Hai Jiang
Shenzhen, Guangdong, China
+86 19867713757
jiangh14@lzu.edu.cn

Admission Committee
University of Amsterdam
Faculty of Science
Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences
Biosystems Data Analysis group

December 25, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my interest in the PhD position at your university, specializing in **Deep Learning on Single-Cell Sequencing Data**. My academic background and research experience have prepared me well for advanced study in this field.

My journey began with a strong foundation in Computer Science and Mathematics, leading me to pursue a Master's degree in Computational Mathematics in 2019, following a Bachelor's degree in Information Security in China. For my Master's project, I focused on Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) of Deep Learning (DL), specifically for handwriting style imitation. In this project, I developed a GANs-based model to replicate individual handwriting styles, focusing on emulating the handwritten Chinese characters of Shiing Shen Chern from a dataset of around 220 characters. This experience provided me with hands-on expertise in GANs, data preprocessing, manuscript analysis, and code replication, culminating in my Master's thesis, *"GANs based Personal Style Imitation of Chinese Handwritten Characters."*

Following my Master's degree, I contributed to the Compressed Sensing MRI ADMM-Net project, which combined DL with numerical approximation theory. Traditional algorithms often lose image detail with repeated iterations, but by leveraging Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), our team demonstrated how DL can dynamically adjust parameters to preserve fine details. This project deepened my understanding of convergent algorithm theory, proof construction, and the balance between theoretical approaches and practical applications, while refining my programming and analytical skills.

After completing my degree, I joined a research group at Sun Yat-sen University focused on Computer-aided diagnosis, where I worked as a Research Assistant on several impactful projects. These included diagnosing Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorders, predicting metastasis in Sentinel Axillary Lymph Nodes in breast cancer, and assessing responses to Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy via MRI. Through these projects, I gained further expertise in Python, PyTorch, and TensorFlow, along with experience in manuscript research and scientific writing.

I am confident that I am a strong candidate for this position within your research group. Your focus on leveraging prior knowledge to enhance performance and interpretability in understanding cell biology, particularly through the analysis of integrated multi-modal data, closely aligns with my research interests. I am especially passionate about developing methodologies to incorporate existing biological knowledge into single-cell sequencing analysis, enabling unsupervised learning of embeddings for multi-modal data analysis. My interdisciplinary background, programming expertise, and research experience uniquely equip me to excel in and contribute meaningfully to the challenges and rigor of this PhD position.

My long-term goal is to build a career in academia, contributing to the fields of Computer Science and Mathematics through impactful research and innovation. The interdisciplinary nature of your research and team, coupled with the expertise and accomplishments of its members, aligns perfectly with my academic and professional aspirations. This position represents an ideal next step toward achieving my goals. I am excited about the opportunity to join an environment that fosters intellectual rigor, collaboration, and access to the resources necessary for realizing my ambitions.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to join your research community and contribute actively while continuing to develop my expertise. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to discussing how my background, skills, and goals align with your program.

Sincerely,

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Education

2019–2022 **Master of Science in Computational Mathematics**, ***Nankai University (NKU)***, **China**

Thesis *GANs based Personal Style Imitation of Chinese Handwritten Characters.*

Advisors Prof. Yunhua Xue, Prof. Chunlin Wu

Related Courses Approximation Theory and Methods, Numerical Optimization, Convex Analysis, Variational Analysis, Real Analysis, Functional Analysis, Matrix Computation, Foundations of Measure Theory and Probability, Numerical Solutions of Partial Differential Equations, and more.

Cumulative GPA 3.06/4.00

2014–2018 **Bachelor of Engineering in Information Security**, ***Lanzhou University (LZU)***, **China**

Thesis *Improved Upper Bounds of Roman Domination Number in Maximal Outerplanar Graphs.*

Advisor Prof. Zepeng Li

Related Courses Discrete Mathematics, Operating Systems, Data Structures, C and C++ Programming Lab, Java Programming Lab, Database Theory and Lab, Computer Organization and Design, and more.

Cumulative GPA 4.15/5.00

Research Experience

11.2022–07.2024 **Research Assistant**, *Computational Medical Imaging Laboratory*
School of Computer Science and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

Project China Department of Science and Technology Key Grant, focused on Breast Cancer, aims to develop models with clinical interpretability and generalization.

