer (6 hours):** *Optimization Method (2019 Spring)*, graduate-level course, 19 students
- **Tutor:** *Assembly Language (2019 Winter)*, undergraduate-level course, 38 students
- **Tutor:** *Data Base Management Systems (2018 Fall)*, undergraduate-level course, 25 students

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## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### Journal Reviewer

- **Elsevier** *Neurocomputing* (13 reviews)
- **Springer** *Neural Computing and Applications* (1 review)
- **IEEE** *Transactions on Cybernetics* (1 review)
- **IEEE** *Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology* (16 reviews)
- **IEEE** *Canadian Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering* (4 reviews)
- **IEEE** *Access* (1 review)

### Conference Reviewer

- 2025 Graphics Interface (**GI 2025**) Conference
- 2022 Asian Conference on Computer Vision (**ACCV 2022**)
- 2021 to 2023 IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (**ICIP**)
- 2020 The 17th IEEE International Conference on Ubiquitous Intelligence and Computing

### Other

- **International Program Committee Member** for Graphics Interface (GI) Conference (2025)
- **Speaker** at BC Cancer Summit on Skin Lesion Image Synthesis with Controllable Skin Tone (2024)
- **Guest Speaker** at Consortium for Advancement of MRI Education and Research in Africa (2023)
- **Invited Talk** on Machine Learning in 3D Face Modeling at UBC (Okanagan) COSC Seminar (2023)
- **Vice President** of Turing Computer Association (S/W Dept.), Univ. of Jinan, China (2015-2016)

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Citations: 156    h-index: 8    i10-index: 6    (statistics are from Google Scholar)

### Journal

1. Liu, W., Hopkins, A. M., **Yan, P.**, Du, S., Luyt, L. G., Li, Y., & Hou, J. (2023), "Can Machine Learning 'Transform' Peptides/Peptidomimetics into Small Molecules? A Case Study with Ghrelin Receptor Ligands", *Molecular Diversity*, 1-17. (SCI Journal, IF: 3.364)
2. **Yan, P.**, & Choudhury, S. (2021), "Deep Q-Learning Enabled Joint Optimization of Mobile Edge Computing Multi-Level Task Offloading", *Elsevier Computer Communications*. (SCI Journal, IF: 3.923)
3. **Yan, P.**, Paul, A. C., Yang, Y., Zhang, H., Du, S. & Wu, J. (2021), "Non-Iterative Online Sequential Learning Strategy for Autoencoder and Classifier", *Springer Neural Computing and Applications*. (SCI Journal, IF: 6.106)
4. Tassone, J., **Yan, P.**, Simpson, M., Mendhe, C., Mago, V., & Choudhury, S. (2020), "Utilizing Deep Learning and Graph Mining to Identify Drug Use on Twitter Data". *BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making*, 20(11), 1-15. (SCI Journal, IF: 3.546)
5. **Yan, P.**, Al-Turjman, F., Al-Oqily, I., & Choudhury, S. (2020), "An Energy-Efficient Topology Control Algorithm for Optimizing the Lifetime of Wireless Ad-hoc IoT Networks in 5G and B5G". *Computer Communications*. Elsevier. (SCI Journal, IF: 3.923)
6. **Yan, P.**, Choudhury, S., & Wei, R. (2020), "A Machine Learning Auxiliary Approach for the Distributed Dense RFID Readers Arrangement Algorithm". *Intelligent and Cognitive Techniques for Internet of Things, IEEE Access Journal*. (SCI Journal, IF: 5.456)
7. **Yan, P.**, & Feng, Y. (2018), "Using Convolution and Deep Learning in Gomoku Game Artificial Intelligence". *Modern Physics Letters A*, 28(03). (SCI Journal, IF: 1.367)

