

Yan Yang

Graduate Studies @ KAUST
Machine Learning R&D
Engineer @ Deepcell Inc.

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Interests

- Machine Learning, Deep Learning
- Informatics, Information Theory
- Image Processing, Visualization
- CS Topics in Interdisciplinary Complex Systems (Cognitive Science, Social Science, Neuroscience, Biology, etc.)

Skills

Machine Learning:

Convolutional NN

NLP

Deep Reinforcement L.

Tensorflow

Keras

PyTorch

Chainer

Numpy

Data Processing and Visualization:

Dimension Reduction

Coloring

SQL

Pandas

Apache Arrow

Matlab

Excel

Matplotlib

WebCanvas & Chart.js

General Programming:

C/C++

Python

Java

Web Development:

JavaScript

Flask

Formal Education / Degree

2023 – 2024

Ph.D. in Computer Science

KAUST

Courses: Deep Learning for Visual Computing | Spatial Data Science with R | Modeling and Simulation of Biosystems

Supervisor: Prof. Dominik Michels

CGPA: 3.550

Dynamical Systems

Computer Vision

Speech Recognition

2021 – 2022

Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering

U. of Nevada, Reno

Courses: Neurobiology | CS Topic: Bioinformatics | Independent Study: Computer Vision | Elements of Research Computing | CS Topic: Mass Detection in Mammograms | CS Topic: High-Performance Networking Systems

Supervisors: Prof. Mircea Nicolescu and Prof. George Bebis.

CGPA: 4.000

Computer Vision

Medical Imaging

2017 – 2019

M.Sc. in Computer Science

Georgetown U.

Courses: Algorithms | Computer Hardware & System Architecture | Comp Corpus Linguistics | Empirical Methods in NLP | Stat. Machine Translation | Adv Semantic Representation | Automatic Reasoning | Machine Learning | Deep Reinforcement Learning | Independent Study: Advanced Analytics | Statistic Machine Learning (Ph.D. seminar, approved by instructor)

Supervisor: Prof. Grace Hui Yang

CGPA: 3.701

Machine Learning

NLP

Information Retrieval

2002 – 2006

B.E. in Information Engineering

Southeast U., China

Courses: Linear Algebra & Space Analytic Geometry (scholarship endowed) | Advanced Mathematics | Probability & Statistics | Numerical Computing & Modeling | Digital Image Processing | Speech Signal Processing | Signals & Linear System | Electromagnetic Field & Waves | Digital Systems & Course Design | Electronic Circuits & Comprehensive Experiment | Microcomputer Systems & Interfaces | Fundamentals of Circuit | Analog Electronic Circuits | Modern Psychology | Modern Biology | College Physics | Music Theory | Practice of MATLAB | etc.

CGPA: 2.974

Complementary Education / Certification

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|------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2024 - now | Elements of Information Theory (Ongoing) | Book by Thomas Cover |
| 2024 - now | Introduction to Functional Analysis (Ongoing) | MIT 18.102 |
| 2022 | Human Research (Social Behavior Research Investigators and Key Personnel Group, Basic) | CITI Program - U. of Nevada, Reno |
| 2020 | Certified Generalist Software Engineer (Top 3%) | TripleByte |
| 2017 | Gender Study Summer School (writing: A+; other: A) | Harvard U. |
| — | —Coursera— | — |
| 2023 | Probabilistic Graphical Models 2 (94/100) | Stanford U. |
| 2023 | Probabilistic Graphical Models 1 (100/100) | Stanford U. |
| 2022 | Computational Neuroscience (99.57/100) | U. of Washington |
| 2021 | Convolutional Neural Networks (100/100) | Deeplearning.AI |
| 2021 | Mathematical Biostatistics Boot Camp I (100/100) | Johns Hopkins U. |
| 2020 | Genomics: Decoding the Universal Language of Life (Unlicensed) | UIUC |
| 2020 | Finding Hidden Messages in DNA (Unlicensed) | UC San Diego |

Publications

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|-----------|---|--------------------|
| May, 2025 | Modeling Limits in Phenomenological Contexts - A Statement on Improving Searcher Struggle Detection via the Reversal Theory. (Preprint) Yan Yang | ResearchGate |
| Dec, 2024 | Improving Searcher Struggle Detection via the Reversal Theory. (Article) Luo Jiyun, Yan Yang , Valerie Nayak, Grace Hui Yang | Discover Computing |
| Apr, 2022 | Two-Step Data Augmentation for Masked Face Detection and Recognition: Turning Fake Masks to Real. (Conference Paper) Yan Yang , George Bebis, Mircea Nicolescu | SCITEPRESS |
| Dec, 2021 | Feature Modulation to Improve Struggle Detection in Web Search: A Psychological Approach. (Preprint) Luo Jiyun, Yan Yang , Valerie Nayak, Grace Hui Yang | arXiv |

