

Yining Jiao (Ina)

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Research Highlights

I am a postdoc Scholar at UCSD. I build AI that knows what it knows — and recognizes what it doesn't. My research focuses on **spatiotemporal representation learning**, with a dedication to **interpretability** and **uncertainty quantification** within the healthcare domain. My work revolves around three questions:

- 👁️ **Learning to see shapes** — advanced techniques for image and geometry processing.
- 👥 **Learning to model populations** — representing how anatomical shapes vary and evolve.
- 🗣️ **Learning to say “I don't know”** — statistical machine learning for robust uncertainty quantification.

Education

- 2020–2025 **Ph.D. in Computer Science, UNC-Chapel Hill**
Advisor: Prof. Marc Niethammer
- 2017–2020 **M.S. in Biomedical Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University**
Advisor: Prof. Qian Wang
- 2013–2017 **B.Eng. in Electronic Sci. & Tech., Northwestern Polytechnical Univ., Honors College**

Research Experience

- 2026–Present **Postdoctoral Scholar, UC San Diego**
Advisor: Prof. Marc Niethammer
 - Individualized spatiotemporal learning; uncertainty quantification for shapes.
- 2020–2025 **Research Assistant, Biomedical Image Analysis Group, UNC-Chapel Hill**
Advisor: Prof. Marc Niethammer
 - **Pediatric Airway Shape Analysis:** Developed and maintained the full image processing pipeline — deep-learning-based segmentation, landmark detection, geometry processing, and clinical visualization of pediatric airways.
 - **Airway OCT Segmentation & Reconstruction:** First learning-based system to extract 3D geometries from airway OCT scans; benchmarked UNets and transformers; $< 46 \mu\text{m}$ reconstruction error.
 - **Interpretable 3D Shape Modeling:** Developed interpretable neural implicit shape representations for scientific shape analysis. **ICLR 2024 Spotlight · top 5%**
 - **Uncertainty-Aware Spatiotemporal Learning:** Built LucidAtlas, a by-construction interpretable atlas framework for modeling spatially varying data with covariates — supporting individualized prediction, population trend analysis, and OOD detection in a single model. Introduced marginalization theory to interpret dependent covariates.
 - **Temporal Uncertainty for 3D Shapes:** Developed PRISM, a probabilistic implicit shape representation that estimates spatially varying temporal uncertainty in closed form by exploiting automatic differentiation on implicit fields — no massive sampling, just a single forward pass. A single model for shape evolution, developmental time inference, personalized prediction, and anomaly detection.
- 2019–2020 **Research Intern, United Imaging Intelligence, Shanghai**
Mentor: Dr. Zhong Xue & Prof. Dinggang Shen. Applied EfficientNet for Kaggle RSNA Intracranial Hemorrhage Detection Challenge — **silver medal (top 4%, 1,345 teams)**.
- 2017–2020 **Research Assistant, Medical Image Computing Lab, SJTU**
Advisor: Prof. Qian Wang
 - **cuRadiomics:** Developed a CUDA-based tool for fast computation of Radiomics features, **100× speedup**. **RNO-AI 2019 Oral · top 10**

- › **Data Science for Cancer Research:** Applied statistical analysis, survival analysis, and machine learning for treatment outcome prediction; published in *European Radiology, Cancer Mgmt. & Research*.

2016–2017

Research Assistant, Northwestern Polytechnical UniversityAdvisors: Prof. Wei Wei & Prof. Lei Zhang. Implemented convex optimization for hyperspectral image denoising; published in *IEEE Trans. Geoscience and Remote Sensing*.

I Selected Publications

1. Y. Jiao et al. “PRISM: A 3D Probabilistic Neural Representation for Interpretable Shape Modeling.” *Preprint*, 2026.
2. Y. Jiao et al. “LucidAtlas: Learning Uncertainty-Aware, Covariate-Disentangled, Individualized Atlas Representations.” *Under Review*, 2025. [\[Paper\]](#)
3. Y. Jiao et al. “NAISR: A 3D Neural Additive Model for Interpretable Shape Representation.” *ICLR 2024*. [Spotlight · top 5%](#)
[\[Paper\]](#) [\[Demo\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)

I Other Publications

* equal contribution

4. Q. Liu, Z. Xu, Y. Jiao, M. Niethammer. “iSegFormer: Interactive Segmentation via Transformers with Application to 3D Knee MR Images.” *MICCAI 2022*. [\[Paper\]](#)
5. W. Wei, L. Zhang, Y. Jiao et al. “Intracuster Structured Low-Rank Matrix Analysis Method for Hyperspectral Denoising.” *IEEE Trans. Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, 2018. [\[Paper\]](#)
6. S. Wu*, Y. Jiao* et al. “Imaging-Based Individualized Response Prediction of Carbon Ion Radiotherapy for Prostate Cancer.” *Cancer Mgmt. and Research*, 2019. [\[Paper\]](#)
7. H. Song*, Y. Jiao* et al. “Can pretreatment 18F-FDG PET tumor texture features predict osteosarcoma chemotherapy outcomes?” *European Radiology*, 2019. [\[Paper\]](#)
8. Y. Jiao et al. “cuRadiomics: A GPU-based Radiomics Feature Extraction Toolkit.” *MICCAI RNO-AI 2019*. [Oral · top 10](#)
[\[Paper\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)

I Technical Skills

Programming Python · C/C++ · CUDA · Git · Bash · L^AT_EX**ML / Scientific** PyTorch · TensorFlow · scikit-learn · Pandas · NumPy · SciPy**Imaging / 3D** ITK · VTK · SimpleITK · Open3D · trimesh · 3D Slicer · ParaView**Languages** English (fluent) · Chinese (native)

I Honors & Awards

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| 2021 | ICML Workshop on Computational Biology Fellowship |
| 2020 | Outstanding Graduate of Shanghai (4 from department) |
| 2019 | SJTU Excellent Graduate Student Award (2 from department) |
| 2019 | Kaggle RSNA Hemorrhage Detection Silver Medal (top 4%, 1,345 teams) |
| 2017 | Excellent Undergraduate Thesis, Northwestern Polytechnical University |

I Academic Services

Conference Reviewer: CVPR, ICCV, ECCV, NeurIPS, ICML, ICLR, AISTATS, AAAI, WACV, MICCAI**Journal Reviewer:** IEEE TPAMI, IEEE JBHI, Neural Networks