### Conference

8. **Yan, P.\***, Ward, R., Tang, Q., & Du, S., “Gaussian Deja-vu: Creating Controllable 3D Gaussian Head Avatars with Enhanced Generalization and Personalization Abilities”. Accepted by *IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*. 2025. (**Oral, accepted in Round 1, acceptance rate 12%**)
  9. Qiu, Z., **Yan, P.**, & Cai, Z., “Large Language Models for Second Language English Writing Assessments: An Exploratory Comparison”. Accepted by *the 38th Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information and Computation (PACLIC 38)*. 2024.
  10. **Yan, P.\***, Ward, R., Wang, D., Tang, Q., & Du, S., “Learning Disentangled Features for NeRF-based Face Reconstruction”. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP)*. 2023.
  11. **Yan, P.\***, Gregson, J., Tang, Q., Ward, R., Xu, Z., & Du, S., “NEO-3DF: Novel Editing-Oriented 3D Face Creation and Reconstruction”. In *Proceedings of the Asian Conference on Computer Vision (ACCV)*. 2022.
  12. Mehajabin, N., **Yan, P.**, Kaur, S., Song, J., Pourazad, M. T., Wang, Y., ... & Nasiopoulos, P. An Efficient Refocusing Scheme for Camera-Array Captured Light Field Video for Improved Visual Immersiveness. In *Proceedings of the 55th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*. 2022
  13. **Yan, P.\***, & Choudhury, S., “Optimizing Mobile Edge Computing Multi-Level Task Offloading via Deep Reinforcement Learning”. In *Proceedings of the ICC 2020-2020 IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC)*. IEEE. 2020.
  14. Emu, M., **Yan, P.\***, Choudhury, S., “Latency Aware VNF Deployment at Edge Devices for IoT Services: An Artificial Neural Network Based Approach”. In *Proceedings of the ICC 2020-2020 IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC) on Convergent IoT*. IEEE. 2020
  15. **Yan, P.\***, Choudhury, S., & Wei, R. “A Distributed Graph-Based Dense RFID Readers Arrangement Algorithm”. In *Proceedings of the ICC 2019-2019 IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC)* (pp. 1-6). IEEE. May, 2019.
  16. **Yan, P.\***, & Feng, Y. “A Hybrid Gomoku Deep Learning Artificial Intelligence”. In *Proceedings of the 2018 Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing Conference* (pp. 48-52). ACM. December, 2018.
- \* indicates the presenter.  
 C indicates co-first authorship.

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## SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

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### Canada

- (2020) **The Governor-General’s Gold Medal Award** (Canada’s highest award in graduate level)
- (2018) **Vector Scholarship in Artificial Intelligence (VSAI)** by Vector Institute, \$17,500

### University of British Columbia

- (2023) ICICS Travel Award
- (2021, 2022, 2023) Graduate Support Initiative (GSI) Award

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## PROJECTS

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### Research-Oriented

- (2024) **Gaussian Deja-vu**: 3DGS-based 3D Head Creation
- (2024) Mesh-based Neural 3D Face Style Transfer (<https://peizhiyan.github.io/docs/style>)
- (2023) **StyleMorpheus**: NeRF-based 3D Face (<https://github.com/ubc-3d-vision-lab/StyleMorpheus>)
- (2022) **NEO-3DF**: 3D Face Creation and Editing (<https://peizhiyan.github.io/docs/neo3df>)
- (2019) Deep Learning 4X **Video Super-Resolution** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8TxAPyIE0Y>)

### Other Open-Source Projects

- (2024) **3D Face Reconstruction** and Video 3D Face **Tracking** (<https://github.com/PeizhiYan/flame-head-tracker>)
- (2021) **ZenFlow** Open-Source Machine Learning Demo (<https://github.com/PeizhiYan/zenflow>)
- (2021) Light-Field Refocusing Algorithm User Interface (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRxXQcuVQSs&t=9s>)
- (2019) Open-Source **Whiteboard Web App**. (<https://peizhiyan.github.io/www/draw.html>)
- (2018) Convolution-Based **Gomoku Game AI** ([https://peizhiyan.github.io/js\\_codes/gomoku](https://peizhiyan.github.io/js_codes/gomoku))

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## SUPERVISED AND MENTORED STUDENTS

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- **Haoyu Wang** (supervised incoming Ph.D. student at UBC Okanagan, research assistant, Sept – Dec. 2024)  
[Projects](#): 3D face and head tracking; 2D image ear landmark detection.
- **Xiangrui Liu** (supervised master's student at UBC Okanagan, research assistant, May – Aug. 2023)  
[Project](#): 3D and 3D-aware face modeling.
- **Md Nafis Abedin** (supervised undergraduate student at University of Waterloo, co-op 2020 summer intern)  
[Project](#): Developing an interactive web user interface for the satellite image lichen mapping project.
- **Keizo Kato** (mentored undergraduate student at UBC Okanagan, 2023) on his undergraduate thesis.
- **Wenqi Guo** (mentored undergraduate student at UBC Okanagan, 2023) on his undergraduate thesis.

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- **Programming Languages**: Python, Java, C++, C, JavaScript
- **Open-Source Libraries**: PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Open3D, OpenCV, Gurobi, Paper.js, React
- **Others**: LaTeX, Linux, SLURM (HPC), Photoshop, Blender

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## OPEN-SOURCE PROJECTS CONTRIBUTIONS

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- **Simple-KNN (used by 3DGS)**: Solved a CUDA device-related issue (PR accepted).  
<https://github.com/camenduru/simple-knn>

Updated on Feb. 17, 2025