Correspondence Prof. Yao Lu, Dr. Ting Song

Task Focus Placenta Accreta Spectrum Disorders, T2-WI MRI, Prenatal Diagnosis, Multi-class classification.

Experience and Skills Literature research, data preprocessing, model building (programming), research paper writing.

Publication Submitted to ISBI 2025 and currently under review: *"Anatomy-guided Multitask Learning for MRI-based Classification of Placenta Accreta Spectrum and its Subtypes."*

12.2023–01.2024 **Research Assistant**, *Computational Medical Imaging Laboratory*
School of Computer Science and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

Project National Natural Science Foundation of China, focused on Breast Cancer, aimed to develop a prediction model for the Chinese female population mainly with FFDM and US.

Correspondence Prof. Yao Lu, Dr. Xiang Zhang

Task Focus Breast Cancer, Dual-Energy CT, Sentinel Lymph Nodes, Metestatic status, Multi-class classification.

Experience and Skills The first comprehensive research experience involved conducting literature reviews, designing experiments, writing research papers, and working with the TensorFlow and Keras frameworks.

Publication Submitted to MICCAI 2024 and revised for submission to the Journal of *Medical Physics*: *"DECT-Based Space-Squeeze Method for Multi-Class Classification of Metastatic Lymph Nodes in Breast Cancer."*

01.2022–06.2022 **Research Student**, *Image Analysis Team*
School of Mathematical Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China

Task ADMM model from the manuscript "Deep ADMM-Net for Compressed-Sensing MRI."

Supervisors Prof. Chunlin Wu, Prof. Yunhua Xue

Focus Compressed-sensing Theory, Iterative Equations, Neural Networks, MRI reconstruction.

Experience and Skills The second programming experience involved proving mathematical equations and applying Deep Learning techniques. I reproduced the iterative mathematical equations using C++, Python, and PyTorch.

01.2021–04.2021 **Research Student**, *Image Analysis Team*
School of Mathematical Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China

Task	ROF-model from the manuscript “Nonlinear Total Variation Based Noise Removal Algorithms.”
Supervisor	Prof. Yunhua Xue
Focus	Image Restoration, Denoise, PDE, Total-Variation Penalty.
Experience and Skills	My initial project experience included proving mathematical equations and using both C++ and Python to develop the ROF model.

Other Work Experience

Funding

Proposal Writing	Accepted; China Department of Science and Technology Key Grant 2023YFE0204300.
Report Writing	Succeeded; Finished three Completion Reports and three Progress Reports; the NSFC Grant 81971691, 12126610, the R&D project of Pazhou Lab (Huangpu) under Grant 2023K0606.

Specification

Patent	1 Patent Application Specification; under review.
Device	1 Medical Device Application Specification; succeeded.

Teaching Experience

Courses	Calculus; Mathematical Analysis
Thesis	*Breast Cancer Classification Method Based on Dual-Energy CT Images.*

Language Proficiency

Mandarin	Native
English	Professional Level: IELTS 6.5; CET6 476/710; CET4 544/710.
Cantonese	Intermediate

Skills

Technical	Python, PyTorch, Tensorflow + Keras, LaTeX, Git, C/C++, MATLAB
Other	Linux (Ubuntu), Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop

Interest

Artificial Intelligence, Mathematics, Physics

Awards

2014 – 2018	Four-time recipient of the Third-Class Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence at LZU.
2019 – 2022	Three-time recipient of the Third-Class Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence at NKU.

References

Prof. Zepeng Li

Associate Professor in Machine Learning at Lanzhou University

Address	222 South Tianshui Road, Lanzhou 730000, Gansu Province, P.R. China
E-mail	lizp@lzu.edu.cn

Prof. Yunhua Xue

Associate Professor in Computational Mathematics at Nankai University

Address	94 Weijin Road, Nankai District, Tianjin, P.R. China 300071
E-mail	yhxue@nankai.edu.cn

Dr. Yuanpin Zhou

Postdoctoral researcher in Medical Image Analysis at Zhejiang University

Address	866 Yuhangtang Rd, Hangzhou 310058, P.R. China
E-mail	zhouyp6@mail2.sysu.edu.cn