Tianshu Kuai

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Education

Sep 2024 – 2029 | **PhD in Computer Science**, Université de Montréal & Mila
Advisor: Prof. Noam Aigerman

Sep 2022 – Dec 2023 | **MSc in Applied Computing**, University of Toronto
cGPA: 4.00 / 4.00
Advisor: Prof. Igor Gilitschenski

Sep 2017 – Apr 2022 | **Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Science**, University of Toronto
Robotics Major, Artificial Intelligence Minor
Major GPA: 3.80 / 4.00, cGPA: 3.73 / 4.00
Thesis Advisor: Prof. Steven L. Waslander

Experience

May 2023 - Apr 2024 | **Samsung AI Center Toronto** | Research Intern
Supervised by Dr. Alex Levinshtein, Samsung AI Center Toronto
- Research on diffusion model based real-world image restoration and enhancement

May 2022 - Apr 2024 | **University of Toronto** | 3D Computer Vision Researcher
Supervised by Prof. Igor Gilitschenski, Toronto Intelligent Systems Lab (TISL)
- Research on 3D scene representation and manipulation
- Proposed a template-free method [3] for building animatable 3D models for arbitrary types of articulated and deformable objects from a collection of monocular videos, which allows users to animate reconstructed objects in 3D for content creation

May 2021 - Apr 2023 | **University of Toronto** | Computer Vision Researcher
Supervised by Prof. Steven L. Waslander, Toronto Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Lab (TRAILab)
- Research on self-supervised LiDAR semantic segmentation for autonomous driving, and contributed to the development of a novel method [2] that outperforms state-of-the-art 2D-to-3D representation learning frameworks
- Designed and supported the development of high-performance LiDAR 3D object detection models for autonomous vehicles. PDV [1] achieved state-of-the-art multi-class 3D object detection results on Waymo Open Dataset upon publication

July 2021 - June 2022 | **aUToronto** | Computer Vision Engineer
University of Toronto Autonomous Driving Group, SAE/GM AutoDrive Challenge
- Research on fast and lightweight 3D perception models on collected data
- Worked on deploying real-time perception models on autonomous vehicles

May 2020 - May 2021 | **Qualcomm** | Machine Learning Research Intern
Supervised by Dr. Shaojie Zhuo, Machine Learning Research Team
- Proposed several efficient deep learning models for audio processing
- Applied state-of-the-art methods for neural network compression
- Contributed to NPU software compiler pipeline development

Publications

2025 [4] **T. Kuai**, S. Honari, I. Gilitschenski, and A. Levinshtein, "Towards Unsupervised Blind Face Restoration using Diffusion Prior," ***WACV*** 2025.

2023 [3] **T. Kuai**, A. Karthikeyan, Y. Kant, A. Mirzaei, and I. Gilitschenski, "CAMM: Building Category-Agnostic and Animatable 3D Models from Monocular Videos," ***CVPRW*** 2023.

[2] A. Mahmoud, J. S. K. Hu, **T. Kuai**, A. Harakeh, L. Paull, and S. L. Waslander, "Self-Supervised Image-to-Point Distillation via Semantically Tolerant Contrastive Loss," ***CVPR*** 2023.

2022 [1] J. S. K. Hu, **T. Kuai**, and S. L. Waslander, "Point Density-Aware Voxels for LiDAR 3D Object Detection," ***CVPR*** 2022.

Academic Service

Conference Reviewer | **CVPR, ECCV, WACV, AAAI**

Honors

Jan 2020 **University of Toronto Engineering Competition**
- Awarded the second prize in the senior design competition

Mar 2019 **NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award**
- Undergraduate student research award from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

Feb 2019 **University of Toronto Excellence Award**
- Awarded to University of Toronto undergraduate students based on research aptitude

Sep 2017 **University of Toronto Engineering Entrance Scholarship**
- Scholarship for top engineering candidates pursuing studies at the University of Toronto

Selected Projects

2021 **Real Time Audio Denoiser**
- A model built using convolutional neural networks with an encoder-decoder structure
- The model takes the noisy speech as input and produces a de-noised speech as the output
- Achieved good performance on various types of signals with only around 33k parameters

2019 **Autonomous Ball Dispensing Mobile Machine**
- Started from literature and market survey, through professional engineering decision-making tools to successfully converge to a fully autonomous ball dispensing machine prototype
- Used PIC18F4620 with MPLAB X and Arduino Nano to enable movement of its components, real-time clock, user Interface, and IR Remote Control
- Can potentially be used for automatic delivery and dispensing in warehouses