
Zhe Gan

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Research Interests

I am a Staff Research Scientist at Apple AI/ML, primarily working on building large-scale vision and multimodal foundation models. Before joining Apple, I was a Principal Researcher at Microsoft Azure AI. My research interest mainly focuses on Vision-Language Multimodal Intelligence. I also have broad interests on other machine learning topics, such as sparse neural networks, adversarial training, and self-supervised visual representation learning.

Education

- Duke University, Durham, NC
Ph.D., Electrical and Computer Engineering 09/2013 - 03/2018
- Peking University, Beijing, China
M.S., Electrical Engineering 09/2010 - 07/2013
B.S., Electrical Engineering 09/2006 - 07/2010

Experience

- **Apple AI/ML**
Staff Research Scientist. 11/2022 - now
Building large-scale vision and multimodal foundation models.
- **Microsoft Cloud and AI**
Principal Researcher. 09/2021 - 11/2022
Senior Researcher. 12/2018 - 09/2021
Researcher. 04/2018 - 12/2018
Building large-scale general-purpose multimodal foundation models that can be adopted to serve a wide range of Microsoft products, with downstream applications such as image classification, image retrieval, image captioning, object detection, segmentation, *etc.*
- **Information Initiative at Duke (iiD)** 09/2013 - 03/2018
Research Assistant. Advisor: Prof. Lawrence Carin
(i) Deep Bayesian Learning: developing deep generative models for computer vision and natural language processing applications, including VAE and GAN
(ii) Bayesian Deep Learning: designing stochastic gradient variational inference algorithms and stochastic gradient MCMC methods for scalable Bayesian inference
- **Microsoft Research Redmond** 05/2017 - 08/2017
Research Intern. Advisor: Xiaodong He, Lihong Li, Ph.D
(i) Visual storytelling that aims to generate a story given an image input
(ii) AttnGAN: text-to-image generation
- **Microsoft Research Redmond** 05/2016 - 08/2016
Research Intern. Advisor: Xiaodong He, Jianfeng Gao, Li Deng, Ph.D
(i) Image and video captioning
(ii) Deep conflation for business data analytics
- **Adobe Research** 06/2015 - 09/2015
Data Scientist Intern. Advisor: Hung Bui, Ph.D
(i) Recurrent neural networks (RNN) for text classification and generation
(ii) Variational autoencoder for text modeling

Publications

arXiv preprints

1. H. You*, H. Zhang*, **Z. Gan**, X. Du, B. Zhang, Z. Wang, L. Cao, S.-F. Chang and Y. Yang “Ferret: Refer and Ground Anything Anywhere at Any Granularity”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.07704*
2. Z. Lai*, H. Zhang*, W. Wu, H. Bai, A. Timofeev, X. Du, **Z. Gan**, J. Shan, C.-N. Chuah, Y. Yang and M. Cao “From Scarcity to Efficiency: Improving CLIP Training via Visual-enriched Captions”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.07699*
3. T.-J. Fu, W. Hu, X. Du, W. Y. Wang, Y. Yang and **Z. Gan** “Guiding Instruction-based Image Editing via Multimodal Large Language Models”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2309.17102*
4. A. Jaiswal, **Z. Gan**, X. Du, B. Zhang, Z. Wang and Y. Yang “Compressing LLMs: The Truth is Rarely Pure and Never Simple”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.01382*
5. W. Wu*, A. Timofeev*, C. Chen, B. Zhang, K. Duan, S. Liu, Y. Zheng, J. Shlens, X. Du, **Z. Gan** and Y. Yang “MOFI: Learning Image Representations from Noisy Entity Annotated Images”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.07952*
6. J. Cho, L. Li, Z. Yang, **Z. Gan**, L. Wang and M. Bansal “Diagnostic Benchmark and Iterative Inpainting for Layout-Guided Image Generation”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.06671*
7. J. Wu, J. Wang, Z. Yang, **Z. Gan**, Z. Liu, J. Yuan and L. Wang “GRiT: A Generative Region-to-text Transformer for Object Understanding”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2212.00280*
8. B. Wen, Z. Yang, J. Wang, **Z. Gan**, B. Howe and L. Wang “InfoVisDial: An Informative Visual Dialogue Dataset by Bridging Large Multimodal and Language Models”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.13503*

