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EDUCATION

The George Washington University (GWU)

Washington, DC USA

Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering

5/2022

- Advisor: Murray H. Loew
- Dissertation: “Toward Explainability of Machine Learning in Medical Imaging: Generalizability, Separability, and Learnability”

The George Washington University

Washington, DC USA

M.S. in Computer Science

12/2016

- Advisor: Claire Monteleoni

Northeast Forestry University (NEFU)

Harbin, China

M.S. in Biophysics

6/2013

- Advisor: Dawei Qi
- Thesis: “Non-destructive Testing of Composite Panel Internal Defect” (Chinese)

Northeast Forestry University

Harbin, China

B.S. in Physics

6/2010

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Areas: Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Image Processing, Computer Vision, and their applications in Medical Imaging

Evaluation of Medical Image Segmentation

9/2021–Present

Division of DIDS at FDA, Silver Spring, MD.

Advisor: Weijie Chen

- Extract manual segmentations of tumors or lesions from DICOM data files and combine inter-observers' segmentations.
- Generate synthetic segmentations (contours) from a reference segmentation.
- Develop a framework including methodologies and tools for the assessment of medical image segmentation algorithms.

Transparent Deep Learning

6/2018–Present

Department of Biomedical Engineering at GWU, Washington, DC.

Advisor: Murray H. Loew

- Examining the learnability of deep learning models by studying the subitizing ability of Convolutional Neural Networks and the training accuracy bound for two-layer Fully-Connected Neural Networks.
- Created a score to define and measure the complexity of decision boundaries of deep neural networks; the measure can be used to analyze the generalizability of deep learning models.
- Created the Distance-based Separability Index (DSI), which is independent of the classifier model, to measure the separability of datasets.
- Characterized the performance of a good Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) according to its Creativity, Inheritance, and Diversity; then, applied the data separability measure based on the three aspects to evaluate the performances of GANs.

- Deep Learning Applications on Medical Images** 6/2017–Present
 Department of Biomedical Engineering at GWU, Washington, DC. Advisor: Murray H. Loew
- Segmented breast areas from thermal breast images by using neural network-based segmentation models, such as the autoencoder-like and U-Net-like models.
 - Improved the performance of breast cancer detection via applying transfer learning and the Generative Adversarial Network with the Convolutional Neural Networks to provide additional training data.
- Hyperspectral Images-based Cardiac Ablation Lesion Detection** 10/2016–5/2018
 Department of Biomedical Engineering at GWU, Washington, DC. Advisor: Murray H. Loew
- Designed processes to detect cardiac lesions in auto-fluorescence-based hyper-spectral images by using k-means clustering and to select the essential spectral bands to optimize the process of multi-spectral image acquisition.
- Climate (Frost Point) Data Collection and Analysis** 5/2016–9/2016
 Department of Computer Science at GWU, Washington, DC. Advisor: Claire Monteleoni
- Developed a program in the R language to download, extract, and merge global climate data (*e.g.*, temperature, pressure, and humidity) from two resources (netCDF-4 and GRIB-1) and compute the global frost points distributions beginning from 1948.
- Scene Image Identification and Positioning** 7/2014–9/2014
 Department of Computer Science at Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, China. Advisor: Dongjie Zhu
- Applied the Maximally Stable Extremal Regions (MSER) to scene text extraction for scene image identification and positioning.
- Non-destructive Testing for Wooden Materials** 5/2011–5/2013
 College of Science at NEFU, Harbin, China. Advisor: Dawei Qi
- Created a line-based description by using Hough transform and Minimum-Perimeter Polygons (MPP) for defects description in blockboard.
 - Applied multi-fractal analysis for defects recognition of blockboard X-ray images.
 - Analyzed the relationship between fiberboard density and its Computed Tomography (CT) number by linear regression for automatic fiberboard density testing.
- Design of Chinese Medicine Ultrasonic Extraction Machine** 2/2009–5/2009
 College of Science at NEFU, Harbin, China. Adviser: Runzhou Su
- Joined the undergraduate innovative experimental projects of NEFU.
 - Explored using the cavitation of ultrasound to improve the extraction efficiency and concentration of active ingredients from traditional Chinese medicine.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

6. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “A novel intrinsic measure of data separability”, *Applied Intelligence*, 2022, in press. DOI: 10.1007/s10489-022-03395-6.
5. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “A novel measure to evaluate generative adversarial networks based on direct analysis of generated images”, *Neural Computing and Applications*, vol. 33, no. 20, pp. 13 921–13 936, 2021. DOI: 10.1007/s00521-021-06031-5.
4. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “Breast cancer detection using synthetic mammograms from generative adversarial networks in convolutional neural networks”, *Journal of Medical Imaging*, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 031 411–031 411, Jul. 2019. DOI: 10.1117/1.JMI.6.3.031411.

