Yongyi Zhao

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Education

Rice University
Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering — **Mar 2021**
Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering — **May 2023** (Expected)
Adviser: Professor Ashok Veeraraghavan — **Houston, TX**

Carnegie Mellon University — **Aug 2014 – Dec 2017**
Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering — **Pittsburgh, PA**
With University Honors; **GPA: 3.93/4.00**

Research Experience

Rice University: Computational Imaging Lab — **Aug 2018 – Present**
- **Adviser:** Prof. Ashok Veeraraghavan — **Houston, TX**
- Developing techniques for minimally-invasive imaging of neural activity
- Developing algorithm to accelerate simulations of photon propagation through biological tissue

Carnegie Mellon University: Image Science Lab — **Jan 2017 – May 2018**
- **Adviser:** Prof. Aswin Sankaranarayanan — **Pittsburgh, PA**
- Researched, developed, and analyzed accuracy of computational camera models
- Developed prototype of spherical, lensless imaging device

Northeastern University: Gas Sensing Properties of Functionalized Graphene — **Aug 2012 – Jun 2013**
- **Adviser:** Prof. Swastik Kar — **Boston, MA**
- Researched applications of graphene in vapor detection
- Developed gas sensing probes, using graphene, for detection of acetone

Publications & Presentations

Ozturk B., […], **Zhao Y.**, et. al. Atomically Thin Layers of BNCO with Tunable Composition. *Science Advances*. **1** (2015). http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1/6/e1500094

Zhao Y., Nuhfer, T., & Nisha Shukla. "Synthesis and Characterization of Tetrahexahedral Gold Nanoparticles." Berg Symposium, Carnegie Mellon University. Doherty Hall, Pittsburgh, PA. 21 Sep 2015. Oral Presentation.

Awards & Honors

National Library of Medicine Fellowship in Bioinformatics and Data Science — **Jan 2021 – Dec 2021**
- 12 month (renewable) fellowship; $25,320 stipend and partial tuition support

John Clark Jr. Fellowship Award — **Aug 2018**
- Fellowship from Rice University, supporting first-year graduate studies

Frank J. Marshall Scholar Award — **May 2018**
- Annual award for one graduating CMU ECE undergraduate for academics and research

Andrew Carnegie Society (ACS) Scholar — **Sep 2017**
- Recognized as one of 40 students for academics, involvement and leadership

Eta Kappa Nu, IEEE Honor Society **Nov 2017**

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society **Nov 2016**

CMU Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship **May 2015**

Projects

Autonomous Electric Vehicle (Capstone Project, 3-Person Group) **Aug 2017 - Dec 2017**
- Implemented robot that could navigate obstacle course of boxes using purely image processing
- Programmed RasPi interface to collect camera data and perform movements on encoded DC motors

Cartoon Interpolation Animator **Dec 2016**
- Animate 2-D image using interpolation: manipulate using cage, skeleton, spline interpolation
- Implemented program in Python, using python image library for speed optimization and user interface

Racing Simulation using OpenCV Motion Detection **April 2015**
- Presented as one of top 15 projects (of ~400 students) for 15-112 Spring 2015 Course
- Used OpenCV library to create racing game that could read hand and feet motion of user as controls

Work Experience

Teaching Assistant (TA), 15-112 at Carnegie Mellon University **Aug 2016 – Dec 2016**
- Lead recitation of 20 students, weekly lecture to deepen students' understanding **Jan 2018 – May 2018**
- Perform course logistics: grading, tutoring at office hours, leading review sessions **Pittsburgh, PA**

Teaching Assistant (TA), 18-240 at Carnegie Mellon University **Aug 2017 – Dec 2017**
- Lead lab section of 30 students, weekly project to deepen students' understanding **Pittsburgh, PA**
- Perform course-support tasks: grading, tutoring at office hours, leading review sessions

Software Development Engineer Intern at Amazon.com **May 2017 – Aug 2017**
- Working on Amazon AWS, Elastic Compute Cloud Team **Seattle, WA**
- Designing and implementing container service

Skills

Programming/Computing:
- **Strong:** Python, C
- **Proficient:** C++, Matlab, Linux
- **Limited:** Version Control (Git), Qt, SystemVerilog

Volunteer Activities

Mentor, Higher Achievement **Oct 2014 – May 2017**
- Tutored group of 2-5 middle school students in project design and scientific method
- Created and implemented projects to teach programming and experimental design

Mentor, PATHS-UP Research Experience for Teachers (RET) **May 2019 – July 2019**
- Mentored 6 teachers who taught in underrepresented communities of Houston Independent School District
- Designed a curriculum to teach RETs the remote photoplethysmography algorithm