2023

1. C. Li*, **Z. Gan***, Z. Yang*, J. Yang*, L. Li*, L. Wang and J. Gao “Multimodal Foundation Models: From Specialists to General-Purpose Assistants”, *Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision*, 2023. **A survey book on multimodal foundation models**
2. Y. Zhang, B. McKinzie, **Z. Gan**, V. Shankar and A. Toshev “Pre-trained Language Models Do Not Help Auto-regressive Text-to-Image Generation”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), Workshop on I Can’t Believe It’s Not Better*, 2023
3. Y.-L. Sung, L. Li, K. Lin, **Z. Gan**, M. Bansal and L. Wang “An Empirical Study of Multimodal Model Merging”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (Findings of EMNLP)*, 2023
4. X. Zou*, Z.-Y. Dou*, J. Yang*, **Z. Gan**, L. Li, C. Li, X. Dai, H. Behl, J. Wang, L. Yuan, N. Peng, L. Wang, Y. J. Lee and J. Gao “Generalized Decoding for Pixel, Image, and Language”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2023
5. Z. Yang, J. Wang, **Z. Gan**, L. Li, K. Lin, C. Wu, N. Duan, Z. Liu, C. Liu, M. Zeng and L. Wang “ReCo: Region-Controlled Text-to-Image Generation”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2023
6. J. Zhou, L. Dong, **Z. Gan**, L. Wang and F. Wei “Non-Contrastive Learning Meets Language-Image Pre-Training”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2023
7. L. Li, **Z. Gan**, K. Lin, C.-C. Lin, Z. Liu, C. Liu and L. Wang “LAVENDER: Unifying Video-Language Understanding as Masked Language Modeling”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2023
8. T.-J. Fu*, L. Li*, **Z. Gan**, K. Lin, W. Wang, L. Wang and Z. Liu “An Empirical Study of End-to-End Video-Language Transformers with Masked Visual Modeling”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2023
9. C. Si, **Z. Gan**, Z. Yang, S. Wang, J. Wang, J. Boyd-Graber and L. Wang “Prompting GPT-3 To Be Reliable”, *Int. Conf. Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2023
10. Z. Zhu*, Y. Wei*, J. Wang, **Z. Gan**, Z. Zhang, L. Wang, G. Hua, L. Wang, Z. Liu and H. Hu “Exploring Discrete Diffusion Models for Image Captioning”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2211.11694*

2022

1. Z. Gan, L. Li, C. Li, L. Wang, Z. Liu and J. Gao "Vision-Language Pre-training: Basics, Recent Advances, and Future Trends", *Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision*, 2022. **A survey book on vision-language pre-training**
2. J. Wang, Z. Yang, X. Hu, L. Li, K. Lin, Z. Gan, Z. Liu, C. Liu and L. Wang "GIT: A Generative Image-to-text Transformer for Vision and Language", *Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)*, 2022. **Our new multimodal foundation model that achieves 12 new SOTA on a diverse set of image/video captioning and QA tasks**
3. C. Wu*, J. Liang*, X. Hu, Z. Gan, J. Wang, L. Wang, Z. Liu, Y. Fang and N. Duan "NUWA-Infinity: Autoregressive over Autoregressive Generation for Infinite Visual Synthesis", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2022
4. Z.-Y. Dou*, A. Kamath*, Z. Gan*, P. Zhang, J. Wang, L. Li, Z. Liu, C. Liu, Y. LeCun, N. Peng, J. Gao, L. Wang "Coarse-to-Fine Vision-Language Pre-training with Fusion in the Backbone", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2022
5. S. Shen*, C. Li*, X. Hu*, Y. Xie, J. Yang, P. Zhang, Z. Gan, L. Wang, L. Yuan, C. Liu, K. Keutzer, T. Darrell, A. Rohrbach and J. Gao "K-LITE: Learning Transferable Visual Models with External Knowledge", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2022 **Oral**
6. Z. Yang, Z. Gan, J. Wang, X. Hu, F. Ahmed, Z. Liu, Y. Lu and L. Wang "UniTAB: Unifying Text and Box Outputs for Grounded Vision-Language Modeling", *European Conf. on Computer Vision (ECCV)*, 2022 **Oral, Top 2.7% among all submissions**
7. T. Chen, Y. Cheng, Z. Gan, J. Wang, L. Wang, J. Liu and Z. Wang "Adversarial Feature Augmentation and Normalization for Visual Recognition", *Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)*, 2022
8. Z. Dou, Y. Xu, Z. Gan, J. Wang, S. Wang, L. Wang, C. Zhu, P. Zhang, L. Yuan, N. Peng, Z. Liu and M. Zeng "An Empirical Study of Training End-to-End Vision-and-Language Transformers", *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2022
9. X. Hu, Z. Gan, J. Wang, Z. Yang, Z. Liu, Y. Lu and L. Wang "Scaling Up Vision-Language Pre-training for Image Captioning", *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2022
10. K. Lin*, L. Li*, C.-C. Lin*, F. Ahmed, Z. Gan, Z. Liu, Y. Lu and L. Wang "SwinBERT: End-to-End Transformers with Sparse Attention for Video Captioning", *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2022
11. Z. Fang, J. Wang, X. Hu, L. Liang, Z. Gan, L. Wang, Y. Yang and Z. Liu "Injecting Semantic Concepts into End-to-End Image Captioning", *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2022
12. Z. Yang, Z. Gan, J. Wang, X. Hu, Y. Lu, Z. Liu and L. Wang "An Empirical Study of GPT-3 for Few-Shot Knowledge-Based VQA", *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2022 **Oral, Leaderboard #1 on OK-VQA as of Nov. 4, 2021**
13. Z. Gan, Y.-C. Chen, L. Li, T. Chen, Y. Cheng, S. Wang, J. Liu, L. Wang and Z. Liu "Playing Lottery Tickets with Vision and Language", *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2022 **Oral**
14. J. Chen, Y. Cheng, Z. Gan, Q. Gu and J. Liu "Efficient Robust Training via Backward Smoothing", *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2022
15. T.-J. Fu, L. Li, Z. Gan, K. Lin, W. Wang, L. Wang and Z. Liu "VIOLET: End-to-End Video-Language Transformers with Masked Visual-token Modeling", *arXiv preprint arXiv:2111.12681*
16. Y. Nie*, L. Li*, Z. Gan, S. Wang, C. Zhu, M. Zeng, Z. Liu, M. Bansal and L. Wang "MLP Architectures for Vision-and-Language Modeling: An Empirical Study", *arXiv preprint arXiv:2112.04453*
17. J. Wang, X. Hu, Z. Gan, Z. Yang, X. Dai, Z. Liu, Y. Lu and L. Wang "UFO: A UniFied TransFormer for Vision-Language Representation Learning", *arXiv preprint arXiv:2111.10023*