3. H. Asfour, **S. Guan**, N. Muselimyan, L. Swift, M. Loew, and N. Sarvazyan, “Optimization of wavelength selection for multispectral image acquisition: A case study of atrial ablation lesions”, *Biomedical Optics Express*, vol. 9, no. 5, pp. 2189–2204, May 2018. DOI: 10.1364/BOE.9.002189.
2. **S. Guan**, H. Asfour, N. Sarvazyan, and M. Loew, “Application of unsupervised learning to hyperspectral imaging of cardiac ablation lesions”, *Journal of Medical Imaging*, vol. 5, no. 4, pp. 046 003–046 003, Oct. 2018. DOI: 10.1117/1.JMI.5.4.046003.
1. H. Mu, M. Zhang, D. Qi, **S. Guan**, and H. Ni, “Wood defects recognition based on fuzzy BP neural network”, *International Journal of Smart Home*, vol. 9, no. 5, pp. 143–152, 2015. DOI: 10.14257/ijsh.2015.9.5.14.

Conference Papers

14. A. Lou, **S. Guan**, H. Ko, and M. H. Loew, “CaraNet: context axial reverse attention network for segmentation of small medical objects”, in *Medical Imaging 2022: Image Processing*, International Society for Optics and Photonics, vol. 12032, SPIE, 2022, pp. 81–92. DOI: 10.1117/12.2611802.
13. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “A sneak attack on segmentation of medical images using deep neural network classifiers”, in *2021 IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Workshop (AIPR)*, 2021, pp. 1–8. DOI: 10.1109/AIPR52630.2021.9762077.
12. A. Lou, **S. Guan**, and M. H. Loew, “DC-UNet: rethinking the U-Net architecture with dual channel efficient CNN for medical image segmentation”, in *Medical Imaging 2021: Image Processing*, International Society for Optics and Photonics, vol. 11596, SPIE, 2021, pp. 749–759. DOI: 10.1117/12.2582338.
11. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “An internal cluster validity index using a distance-based separability measure”, in *2020 IEEE 32nd International Conference on Tools with Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI)*, 2020, pp. 827–834. DOI: 10.1109/ICTAI50040.2020.00131.
10. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “Analysis of generalizability of deep neural networks based on the complexity of decision boundary”, in *2020 19th IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)*, 2020, pp. 101–106. DOI: 10.1109/ICMLA51294.2020.00025.
9. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “Understanding the ability of deep neural networks to count connected components in images”, in *2020 IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Workshop (AIPR)*, 2020, pp. 1–7. DOI: 10.1109/AIPR50011.2020.9425331.
8. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “Evaluation of generative adversarial network performance based on direct analysis of generated images”, in *2019 IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Workshop (AIPR)*, 2019, pp. 1–5. DOI: 10.1109/AIPR47015.2019.9174595.
7. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “Using generative adversarial networks and transfer learning for breast cancer detection by convolutional neural networks”, in *Medical Imaging 2019: Imaging Informatics for Healthcare, Research, and Applications*, vol. 10954, SPIE, 2019, pp. 306–318. DOI: 10.1117/12.2512671.
6. A. Lou, **S. Guan**, N. Kamona, and M. Loew, “Segmentation of infrared breast images using MultiResUnet neural networks”, in *2019 IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Workshop (AIPR)*, 2019, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/AIPR47015.2019.9316541.
5. **S. Guan**, N. Kamona, and M. Loew, “Segmentation of thermal breast images using convolutional and deconvolutional neural networks”, in *2018 IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Workshop (AIPR)*, 2018, pp. 1–7. DOI: 10.1109/AIPR.2018.8707379.

4. **S. Guan**, M. Loew, H. Asfour, N. Sarvazyan, and N. Muselimyan, “Lesion detection for cardiac ablation from auto-fluorescence hyperspectral images”, in *Medical Imaging 2018: Biomedical Applications in Molecular, Structural, and Functional Imaging*, vol. 10578, SPIE, 2018, pp. 389–403. DOI: 10.1117/12.2293652.
3. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “Breast cancer detection using transfer learning in convolutional neural networks”, in *2017 IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Workshop (AIPR)*, 2017, pp. 1–8. DOI: 10.1109/AIPR.2017.8457948.
2. Y. Han, D. Qi, and **S. Guan**, “Application of computed tomography in wood-polymer composites density detection”, in *Materials Science and Engineering Technology (ISMSET)*, ser. Advanced Materials Research, vol. 428, Feb. 2012, pp. 57–60. DOI: 10.4028/www.scientific.net/AMR.428.57.
1. **S. Guan**, D. Qi, and Y. Han, “Automatic fiberboard density testing based on application of computed tomography”, in *International Conference on Information and Business Intelligence*, Springer, 2011, pp. 614–620. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-29084-8_95.