RESTful
React.js
GoLang

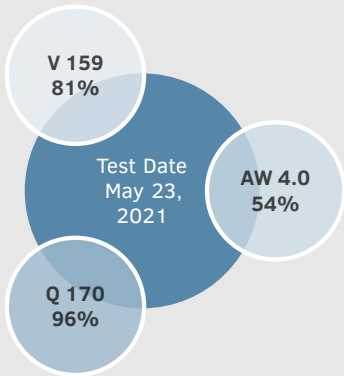
Project Management:

Agile
Docker
LaTeX
Git

Computing Resource Management:

Nginx
Google Cloud
Slurm
Kubernetes
Linux

Test Scores



Profiles



Languages

Yue Chinese (Mother Tongue)

Mandarin (Mother Tongue)

English (Proficient)

Cantonese (Elementary)

French (Elementary)

Research and Teaching Work Experience

Sep, 2023 – Apr, 2024

Research Fellow
Computational Sciences Group (KAUST)

- Researched to automate the **synthesis of diseased leaf images** used by **classification** models in agriculture. Explored methods to learn **diffusion-reaction systems** (i.e., PDE parameters) from data.
- Proposed ideas on Arabic **Speech Recognition**, including **acoustic source separation** and data augmentation in the **spectrogram**.

Jul, 2022 – Sep, 2022

Volunteer Research Assistant
Visual Perception Lab (U. of Nevada, Reno)

- Trained for **BrainVoyager** usage and **human research ethics**.
- Helped with **software and package installations**.
- Read papers on **Representational Similarity Analysis**, **Multivoxel Pattern Analysis**, human brain's **face/object perception**, **fMRI**, etc., and discussed research ideas with other lab members based on their existing code and data.

May, 2021 – Aug, 2022

R&D Intern
Deepcell Inc.

- Trained **GAN models**, supplementing data for cell image classifiers.
- Led the development of a comprehensive **CNN embedding layer visualization** tool, used company-wide by **data** and **bioinformatic scientists** for clustering, correlation analysis, etc., and greatly improved their productivity.

Jan, 2018 – May, 2019

Research Assistant
Georgetown U.

- InfoSense Lab: 1) Translated **psychological reversal theory** into statistic languages to analyze search engine **user behaviors** (**search logs**) and improve **user struggle detection**; 2) Revamped search engine's **VR interface** for **behavioral data collection**, and provided **web technique** support for its SIGIR '18 conference demonstration;
- Massive Data Institute: “Victims of Violence” tweets analytics: **occupational analysis** and **database management**.

Jan, 2021 – Dec, 2021

Teaching Assistant
U. of Nevada, Reno

- CS 302 (Spring 2021), Data Structure in C++.
- MATH 127 (Spring 2022), Precalculus II (**recitation classes**).

Jun, 2016 – Aug, 2016

Web Development Mentor
DataMesh (Chinese tech company)

- Mentored new employees** on webpage building.

Jun, 2006 – Oct, 2008

Volunteer Psychology Supporter (Community Service)
Ayaohelp.com

- Provided moral **support** & helped with life event strategic analyses.
- Posted essays/poems on **personal development** journeys, which were listed by the website host to attract site visitors.

Scholarship, Presentation, and Peer Review

2024

Reviewed one **Computer Vision** article for two rounds.

IEEE TNNLS

Sep 2023

Doctoral fellowship.

KAUST

Jan 2003

Course scholarship for **Linear Algebra & Space Analytic Geometry**.

Southeast U. (China)

Apr 2022

Conference IMPROVE 2022 Talk
Presentation for *Two-Step Data Augmentation for Masked Face Detection and Recognition: Turning Fake Masks to Real*.

SCITEPRESS

Course Projects (blue ★= research project)

NLP / Computational Linguistics

- Shift-Reduce **semantic parser** (natural language) using **deep reinforcement learning**; (link) ★
- A Neural-Network **linguistic morphology cutter** (**Keras**); (link) ★
- Course assignments: **N-gram**, **Perceptron**, Machine translation (e.g. **Estimation-Maximization**, **machine-aided translation**, etc.)