2021

1. T. Chen, Y. Cheng, Z. Gan, L. Yuan, L. Zhang and Z. Wang "Chasing Sparsity in Vision Transformers: An End-to-End Exploration", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2021

2. X. Chen, Y. Cheng, S. Wang, **Z. Gan**, J. Liu and Z. Wang “The Elastic Lottery Ticket Hypothesis”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2021
3. T. Chen, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, J. Liu and Z. Wang “Data-Efficient GAN Training Beyond (Just) Augmentations: A Lottery Ticket Perspective”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2021
4. B. Wang*, C. Xu*, S. Wang, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, J. Gao, A. H. Awadallah and B. Li “Adversarial GLUE: A Multi-Task Benchmark for Robustness Evaluation of Language Models”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, Datasets and Benchmarks Track, 2021 **Oral**
5. L. Li*, J. Lei*, **Z. Gan**, L. Yu, Y.-C. Chen, R. Pillai, Y. Cheng, L. Zhou, X. Wang, W. Wang, T. Berg, M. Bansal, J. Liu, L. Wang and Z. Liu “VALUE: A Multi-Task Benchmark for Video-and-Language Understanding Evaluation”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, Datasets and Benchmarks Track, 2021
6. J. Chen, **Z. Gan**, X. Li, Q. Guo, L. Chen, S. Gao, T. Chung, Y. Xu, B. Zeng, W. Lu, F. Li, L. Carin and C. Tao “Simpler, Faster, Stronger: Breaking The log-K Curse On Contrastive Learners With FlatNCE”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, Workshop on Self-Supervised Learning, 2021
7. L. Li, J. Lei, **Z. Gan** and J. Liu “Adversarial VQA: A New Benchmark for Evaluating the Robustness of VQA Models”, *Int. Conf. on Computer Vision (ICCV)*, 2021 **Oral, Top 3% among all submissions**
8. C. Zhu, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, F. Huang, J. Liu and T. Goldstein “MaxVA: Fast Adaptation of Stepsizes by Maximizing Observed Variance of Gradients”, *European Conf. Machine Learning (ECML)*, 2021
9. X. Chen, Y. Cheng, S. Wang, **Z. Gan**, Z. Wang and J. Liu “EarlyBERT: Efficient BERT Training via Early-bird Lottery Tickets”, *Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2021 **Oral**
10. S. Wang, L. Zhou, **Z. Gan**, Y.-C. Chen, Y. Fang, S. Sun, Y. Cheng and J. Liu “Cluster-Former: Clustering-based Sparse Transformer for Question Answering”, *Findings of Association for Computational Linguistics (Findings of ACL)*, 2021 **Leaderboard #1 on NaturalQuestions as of Sep. 27, 2020**
11. J. Lei*, L. Li*, L. Zhou, **Z. Gan**, T. L. Berg, M. Bansal and J. Liu “Less is More: ClipBERT for Video-and-Language Learning via Sparse Sampling”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2021 **Oral with 3 Strong Accepts, Best Student Paper Honorable Mention**
12. L. Chen*, D. Wang*, **Z. Gan**, J. Liu, R. Henao and L. Carin “Wasserstein Contrastive Representation Distillation”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2021
13. S. Dai, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, C. Tao, L. Carin and J. Liu “APo-VAE: Text Generation in Hyperbolic Space”, *North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)*, 2021
14. B. Wang, S. Wang, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, R. Jia, B. Li and J. Liu “InfoBERT: Improving Robustness of Language Models from An Information Theoretic Perspective”, *Int. Conf. Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2021 **Leaderboard #1 on Adversarial NLI as of Oct. 9, 2020**
15. S. Yuan*, P. Cheng*, R. Zhang, W. Hao, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin “Improving Zero-Shot Voice Style Transfer via Disentangled Representation Learning”, *Int. Conf. Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2021
16. Y. Fang*, S. Wang*, **Z. Gan**, S. Sun and J. Liu “FILTER: An Enhanced Fusion Method for Cross-lingual Language Understanding”, *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2021 **Leaderboard #1 on XTREME and XGLUE as of Sep. 8, 2020**
17. W. Chen, **Z. Gan**, L. Li, Y. Cheng, W. Wang and J. Liu “Meta Module Network for Compositional Visual Reasoning”, *Winter Conf. on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*, 2021 **Best Student Paper Honorable Mention**
18. L. Zhou, J. Liu, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, and L. Wang “CUPID: Adaptive Curation of Pre-training Data for Video-and-Language Representation Learning”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2104.00285*
19. L. Li, **Z. Gan** and J. Liu “A Closer Look at the Robustness of Vision-and-Language Pre-trained Models”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2012.08673* **SOTA on 7 VQA robustness benchmarks as of April 23, 2021**