Academic Reports

4. T. Serani, C. Kang, G. Saab, **S. Guan**, N. H. Choe, and M. Loew, “Portable and affordable ophthalmic disease detection system”, in *International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC)*, 2021, Paper ThDT1.16.
3. **S. Guan** and D. Qi, “Defect edge detection in blockboard x-ray images by Shannon entropy”, in *Advances in Information Sciences and Service Sciences*, vol. 5, 2013, pp. 988–996.
2. **S. Guan** and D. Qi, “Defects description in blockboard by Hough transform and minimum-perimeter polygons”, in *International Journal of Advancements in Computing Technology*, 23, vol. 4, 2012, pp. 365–375.
1. **S. Guan** and D. Qi, “Multifractal analysis of blockboard x-ray images for the defect detection”, in *Advances in Information Sciences and Service Sciences*, 18, vol. 4, 2012, pp. 149–156.

MANUSCRIPTS

3. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “A distance-based separability measure for internal cluster validation”, under review in *International Journal on Artificial Intelligence Tools*, 2021.
2. **S. Guan** and M. Loew, “The estimation of training accuracy for two-layer neural networks on random datasets without training”, under review in *Neural Processing Letters*, 2021.
1. A. Lou, **S. Guan**, and M. Loew, “A real-time deep neural network for medical image segmentation”, under review in *Medical Image Analysis*, 2021.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer for Journals

Reviews: 41

- IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI)
- IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems (TNNLS)
- IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation (TEVC)
- IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging (TMI)
- IEEE Transactions on Big Data (TBD)
- IEEE Internet of Things (IoT)

- IEEE Access
- SPIE Journal of Medical Imaging (JMI)
- ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD)
- Pattern Recognition, Elsevier
- International Journal of Medical Informatics, Elsevier
- Expert Systems with Applications, Elsevier
- Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing, Springer
- Computational Intelligence and Neuroscience, Hindawi
- Computational Intelligence, Wiley

Reviewer for Conferences

Reviews: 6

- 2021/2022 IEEE Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)
- 24th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2021)

Other Service

- Session Chair for SPIE Medical Imaging Conference 2022: Session 4 (Classification and Detection) and Session 7 (Segmentation II), San Diego CA. (February 2022)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- Invited Speaker, FDA/CDRH/OSEL/DIDSR AI/ML Seminar, “A Novel Intrinsic Measure of Data Separability – the Distance-based Separability Index (DSI) and its Applications”, Online. (December 6, 2021)
- Invited Graduate Presentation for the GW BME Day, “Introduce to an Intrinsic Measure of Data Separability – the Distance-based Separability Index (DSI)”, Washington DC. (November 1, 2021)
- Invited Speaker, FDA/CDRH/OSEL/DIDSR Q&A and Special Topics, “Analysis of Generalizability of Deep Neural Networks Based on the Complexity of Decision Boundary”, Online. (May 27, 2021)

Conferences

- 50th IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition (AIPR), “A Sneak Attack on Segmentation of Medical Images Using Deep Neural Network Classifiers”, Online. (October 2021)
- 19th IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA), “Analysis of Generalizability of Deep Neural Networks Based on the Complexity of Decision Boundary”, Online. (December 2020)
- 32th IEEE International Conference on Tools with Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI), “An Internal Cluster Validity Index Using a Distance-based Separability Measure”, Online. (November 2020)
- 49th IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition (AIPR), “Understanding the Ability of Deep Neural Networks to Count Connected Components in Images”, Online. (October 2020)
- 48th IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition (AIPR), “Evaluation of Generative Adversarial Network Performance Based on Direct Analysis of Generated Images”, Washington DC. (October 2019)
- 2019 SPIE Medical Imaging Conference, “Using Generative Adversarial Networks and Transfer Learning for Breast Cancer Detection by Convolutional Neural Networks”, San Diego CA. (February 2019)

