

# Yang Zhang

## Curriculum Vitae

Carnegie Mellon University  
Human-Computer Interaction Institute  
5000 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15213  
✉ [yang.zhang@cs.cmu.edu](mailto:yang.zhang@cs.cmu.edu)  
🌐 [www.yang-zhang.me](http://www.yang-zhang.me)

I am a third year Ph.D. student advised by Prof. Chris Harrison at CMU HCII. I am also a Qualcomm Fellow. Broadly, I build interfaces to bridge gaps between computing resources and people's daily lives in a natural and efficient way. I'm interested in sensing technologies for wearables, fabrications, and Internet of Things.

## EDUCATION

- 2015 - Present **Carnegie Mellon University, School of Computer Science.**  
Ph.D. student at Human-Computer Interaction Institute. Advisor: *Chris Harrison*
- 2013 - 2015 **Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture.**  
Master of Science in Computational Design
- 2009 - 2013 **Beihang University, School of Automation Science and Electronic Engineering.**  
Bachelor of Engineering in Automation Science

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017 **Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship Winner**, top 7%.
- 2016 **Qualcomm Innovation Fellowship Finalist**, top 26%.  
**Best Paper Nomination**, ACM CHI 2016, top 4%.  
**Best Talk**, ACM CHI 2016, top 1%.
- 2015 **Best Note**, ACM ITS 2015, top 5%.  
**Best Talk Nomination**, ACM UIST 2015, top 4%.
- 2014 **1st Most Creative Award at Student Innovation Contest**, ACM UIST 2014, top 4%.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 [C.10] Jun Gong, **Yang Zhang**, Xia Zhou, and Xing-dong Yang. 2017. Pyro: Thumb-Tip Gesture Recognition Using Pyroelectric Infrared Sensing. In Proceedings of the 30th Annual Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '17). ACM, New York, NY, USA, *To Appear*.
- [C.9] **Yang Zhang**, Gierad Laput, and Chris Harrison. 2017. Electrick: Low-Cost Touch Sensing Using Electric Field Tomography. In Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 1-14. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025842>.
- [C.8] Gierad Laput, **Yang Zhang**, and Chris Harrison. 2017. Synthetic Sensors: Towards General-Purpose Sensing. In Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 3986-3999. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025773>.
- [C.7] Robert Xiao, Gierad Laput, **Yang Zhang**, and Chris Harrison. 2017. Deus EM Machina: On-Touch Contextual Functionality for Smart IoT Appliances. In Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 4000-4008. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025828>.

- 2016 [C.6] **Yang Zhang**, Robert Xiao, and Chris Harrison. 2016. Advancing Hand Gesture Recognition with High Resolution Electrical Impedance Tomography. In Proceedings of the 29th Annual Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '16). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 843-850. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2984511.2984574>.
- [C.5] Junhan Zhou, **Yang Zhang**, Gierad Laput, and Chris Harrison. 2016. AuraSense: Enabling Expressive Around-Smartwatch Interactions with Electric Field Sensing. In Proceedings of the 29th Annual Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '16). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 81-86. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2984511.2984568>.
- [C.4] **Yang Zhang**, Junhan Zhou, Gierad Laput, and Chris Harrison. 2016. SkinTrack: Using the Body as an Electrical Waveguide for Continuous Finger Tracking on the Skin. In Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '16). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 1491-1503. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2858036.2858082>.
- Honorable Mention*
- 2015 [C.3] **Yang Zhang** and Chris Harrison. 2015. Tomo: Wearable, Low-Cost Electrical Impedance Tomography for Hand Gesture Recognition. In Proceedings of the 28th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '15). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 167-173. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2807442.2807480>.
- [C.2] **Yang Zhang** and Chris Harrison. 2015. Quantifying the Targeting Performance Benefit of Electrostatic Haptic Feedback on Touchscreens. In Proceedings of the 2015 International Conference on Interactive Tabletops & Surfaces (ITS '15). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 43-46. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2817721.2817730>.
- Best Note*
- 2013 [C.1] Danli Wang, Yunfeng Qi, **Yang Zhang**, and Tingting Wang. 2013. TanPro-kit: a tangible programming tool for children. In Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC '13). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 344-347. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/2485760.2485841>.

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## POSTERS AND DEMOS

- 2017 [D.4] Electrick: Low-Cost Touch Sensing Using Electric Field Tomography. 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17, Denver, CO).
- [D.3] Synthetic Sensors: Towards General-Purpose Sensing. 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17, Denver, CO).
- [D.2] Deus EM Machina: On-Touch Contextual Functionality for Smart IoT Appliances. 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17, Denver, CO).
- 2015 [D.1] Tomo: Wearable, Low-Cost Electrical Impedance Tomography for Hand Gesture Recognition. 28th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '15, Charlotte, NC).
- 2012 [P.2] E-Block: A Tangible Programming Tool for Children. 25th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '12, Cambridge, MA).
- [P.1] TempoString: A Tangible Tool for Children's Music Creation. 13th Annual ACM Conference on Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp '15, Pittsburgh, PA).