20. Y. Fang, S. Wang, **Z. Gan**, S. Sun, J. Liu and C. Zhu “Accelerating Real-Time Question Answering via Question Generation”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2009.05167*
21. D. Wang, Y. Yang, C. Tao, **Z. Gan**, L. Chen, F. Kong, R. Henao and L. Carin “Proactive Pseudo-Intervention: Contrastive Learning For Interpretable Vision Models”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2012.03369*
22. M. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, S. Wang, C. Hsieh and J. Liu “Adversarial Masking: Towards Understanding Robustness Trade-off for Generalization”, *OpenReview*

2020

1. **Z. Gan**, Y.-C. Chen, L. Li, C. Zhu, Y. Cheng and J. Liu “Large-Scale Adversarial Training for Vision-and-Language Representation Learning”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2020 **Spotlight, Top 4% among all submissions, SOTA on 6 Vision+Language tasks**
2. S. Sun, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, Y. Fang, S. Wang and J. Liu “Contrastive Distillation on Intermediate Representations for Language Model Compression”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2020
3. S. Wang, Y. Fang, S. Sun, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, J. Jiang and J. Liu “Cross-Thought for Sentence Encoder Pre-training”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2020
4. Y. Dong, S. Wang, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, J. Cheung and J. Liu “Multi-Fact Correction in Abstractive Text Summarization”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2020
5. L. Li*, Y.-C. Chen*, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, L. Yu and J. Liu “HERO: Hierarchical Encoder for Video+Language Omni-representation Pre-training”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2020 **SOTA on 8 Video+Language datasets, Leaderboard #1 on TVR and TVC as of Sep. 15, 2020**
6. Y. Zhang*, G. Wang*, C. Li, **Z. Gan**, C. Brockett and B. Dolan “POINTER: Constrained Progressive Text Generation via Insertion-based Generative Pre-training”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2020
7. Y. Fang, S. Sun, **Z. Gan**, R. Pillai, S. Wang and J. Liu “Hierarchical Graph Network for Multi-hop Question Answering”, *arXiv preprint arXiv:1911.03631* *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2020 **Leaderboard #1 on HotpotQA as of Dec. 1st, 2019**
8. Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, Y. Zhang, O. Elachqar, D. Li and J. Liu “Contextual Text Style Transfer”, *Findings of Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (Findings of EMNLP)*, 2020
9. Y. Wei, **Z. Gan**, W. Li, S. Lyu, M.-C. Chang, L. Zhang, J. Gao and P. Zhang “MagGAN: High-Resolution Face Attribute Editing with Mask-Guided Generative Adversarial Network”, *Asian Conf. on Computer Vision (ACCV)*, 2020
10. S. Dai, Y. Cheng, Y. Zhang, **Z. Gan**, J. Liu and L. Carin “Contrastively Smoothed Class Alignment for Unsupervised Domain Adaptation”, *Asian Conf. on Computer Vision (ACCV)*, 2020
11. J. Cao, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, L. Yu, Y.-C. Chen and J. Liu “Behind the Scene: Revealing the Secrets of Pre-trained Vision-and-Language Models”, *European Conf. on Computer Vision (ECCV)*, 2020 **Spotlight (Top 5% among all submissions)**
12. Y.-C. Chen*, L. Li*, L. Yu*, A. Kholy, F. Ahmed, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng and J. Liu “UNITER: UNiversal Image-TExt Representation Learning”, *European Conf. on Computer Vision (ECCV)*, 2020 **SOTA on 13 Vision+Language Datasets/Tasks, No. 1 on VCR and NLVR2 leaderboards as of Sep. 2019**
13. Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, Y. Li, J. Liu and J. Gao “Sequential Attention GAN for Interactive Image Editing”, *ACM International Conference on Multimedia (ACMMM)*, 2020
14. P. Cheng, W. Hao, S. Dai, J. Liu, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin “CLUB: A Contrastive Log-ratio Upper Bound of Mutual Information”, *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2020
15. L. Chen, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, L. Li, L. Carin and J. Liu “Graph Optimal Transport for Cross-Domain Alignment”, *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2020
16. J. Xu, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng and J. Liu “Discourse-Aware Neural Extractive Text Summarization”, *Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2020
17. Y. Chen, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, J. Liu and J. Liu “Distilling Knowledge Learned in BERT for Text Generation”, *Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2020