- 47th IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition (AIPR), “Segmentation of Thermal Breast Images Using Convolutional and Deconvolutional Neural Networks”, Washington DC. (October 2018)
- 14th International Workshop on Breast Imaging (IWBI), “Breast Cancer Detection Using Synthetic Mammograms from Generative Adversarial Networks in Convolutional Neural Networks”, Atlanta GA. (July 2018)
- 15th IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI), “Breast Cancer Detection Using Transfer Learning in Convolutional Neural Networks”, Washington DC. (April 2018)
- 2018 SPIE Medical Imaging Conference, “Lesion Detection for Cardiac Ablation from Auto-fluorescence Hyperspectral Images”, Houston TX. (February 2018)
- 46th IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition (AIPR), “Breast Cancer Detection Using Transfer Learning in Convolutional Neural Networks”, Washington DC. (October 2017)

Others

- GW SEAS R&D Showcase, “A Novel Intrinsic Measure of Data Separability”. (April 2022)
- Special Topic Lecture in Lab Meeting, “Optimization and Troubleshooting in Machine Learning”. (April 2022)
- GW Research Showcase, “A Novel Intrinsic Measure of Data Separability”. (April 2022)
- Special Topic Lecture in Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning course, “Software Tools for Machine Learning & Deep Learning”. (September 2021)
- GW Research Showcase, “A Novel Measure to Evaluate Generative Adversarial Networks Based on Direct Analysis of Generated Images”. (April 2021)
- Special Topic Lecture in Lab Meeting, “High Performance Computing in GWU”. (November 2020)
- GW BME Day, “Evaluation of Generative Adversarial Network Performance Based on Direct Analysis of Generated Images”. (November 2019)
- GW SEAS R&D Showcase, “Evaluation of Generative Adversarial Network Performance Based on Direct Analysis of Generated Images”. (October 2019)
- GW Research Showcase, “Can a Convolutional Neural Network Implement Histogram Equalization in Image Analysis?”. (April 2019)
- GW BME Day, “Segmentation of Thermal Breast Images Using Convolutional and Deconvolutional Neural Networks”. (November 2018)
- GW Research Showcase, “Breast Cancer Detection Using Transfer Learning in Convolutional Neural Networks”. (April 2018)
- GW SEAS R&D Showcase, “Breast Cancer Detection Using Transfer Learning in Convolutional Neural Networks”. (February 2018)
- GW Research Showcase, “Toward Real-time Lesion Detection for Cardiac Ablation from Auto-fluorescence Hyperspectral Images”. (April 2017)
- GW SEAS R&D Showcase, “Lesion Detection for Cardiac Ablation from Auto-fluorescence Hyperspectral Images”. (February 2017)

AWARDS AND HONORS

• Collins Distinguished Doctoral Award	2020
• Honorable Mention Poster Award, SPIE Medical Imaging Conference	2019
• Gail E. Boggs Graduate Engineering Endowment Scholarship	2019

• Tyler Wean Scholarship	2019
• 125th Anniversary Endowment Scholarship	2019
• Timothy Tong Endowment Fellowship	2019
• Harriet Green Tischler Endowment Scholarship	2019
• IWBI 2018 Student Scholar Travel Grant	2018
• Provincial Excellent Graduate, Heilongjiang China	2013
• Excellent Graduate, NEFU	2013
• National Graduate Fellowship, China	2012
• Graduate Technology Innovation Project Fund, NEFU	2010
• Excellent Undergraduate Thesis, NEFU	2010
• Successful Participant, Mathematical Contest in Modeling	2010

TEACHING ASSISTANT

• Biomedical Engineering Capstone Project Lab <i>BME 4925W, BME 3915W (Senior Undergraduate Courses at GWU)</i>	Spring 2021, Spring 2018
• Computer Vision <i>BME/ECE 6885 (Graduate Course at GWU)</i>	Fall 2020, Spring 2018
• Biomedical Engineering MATLAB Programming <i>BME 2820 (Undergraduate Course at GWU)</i>	Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019
• Biomedical Engineering C Programming <i>BME 2825 (Undergraduate Course at GWU)</i>	Fall 2019
• Pattern Recognition <i>BME/ECE 6850 (Graduate Course at GWU)</i>	Fall 2018, Fall 2017
• Digital Image Processing <i>BME/ECE 6840 (Graduate Course at GWU)</i>	Spring 2017
• Design and Analysis of Algorithms <i>CSCI 6212 (Graduate Course at GWU)</i>	Fall 2016
• Probability for Computer Science <i>CSCI 3362/6362 (Undergraduate/Graduate Course at GWU)</i>	Spring 2016

VOLUNTEER

• International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)	4/2021
• IEEE Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition (AIPR) Workshop	10/2016–2019
• IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI) Conference	4/2018
• AIESEC (International Students Exchange Activity) <i>“Green Power Now!”</i>	Winter 2013, Winter 2012
• AIESEC (International Students Exchange Activity) <i>“Dear to Dream”</i>	Summer 2013, Summer 2012