Yongyi Zhao

yongyi 'at' rice 'dot' edu | yongyizhao.com

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

Zhao Y., Raghuram A., et al. High Resolution, Deep Imaging Using Confocal Time-of-flight Diffuse Optical Tomography. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*. (2021).

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

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