18. R. Zhang, C. Chen, **Z. Gan**, W. Wang, D. Shen, G. Wang, Z. Wen and L. Carin “Improving Adversarial Text Generation by Modeling the Distant Future”, *Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2020
19. Y. Li, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, L. Yu, L. Wang and J. Liu “BachGAN: High-Resolution Image Synthesis from Salient Object Layout”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2020
20. J. Liu, W. Chen, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, L. Yu, Y. Yang and J. Liu “VIOLIN: A Large-Scale Dataset for Video-and-Language Inference”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2020
21. R. Zhang, C. Chen, **Z. Gan**, Z. Wen, W. Wang and L. Carin “Nested-Wasserstein Self-Imitation Learning for Sequence Generation”, *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2020
22. C. Zhu, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, S. Sun, T. Goldstein and J. Liu “FreeLB: Enhanced Adversarial Training for Natural Language Understanding”, *Int. Conf. Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2020 **Spotlight (Leaderboard #1 on GLUE, ARC Easy/Challenge and Commonsense QA as of Sep. 2019)**
23. W. Wang, H. Xu, **Z. Gan**, B. Li, G. Wang, L. Chen, Q. Yang, W. Wang and L. Carin “Graph-Driven Generative Models for Heterogeneous Multi-Task Learning”, *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2020 **Spotlight**
24. J. Hu, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, J. Liu, J. Gao and G. Neubig “What Makes A Good Story? Designing Composite Rewards for Visual Storytelling”, *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2020 **Spotlight**

2019

1. W. Wang, C. Tao, **Z. Gan**, G. Wang, L. Chen, X. Zhang, R. Zhang, Q. Yang, R. Henao and L. Carin “Improving Textual Network Learning with Variational Homophilic Embeddings”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2019
2. S. Sun, Y. Cheng, **Z. Gan**, and J. Liu “Patient Knowledge Distillation for BERT Model Compression”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2019
3. H. Wang, **Z. Gan**, X. Liu, J. Liu, J. Gao and H. Wang “Adversarial Domain Adaptation for Machine Reading Comprehension”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2019
4. D. Li, Y. Zhang, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, C. Brockett, M. Sun and B. Dolan “Domain Adaptive Text Style Transfer”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2019
5. M. Jiang, Q. Huang, L. Zhang, X. Wang, P. Zhang, **Z. Gan**, J. Diesner and J. Gao “TIGer: Text-to-Image Grounding for Image Caption Evaluation”, *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2019
6. L. Li, **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng and J. Liu “Relation-Aware Graph Attention Network for Visual Question Answering”, *Int. Conf. on Computer Vision (ICCV)*, 2019
7. **Z. Gan**, Y. Cheng, A. Kholy, L. Li, J. Liu and J. Gao “Multi-step Reasoning via Recurrent Dual Attention for Visual Dialog”, *Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2019
8. L. Ke, X. Li, Y. Bisk, A. Holtzman, **Z. Gan**, J. Liu, J. Gao, Y. Choi, and S. Srinivasa “Tactical Rewind: Self-Correction via Backtracking in Vision-and-Language Navigation”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2019 **Oral**
9. Y. Li, **Z. Gan**, Y. Shen, J. Liu, Y. Cheng, Y. Wu, L. Carin, D. Carlson and J. Gao “StoryGAN: A Sequential Conditional GAN for Story Visualization”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2019
10. W. Wang, **Z. Gan**, H. Xu, R. Zhang, G. Wang, D. Shen, C. Chen and L. Carin “Topic-Guided Variational Autoencoders for Text Generation”, *North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)*, 2019 **Oral**
11. L. Chen, Y. Zhang, R. Zhang, C. Tao, **Z. Gan**, H. Zhang, B. Li, D. Shen, C. Chen and L. Carin “Improving Sequence-to-Sequence Learning via Optimal Transport”, *Int. Conf. Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2019
12. Q. Huang*, **Z. Gan***, A. Celikyilmaz, D. Wu, J. Wang and X. He “Hierarchically Structured Reinforcement Learning for Topically Coherent Visual Story Generation”, *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2019 **Spotlight**

