

# Fei Zhao

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Research Interests: Foundation Models, Large Vision-Language Models, Parameter-Efficient Fine-Tuning

## Education

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### Ph.D., Computer Science

2019.08 - 2025.05 (Expected)

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), United States

GPA: 4.00/4.00, Advisor: Prof. Chengcui Zhang

### M.E., Technology & Instrument of Test & Measurement

2010.09 - 2013.07

North University of China, China

Exchange Graduate Student at Tsinghua University (2011.02 - 2013.07)

Advisor: Prof. Zhaoying Zhou and Prof. Jijun Xiong

### B.E., Automation

2006.09 - 2010.07

North University of China, China

## Selected Publications

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### Published

- **Fei Zhao**, Chengcui Zhang, and Baocheng Geng. Deep Multimodal Data Fusion. *ACM Computing Surveys*, February 2024. [**Impact Factor: 16.6**]
- Connor Donley, Matthew McCrosson, Sri Prahad, Collier Campbell, **Fei Zhao**, Narcy Amireddy, and Michael Johnson. High Research Productivity During Orthopaedic Surgery Residency May Be Predicted by Number of Publications as a Medical Student. *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, January 30, 2024. [**Impact Factor: 5.3**]
- **Fei Zhao** and Chengcui Zhang. Deep Learning for HABs Prediction with Multimodal Fusion. *ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems (ACM SIGSPATIAL 2023)*. November 13-16, 2023, Hamburg, Germany.
- **Fei Zhao**, Chengcui Zhang, Nitesh Saxena, Dan Wallach, and Shahariar Rabby. Ballot Tabulation using Deep Learning. *IEEE International Conference on Information Reuse and Integration (IRI)*, August 4-6, 2023, Bellevue, WA, United States. [**Acceptance Rate of Full Papers: 29%**]
- **Fei Zhao**, Chengcui Zhang, and Sheikh Abujar. A Multimodal Approach for Evaluating Algal Bloom Severity using Deep Learning. *IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (ICME)*. July 10-14, 2023, Brisbane, Australia.
- Katherine Dudding, Allyson Sanders, Peyton Lewis, **Fei Zhao**, Chengcui Zhang, and Jane Carrington. Leveraging Clinical Experiences to Inform Optimal Neonatal Outcomes Through Technology. *Academy of Neonatal Nursing National Neonatal, Advanced Practice Conference, and Mother Baby Nurses Conferences*, September 7-10, 2022, Palm Springs, CA, United States. (Poster)
- **Fei Zhao** and Chengcui Zhang. Building Damage Evaluation from Satellite Imagery using Deep Learning. *IEEE International Conference on Information Reuse and Integration (IRI)*, August 11-13, 2020, held virtually. [**Acceptance Rate of Full Papers: 29%**]
- **Fei Zhao**, Zhaoying Zhou, Jijun Xiong, Jifeng Zhao, and Jiajin Liu. Research on MEMS-based Real-Time Measurement System for Motion Information of Vehicles. *Key Engineering Materials*, 562, 549-552, 2013.
- Xiaotang Cao, Yunbo Shi, Zhaoying Zhou, Shaopeng Liu, Qi Guo, **Fei Zhao**. MEMS-based Attitude Measurement System for Micro Aerial Vehicles. *Transducer and Microsystem Technologies*, 32(2), 122-3, 2013.

### Under Review

- **Fei Zhao**, Chengcui Zhang and Nitesh Saxen. BubbleSig: Same-Hand Ballot Stuffing Detection. *The 33rd USENIX Security Symposium*.

- **Fei Zhao**, Chengcui Zhang, and Katherine Dudding. Neonatal Pain Detection using Deep Learning. *Journal of Healthcare Informatics Research*.

## Pre-prints

- **Fei Zhao** and Chengcui Zhang. Visual Prompt Learning of Foundation Models for Post-disaster Damage Assessment. (Manuscript ready for submission)
- **Fei Zhao** and Chengcui Zhang. Multimodal Algal Bloom Severity Evaluation Using Deep Learning: Leveraging Satellite Imagery, Elevation, Temperature, and Geolocation Data. (Manuscript ready for submission)
- Augmented Communication Tools (ACTs): Pain Assessment Support Algorithm for the Individual Infant (PASAFii) for the neonatal pain algorithm. *Provisional Patent*.

## Selected Projects

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### Projects Involving Remote Sensing and Multimodal Integration

2020.01 - Present

- Developed **Transformer-based** neural networks with a geometric multimodal focal loss, fusing satellite, elevation, and temperature data to enhance algal bloom severity assessments, surpassing existing methods by **15.65%**
- Designed a learnable prompt generator module that provides multi-stage visual prompts guiding pre-trained **vision foundation models** for damage evaluation from remote sensing imagery, surpassing SOTA methods by **22.37%**.

