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

* **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.

# Education

* **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](https://ipl.ece.ubc.ca/), [Dr. Shan Du](https://cmps.ok.ubc.ca/about/contact/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*

# Research and Work Experience

**The University of British Columbia Research Assistant**  Jan. 2021 – Present

**Aurora Tech. and Solutions Ltd. Founder and Director**  2024 – Present

**BC Cancer Research Centre Research Assistant** Jun. 2024 – Oct. 2024

**Huawei Canada Internship**  Sept 2021 – May 2022

**Lakehead University Research Assistant** **and Graduate TA** Sept 2018 – May 2020

**Algoma University Research Assistant at BCI Lab** 2017 - 2018

# Teaching Experience

**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*](http://timetable.lakeheadu.ca/scripts/return.course.description.php?c=COMP&cn=3413) *Language (2019 Winter),* undergraduate-level course, 38 students
* **Tutor**: [*Data Base Management Systems*](http://timetable.lakeheadu.ca/scripts/return.course.description.php?c=COMP&cn=3413) *(2018 Fall),* undergraduate-level course, 25 students

# Academic service

**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* (18 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, & 2025 IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (**ICIP**)
* 2020 The 17th IEEE International Conference on Ubiquitous Intelligence and Computing

**Other**

* **Volunteer** at IEEE Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering (CCECE 2025)
* **Presenter** at UBC ECE Research Day (2025)
* **International Program Committee Member** for Graphics Interface Conference (GI 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)

# Publications

Citations: 165 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. C**, 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**

1. **Yan, P.\***, Ward, R., Tang, Q., & Du, S., “Gaussian Deja-vu: Creating Controllable 3D Gaussian Head Avatars with Enhanced Generalization and Personalization Abilities”. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*. 2025. (**Oral; Accepted in Round 1; Acceptance rate 12%**)
2. 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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. 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
6. **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.
7. 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
8. **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.
9. **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.

**Preprint**

1. **Yan, P.**, Ward, R., Wang, D., Tang, Q., & Du, S., “StyleMorpheus: A Style-Based 3D-Aware Morphable Face Model”. arXiv preprint. 2025. (Work completed in 2023)

**\*** indicates the presenter.

**C** indicates co-first authorship.

# Selected Awards and Honors

**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

# Projects

**Research-Oriented**

* (2024) **Gaussian Deja-vu**: 3DGS-based 3D Head Creation (<https://peizhiyan.github.io/docs/dejavu>)
* (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=W8TxAPylE0Y>)

**Other Open-Source Projects**

* (2024) **3D Face Reconstruction** and **Tracking** (<https://github.com/PeizhiYan/flame-head-tracker>) ⭐️ 60+ Stars
* (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/index.html))

# Supervised and Mentored Students

* **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 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 student at UBC Okanagan, 2023) on his undergraduate thesis.
* **Marshall Wenqi Guo** (mentored student at UBC Okanagan, 2023) on his undergraduate thesis.

# Technical Skills

* **Programming Languages:** Python, Java, C++, C, JavaScript
* **Open-Source Libraries:** PyTorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Open3D, OpenCV, Gurobi, Paper.js, React
* **Computer Networking:** VPN, SSH, SAMBA, FTP, Router Settings (DHCP, NAT)
* **Others:** LaTeX, Linux, SLURM (HPC), Photoshop, Blender

# OPEN-SOURCE Projects Contributions

* **Simple-KNN (used by 3DGS):** Solved a CUDA device-related issue (PR accepted).

<https://github.com/camenduru/simple-knn>

Updated on Mar. 30, 2025