2018

1. Y. Zhang, M. Galley, J. Gao, **Z. Gan**, X. Li, C. Brockett and B. Dolan "Generating Informative and Diverse Conversational Responses via Adversarial Information Maximization", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2018
2. L. Chen, S. Dai, C. Tao, D. Shen, **Z. Gan**, H. Zhang, Y. Zhang and L. Carin "Adversarial Text Generation via Feature-Mover's Distance", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2018
3. X. Zhang, R. Henao, **Z. Gan**, Y. Li and L. Carin "Multi-Label Learning from Medical Plain Text with Convolutional Residual Models", *Machine Learning for Healthcare (MLHC)*, 2018 **Spotlight**
4. Y. Pu, S. Dai, **Z. Gan**, W. Wang, G. Wang, Y. Zhang, R. Henao and L. Carin "JointGAN: Multi-Domain Joint Distribution Learning with Generative Adversarial Nets", *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2018
5. T. Xu, P. Zhang, Q. Huang, H. Zhang, **Z. Gan**, X. Huang and X. He "AttnGAN: Fine-Grained Text to Image Generation with Attentional Generative Adversarial Networks", *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2018
6. W. Wang, **Z. Gan**, W. Wang, D. Shen, J. Huang, W. Ping, S. Satheesh and L. Carin "Topic Compositional Neural Language Model", *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2018
7. Y. Pu, M. R. Min, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin "Adaptive Feature Abstraction for Translating Video to Text", *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2018

2017

1. **Z. Gan**^{*}, L. Chen^{*}, W. Wang, Y. Pu, Y. Zhang, H. Liu, C. Li and L. Carin "Triangle Generative Adversarial Networks", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2017
2. Y. Pu, W. Wang, R. Henao, L. Chen, **Z. Gan**, C. Li, and L. Carin "Adversarial Symmetric Variational Autoencoder", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2017
3. Y. Pu, **Z. Gan**, R. Henao, C. Li, S. Han and L. Carin "VAE Learning via Stein Variational Gradient Descent", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2017
4. Y. Zhang, D. Shen, G. Wang, **Z. Gan**, R. Henao and L. Carin "Deconvolutional Paragraph Representation Learning", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2017
5. **Z. Gan**, Y. Pu, R. Henao, C. Li, X. He and L. Carin "Learning Generic Sentence Representations Using Convolutional Neural Networks", *Conf. on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2017 **Oral**
6. Y. Zhang, **Z. Gan**, K. Fan, Z. Chen, R. Henao, D. Shen and L. Carin "Adversarial Feature Matching for Text Generation", *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2017
7. Y. Zhang, C. Chen, **Z. Gan**, R. Henao and L. Carin "Stochastic Gradient Monomial Gamma Sampler", *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2017
8. **Z. Gan**^{*}, C. Li^{*}, C. Chen, Y. Pu, Q. Su and L. Carin "Scalable Bayesian Learning of Recurrent Neural Networks for Language Modeling", *Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, 2017 **Oral**
9. **Z. Gan**, C. Gan, X. He, Y. Pu, K. Tran, J. Gao, L. Carin and L. Deng "Semantic Compositional Networks for Visual Captioning", *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2017 **Spotlight**
10. C. Gan, **Z. Gan**, X. He, J. Gao and L. Deng "StyleNet: Generating Attractive Visual Captions with Styles", *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2017
11. **Z. Gan**, P. D. Singh, A. Joshi, X. He, J. Chen, J. Gao and L. Deng "Character-level Deep Conflation for Business Data Analytics", *Int. Conf. Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, 2017
12. Y. Xian, Y. Pu, **Z. Gan**, L. Lu and A. Thompson "Adaptive DCTNet for Audio Signal Classification", *Int. Conf. Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*, 2017
13. Q. Su, X. Liao, C. Li, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin "Unsupervised Learning with Truncated Gaussian Graphical Models", *Proc. American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2017 **Oral**

2016

1. Y. Zhang, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin “Generating Text via Adversarial Training”, *NeurIPS Workshop*, 2016
2. Y. Xian, Y. Pu, **Z. Gan**, L. Lu and A. Thompson “Modified DCTNet for Audio Signals Classification”, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 2016
3. Y. Pu, **Z. Gan**, R. Henao, X. Yuan, C. Li, A. Stevens and L. Carin “Variational Autoencoder for Deep Learning of Images, Labels and Captions”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2016
4. J. Song, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin “Factored Temporal Sigmoid Belief Networks for Sequence Learning”, *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2016
5. C. Li, A. Stevens, C. Chen, Y. Pu, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin “Learning Weight Uncertainty with Stochastic Gradient MCMC for Shape Classification”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2016 **Spotlight**
6. C. Chen, D. Carlson, **Z. Gan**, C. Li and L. Carin “Bridging the Gap Between Stochastic Gradient MCMC and Stochastic Optimization”, *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2016 **Oral**