### Paper Ballot Tabulation and Voter Fraud Detection

2020.10 - Present

- Designed and implemented Siamese Transformer-based neural networks to enhance mark detection & segmentation and mail-in voter fraud detection tasks, leveraging the discrepancies between paired ballot images.
- Instrumental in securing a \$1.2 million NSF grant, contributing substantially to model design, and proposal writing.

### Early Detection of Neonatal Pain

2021.05 - Present

- Designed deep neural networks, leveraging transfer learning, to classify neonatal pain states using facial images.
- Implemented state-of-the-art face detection models to effectively extract neonatal images from medical records.

## Professional and Research Experience

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### The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, USA

Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science

2019.08 - Present

- **Graduate Research Assistant:** Designed novel deep learning architectures and loss functions for multimodal fusion, object detection and segmentation, leading to publications in top-tier conferences such as ICME.
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Led TA teams, taught lab sections, held office hours, and created/graded assignments. Selected Courses: System Programming, Database App Dev, Computer Vision, and Deep Learning.

### Shanxi Auto Transport Group Co., Ltd (Shanxi Auto Trans)

Taiyuan, China

Principal Staff Member, Investment & Development Department, Headquarters

2017.01 - 2019.04

Vice President, Maintenance Plant, Shanxi Auto Trans Logistics Co., Ltd

2014.09 - 2015.05

Deputy Division Director, Department of Tech & Security, Shanxi Auto Trans Logistics Co., Ltd

2014.05 - 2014.08

Senior Staff Member (incl. concurrent roles), Tech Department, Headquarters

2013.10 - 2016.12

- Led a team to integrate machine learning with database technologies, developing a system to evaluate driver behaviors and optimize task allocation for vehicles.

- In concurrent managerial roles, oversaw and coordinated the deployment of the system across company subsidiaries.

## **Tsinghua University**

*Research Assistant, Department of Precision Instrument, Supervisor: Prof. Zhaoying Zhou*

*Beijing, China*

*2011.02 - 2013.07*

- Led a team in developing a real-time multi-sensor data fusion system that can extract real-time attitude features from accelerometers, gyroscopes, and magnetometers for autopilot.

## **Grants, Awards, and Others**

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### **Grants**

- Chengcui Zhang (PI), Nitesh Saxena (PI), Dan Wallach (PI), NSF SaTC-2154589, “Bubble Aid: Assistive AI to Improve the Robustness and Security of Reading Hand-Marked Ballots,” \$1,200,000, 10/01/2022-09/30/2025. (Main contributor to preliminary work and part of the grant writing)
- Chengcui Zhang (PI), NSF DCL 22-087, “Funding for AWS, Azure, and GCP cloud access through CloudBank,” \$23,139, 04/26/2023-05/01/2024. (Contributed to grant writing)

### **Awards**

- Graduate Research/Teaching Assistantship, Department of Computer Science, UAB, 2019-Present.
- Student Travel Grant to IEEE IRI 2023, IEEE TCMC, 2023.
- Professional Development and Travel Award, UAB Graduate Student Government, 2023.
- Tuition Scholarship, Department of Computer Science, UAB, 2019-2022.
- Outstanding Student Volunteer Award, IEEE IRI, 2020-2021.
- Barrett R. and Oceana A. Bryant Endowed Awards, Department of Computer Science, UAB, 2020, 2023.
- Graduate Admission Scholarship, North University of China, 2010.

### **Panels**

- Panelist, “Global Awareness: International Student Insights on the Experience of Studying in the United States,” UAB, 2023.
- Panelist, “Orientation for International Graduate Students,” UAB, Summer Semester, 2023.
- Panelist, “Orientation for International Graduate Students,” UAB, Fall Semester, 2023.

### **Reviewer**

- Frequent Reviewer for 13 Journals, including ACM Computing Surveys, IEEE TGRS, IEEE TDSC, IEEE/ACM TCBB, IEEE GRSL, Knowledge-based Systems, and Expert Systems with Applications, among others.
- Reviewer for Conferences: ICME (2020-2024), ACM Multimedia (2021-2024), ICASSP (2023, 2024)

### **Volunteer**

- IT Support and Web Development: The World Games (2022), IEEE IRI (2020-2021), Birmingham Chinese Professor Association (2020-present)
- Others: United States Anti-Doping Agency (2022)

### **Skills**

- Programming Languages: Python, C, MATLAB, SQL, Bash, TeX, JavaScript, CSS
- Development Tools: Pytorch, TensorFlow, Numpy, OpenCV, Scikit-learn, Pandas, D3.js, MPI, Git, Conda