Computer Vision

- Analyzed **data augmentation** methods for **mammogram mass segmentation**. Quantitatively applied **adversarial training**; ★
- Used **image-to-image translation** GAN models to generate training images for **masked face detection** task; ★
- Deep Reinforcement Learning** video game agents;
- C++ Image processing** (Gaussian blur, flip, sharpening, etc.)

Analytics /

- Construction of I/O log datasets (Blue Water HPC); Future

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| Data Crawling | throughput prediction (exact bytes) : AutoRegressive Integrated Moving Average , LSTM multi-layer RNNs , & Decision Tree Regressors ; Performance analysis per dataset/model. ★ • “#MeToo in Tweets” analytics (topic modeling); (link) ★ • Crawlers : free books by Springer during COVID-19. (link) |
| Machine Learning | • Java standard libraries only: Build ML learners & reproduce paper results; Automatic reasoning projects. |
| Computer Systems | • C++: Multi-thread experiments Windows MineSweeper Linux embedded programs; • Assembly hardware experiments: traffic light, etc.; • VHDL: 8-bit CPU ; • Verilog: CPU Branching, MEM, ROM. |
| Non-CS | • Proposal on brain vision connections (BIOL675 Neurobiology) ★ • 5-minute French (linguistic features) introduction) • MATLAB Graphs for Middle school Algebras |

Engineering Work Experience

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| Oct, 2022 – May, 2023 | Machine Learning R&D Engineer Deepcell Inc. • Led the system design of the remodeled Neural Network embedding visualization system, which is to be used seamlessly in the Cluster-Based Sorting product. When the imaging phase of an imaging+sorting run is done, we use this design to pause the run and start a data exploration session to select sorting criteria. • My system design covered decisions on data storage media , database schemas , API specs , serialization/deserialization options, caching , parallelizing large calculations, and others for incremental developing plans and long-term goals. |
| May, 2021 – Aug, 2022 | R&D Intern Deepcell Inc. • For the CNN embedding layer visualization tool, independently coordinated user demand collection , full-stack development, and usability verification . • The second version refactored the app to improve security and separated large-chunk data processing into a socket streaming service for multiprocessing. |
| Jun, 2020 – Jan, 2021 | Member of Technical Staff Pure Storage • Implemented feature: import/restore volume snapshots from company disks into Kubernetes. • Enhancement/bug fixing: multipath device problem, upgrading bash scripts to Python3, etc. • Led the Github release process of Pure Service Orchestrator v6.0.3. |
| Jun, 2016 – Aug, 2016 | Development Engineer DataMesh • Led the development of a news publishing system implemented as a React-Redux app; • Solved Apache deployment conflicts among static files, React router hack, and Python service. |
| Jan, 2016 – Jun, 2016 | Software Engineer Meican.com • Designed and implemented a message push system using WebSocket , AngularJS , and GoLang Micro Service for the meal website, which solved user complaints that pages don't sync the latest meal status; • Code cleanness and reusability: encapsulated WebSocket in an AngularJS Factory . |
| Jul, 2015 – Jan, 2016 | Full Stack Engineer Colorful Clouds Tech Ltd. • Independently took charge of a weather report app with dynamic charts for precipitation and other weather metrics (AngularJS, Flask, NodeJS, AliCloud, Nginx, MySQL). • Implemented a compatibility patch for data API v2 , providing continued support to v1 clients. • Automatic periodic collection of API health data into the Redis database. • Precipitation interpolation using NumPy. |
| Oct, 2014 – Jun, 2015 | Frontend Developer 2 different companies • Developed WeChat minigames for marketing activities. (https://github.com/DIMPLY/MiniGame-Zillionaire) • Built webpages for an information management app, using D3.js for data reports and charts . |
| Sep, 2013 – Oct, 2014 | Web Development Engineer 2 different companies Developed C++-based Windows apps (ID card verifier, Word Solitaire game) with Linux server. |

Other Work Experience

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| Dec, 2008 – Dec, 2012 | English-Chinese Translator Self-Employment • Published dozens of translation articles on yeeyan.org • Took charge of the translation organization of <i>Women in The 19th Century</i> (Margaret Fuller 1843). • Translated & proofread marketing materials, users' & developers' manuals, TV show subtitles, texts in software & games. Customers included Grand Strong and OK Translation. |
| Apr, 2008 – Jan, 2009 | Scientific Secretary Tongji University Supported department research and student activities as an administrative secretary. |