2015

1. **Z. Gan**, C. Li, R. Henao, D. Carlson and L. Carin “Deep Temporal Sigmoid Belief Networks for Sequence Modeling”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2015
2. R. Henao, **Z. Gan**, J. Lu and L. Carin “Deep Poisson Factor Modeling”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2015
3. **Z. Gan**, C. Chen, R. Henao, D. Carlson and L. Carin “Scalable Deep Poisson Factor Analysis for Topic Modeling”, *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2015
4. **Z. Gan**, R. Henao, D. Carlson and L. Carin “Learning Deep Sigmoid Belief Networks with Data Augmentation”, *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2015
5. **Z. Gan**, X. Yuan, R. Henao, E. Tsalik and L. Carin “Inference of Gene Networks Associated with the Host Response to Infectious Disease”, Chapter 13 of Book *Big Data Over Networks*. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

PhD Dissertation

1. **Z. Gan** “Deep Generative Models for Vision and Language Intelligence”, Duke University.

Tutorial and Workshop

1. L. Li, **Z. Gan**, C. Li, J. Yang and Z. Yang “Recent Advances in Vision Foundation Models”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2023
2. **Z. Gan**, L. Li, C. Li, J. Yang, P. Zhang, L. Wang, Z. Liu and J. Gao “Recent Advances in Vision-and-Language Pre-training”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2022
3. M. Luo, T. Gokhale, Z. Fang, P. Banerjee, Y. Yang, C. Baral, D. Teney, **Z. Gan**, K. Marino, T. Wang and S. Aditya “O-DRUM: Workshop on Open-Domain Retrieval Under a Multi-Modal Setting”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2022
4. **Z. Gan**, C. Li, J. Yang and P. Zhang “Microsoft Vision+Language Summer Talk Series”, 2021
5. P. Anderson, Y. Artzi, **Z. Gan**, X. He, L. Li, J. Liu, X. Wang, Q. Wu and L. Zhou “From VQA to VLN: Recent Advances in Vision-and-Language Research”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2021
6. **Z. Gan**, L. Yu, Y. Cheng, L. Zhou, L. Li, Y.-C. Chen, J. Liu and X. He “Recent Advances in Vision-and-Language Research”, *Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, 2020
7. P. Knees and **Z. Gan** “The ACM Multimedia 2020 Interactive Arts Exhibition”

Professional Activities

Area Chair for Top-tier AI Conferences:

- 2024: ICML, ICLR, CVPR
- 2023: NeurIPS, ICML, ICLR, CVPR, EMNLP, AAAI, IJCNLP-AAACL
- 2022: NeurIPS, ICML, ECCV, ACL, NAACL, EMNLP, AAAI
- 2021: NeurIPS, ICML, ICLR, ACL
- 2020: NeurIPS
- 2019: NeurIPS

Senior Program Committee (SPC) Member: AAAI 2021/2020

Action Editor: Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR), ACL Rolling Review

Interactive Arts Chair: ACMMM 2020

Awarded as Outstanding SPC Member: AAAI 2020

Awarded as Top/Outstanding Reviewer: EMNLP 2020, ICML 2020, NeurIPS 2018

Conference Reviewer/PC Member:

- 2022: ICLR, CVPR, WACV
- 2021: CVPR, ICCV, WACV; NAACL, EMNLP
- 2020: ICML, ICLR, IJCAI; CVPR, ECCV, ACMMM; ACL, EMNLP, COLING, AACL, CoNLL
- 2019: ICML, ICLR, AAAI; CVPR, ICCV, ACMMM; EMNLP, CoNLL
- 2018: NeurIPS, EMNLP, CVPR, ACCV
- 2016: NIPS

Journal Reviewer:

- Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (PAMI)
- Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR)
- Transactions on Image Processing (TIP)
- Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (KDE)
- Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing (STSP)
- Transactions on Multimedia Computing Communications and Applications (TOMM)
- Transactions on Audio, Speech and Language Processing (ASL)
- Science China
- Transactions on Cybernetics, IET Computer Vision, Entropy, Artificial Intelligence

Workshop Reviewer/PC Member:

- 2023: 3rd ACL Workshop on Advances in Language and Vision Research
- 2021: AAAI Workshop on Optimal Transport and Structured Data Modeling
- 2021: 4th ICCV Workshop on Closing the loop between Vision and Language
- 2021: NeurIPS Workshop on Disentanglement and Controllable Generation for Vision and Language
- 2021: 2nd NAACL Workshop on Advances in Language and Vision Research
- 2020: ACL Workshop on Advances in Language and Vision Research
- 2019: ICCV Workshop on Closing the loop between Vision and Language
- 2019: ICLR Workshop on Deep Generative Models for Highly Structured Data
- 2018: ICML Workshop on Theoretical Foundations and Applications of Deep Generative Models