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## EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2017 **Disney Research Pittsburgh**, *Building novel interfaces with Electric Field Sensing*, Advised by Prof. Scott Hudson and Dr. Alanson Sample.
- 2014 **Marvell Semiconductor**, *Developing IoT applications for the Kinoma Create*, Advised by Dr. Andy Carle.
- 2012 **Institute of Software Chinese Academy of Sciences**, *Building tangible interfaces for STEM learning of young children*, Advised by Prof. Danli Wang.

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** C, C++, Python, Java, Matlab
- **Machine Learning Tools:** Keras, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, Weka
- **Prototyping:** Arduino, Eagle, Processing, openFrameworks
- **Fabrication:** Welding, 3D Printing, Laser Cutting, CNC Milling, Vacuum Forming, Injection Molding

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## PAPER CHAIRING

ACM CHI '18 Late Breaking Work, *Program Committee*.

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## PAPER REVIEW

ACM TEI '18.  
ACM CHI '16, '17.  
ACM UIST '16, '17.  
IEEE Haptics '17.  
ACM IUI '17.  
GI '17.

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## PATENTS

- [PA.3] Low-Cost Touch Sensing Using Electric Field Tomography, *U.S. Provisional Patent*.  
[PA.2] A wearable system for continuous touch tracking on the skin, *U.S. Provisional Patent*.  
[PA.1] System for wearable, low-cost electrical impedance tomography for non-invasive gesture recognition, *U.S. Publication number WO2016210441 A1*.

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## SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE

2017 **MIT Technology Review**, *A Cheap, Simple Way to Make Anything a Touch Pad*.  
**Popular Science**, *What a Jell-O brain tells us about the future of human-machine interaction*.  
**Gizmodo**, *Scientists Figure Out How to Turn Anything Into a Touchscreen Using Conductive Spray Paint*.  
**TechCrunch**, *New technique turns anything into a touch sensor*.  
**The Verge**, *Electrick lets you spray touch controls onto any object or surface*.  
**Engadget**, *Get ready to 'spray' touch controls onto any surface*.  
**CNET**, *Almost anything can become a touchpad with some spray paint*.  
**The Wall Street Journal**, *How to Turn Anything Into a Touchpad*.  
**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**, *Touch-sensing technology born of CMU researchers grabs companies' interest*.  
**Discover Magazine**, *Turn Anything into a Touchscreen With 'Electrick'*.  
**Digital Trends**, *Carnegie Mellon Have Developed a Spray Paint for Turning Any Surface into a Touchpad*.  
**Newsweek**, *Conductive spray paint can turn any surface into a touchscreen*.  
**Popular Science**, *What a Jell-O brain tells us about the future of human-machine interaction*.  
**New Atlantis**, *Spray-on technology turns Jell-O into a touch control*.  
**Geek**, *Thanks to Science and Your Imagination, Everything Can Be a Touch Screen*.  
**New Scientist**, *Spray-on touch controls give an interactive twist to any surface*.  
**Bloomberg**, *This Spray Can Make Your Wall a Touchpad*.

- Live Science**, *Spray-On Touch Screens? How to Turn Any Flat Surface into a Touchpad.*
- TechCrunch**, *Google-funded 'super sensor' project brings IoT powers to dumb appliances.*
- Science Daily**, *Internet of things made simple: One sensor package does work of many.*
- NFC**, *Researchers develop system that lets smartphones interact with objects using electro-magnetic sensing.*
- TechCrunch**, *How a tap could tame the smart home.*
- 2016 **MIT Technology Review**, *Use Your Arm as a Smart-Watch Touch Pad.*
- The Verge**, *New tech turns your skin into a touchscreen for your smartwatch.*
- Engadget**, *Navigate your smartwatch by touching your skin.*
- Gizmodo**, *This New 'Skinterface' Could Make Smartwatches Suck Less.*
- CNET**, *SkinTrack turns your entire forearm into a smartwatch touchpad.*
- Wired**, *SkinTrack Turns Your Arm Into a Touchpad. Here's How It Works.*
- Newsweek**, *SkinTrack system transforms the skin on your arm into a touch interface that lets you do things you couldn't normally do with a smartwatch—like play Angry Birds.*
- Nerdist**, *Skintrack wants to turn your arm into touchpad.*
- 90.5 WESA**, *CMU's SkinTrack Technology Turns Your Forearm Into Smartwatch Trackpad.*
- Discover Magazine**, *With SkinTrack, Your Arm is the Touchpad.*
- Inverse**, *Carnegie Mellon Can Turn Your Beautiful Skin Into a Vast Smartwatch Trackpad.*
- CNN**, *This Watch Turns Your Arm into a Touchscreen.*
- Yahoo! News**, *SkinTrack Turns Your Whole forearm into a Smartwatch Interface.*
- 2015 **Gizmodo**, *This Smartwatch Detects Gestures By Watching the Muscles Inside Your Arm Move.*
- Digital Trends**, *Researchers at Carnegie Mellon have developed a wristband that can sense hand gestures.*
- New Scientist**, *No-touch smartwatch scans the skin to see the world around you.*
- Ubergizmo**, *Tomo Watch Strap Turns Hand Movements Into Commands.*
- Hackaday**, *Impedance Tomography is the new X-ray MACHine.*