Talks

- “Recent Advances in Vision Foundation Models”, *CVPR Tutorial*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2023
- “Towards Building Multimodal Foundation Models”, *WACV Tutorial*, Zoom, January 2023
- “Towards Building Multimodal Foundation Models”, *Ohio State University (OSU)*, Zoom, November 2022
- “Towards Building Multimodal Foundation Models”, *Apple AI/ML*, Zoom, October 2022
- “Finding Universal Lottery Tickets in Large Neural Networks Efficiently”, *Fudan University*, Zoom, August 2022
- “Big Models, Few-shot Learning, and Model Evaluation for Vision-Language Pre-training”, *CVPR Tutorial*, New Orleans, USA, June 2022
- “Neural Networks for NLP”, *Duke Machine Learning Summer School*, Zoom, June 2022
- “Vision-Language Pre-training for Multimodal Intelligence”, *Google Brain*, Zoom, May 2022
- “Playing Lottery Tickets with Vision and Language”, *AAAI*, Zoom, February 2022
- “Compressing Transformers with Knowledge Distillation and Pruning”, *Baidu Research*, Zoom, January 2022
- “How Much Can GPT-3 Benefit Few-Shot Visual Reasoning?”, *Microsoft Research Summit*, October 2021
- “Vision-and-Language Pre-training: Basics, Recent Advances, and Future Directions”, *University of California, Merced*, Zoom, October 2021
- “Large-scale Vision-and-Language Pre-training for Multimodal Learning”, Keynote at the 3rd Workshop on Continual and Multimodal Learning for Internet of Things, *IJCAI*, Zoom, August 2021
- “Recent Advances in Vision-Language Pre-training”, *University of Bristol*, Zoom, June 2021
- “Recent Advances in Vision-Language Pre-training”, *Wuhan University*, Zoom, May 2021
- “Recent Advances in Vision-Language Pre-training”, *University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)*, Zoom, May 2021
- “Vision-Language Pre-training”, *Student Forum on Frontiers of AI (SFFAI)*, Zoom, April 2021
- “Large-Scale Adversarial Training for Vision-and-Language Representation Learning”, *NeurIPS*, Zoom, December 2020
- “Visual QA and Reasoning”, *CVPR Tutorial*, Zoom, June 2020
- “Deep Generative Models for Vision and Language Intelligence”, *Ph.D. Final Defense*, Durham, NC, February 2018
- “Deep Generative Models for Vision and Language Intelligence”, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown, NY, October 2017
- “Deep Generative Models for Vision and Language Intelligence”, NVIDIA, Santa Clara, CA, September 2017
- “Deep Generative Models for Vision and Language Intelligence”, Apple, Cupertino, CA, September 2017
- “Learning Generic Sentence Representations Using Convolutional Neural Networks”, *EMNLP*, Copenhagen, Denmark, September 2017
- “Semantic Compositional Networks for Visual Captioning”, *CVPR*, Hawaii, July 2017
- “Semantic Compositional Networks for Visual Captioning”, *Ph.D. Preliminary Exam*, Durham, NC, April 2017
- “Deep Generative Models for Sequence Learning”, *Ph.D. Qualifying Exam*, Durham, NC, December 2015

Competitions

- 2022/06: First human parity on [TextCaps](#), and Rank 1st on [NoCaps](#) and [VizWiz](#) leaderboards
- 2021/09: Rank 1st on [OK-VQA](#) leaderboard
- 2021/06: Rank 1st on [TextCaps Challenge 2021](#)
- 2020/10: Rank 1st on [Adversarial NLI](#) leaderboard
- 2020/09: Rank 1st on [NaturalQuestions](#) leaderboard
- 2020/09: Rank 1st on [TVR](#) and [TVC](#) leaderboards
- 2020/09: Rank 1st on [XTREME](#) and [XGLUE](#) leaderboards
- 2020/05: Rank 4th on [VQA Challenge 2020](#)
- 2019/12: Rank 1st on [HotpotQA](#) leaderboard
- 2019/10: Rank 1st on [VCR](#) and [NLVR2](#) leaderboards
- 2019/09: Rank 1st on [GLUE](#), [ARC Easy/Challenge](#) and [Commonsense QA](#) leaderboards
- 2019/06: Rank 2nd in [Visual Dialog Challenge 2019](#)
- 2018/09: Rank 3rd in [Visual Dialog Challenge 2018](#)

Awards

- CVPR 2021 Best Student Paper Honorable Mention
- WACV 2021 Best Student Paper Honorable Mention
- AAAI 2020 Outstanding Senior Program Committee Member Award
- ECE Fellowship, Duke University, 2013
- National Scholarship, Department of Minister of Education of China, 2010-2013