

---

## Zhe Gan

Microsoft Building 112,  
14865 NE 36th St,  
Redmond, WA 98052

Phone: Provided upon request  
Email: zhe.gan@microsoft.com  
Homepage: <http://zhegan27.github.io/>

---

### Research Interests

I am an NLP Scientist at Microsoft Business AI and Research, primarily working on dialogue, machine reading comprehension (MRC), and natural language generation (NLG). I also have broad interests on various machine learning and NLP topics.

### 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

- **Microsoft Business AI and Research** 04/2018 - present  
NLP Scientist.  
Dialogue, machine reading comprehension (MRC), and natural language generation (NLG)
- **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  
Deep reinforcement learning for vision and language intelligence, with focus on the visual storytelling task.
- **Microsoft Research Redmond** 05/2016 - 08/2016  
Research Intern. Advisor: Xiaodong He, Jianfeng Gao, Li Deng, Ph.D  
(i) image captioning: using deep learning techniques to improve the state-of-the-art of image and video captioning.  
(ii) deep conflation: using deep learning techniques to implement conflation for business data analytics.
- **Adobe Research** 06/2015 - 09/2015  
Data Scientist Intern. Advisor: Hung Bui, Ph.D  
Recurrent neural networks (RNN) for NLP applications, including sentence classification, sentence retrieval and sentence generation

## Publications

### Arxiv

1. Q. Huang\*, **Z. Gan\***, A. Celikyilmaz, D. Wu, J. Wang and X. He "Hierarchically Structured Reinforcement Learning for Topically Coherent Visual Story Generation", *arXiv preprint arXiv:1805.08191*

### Referred Conference

1. 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**
2. 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
3. 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
4. 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
5. 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
6. **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 (NIPS)*, 2017
7. Y. Pu, W. Wang, R. Henao, L. Chen, **Z. Gan**, C. Li, and L. Carin "Adversarial Symmetric Variational Autoencoder", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2017
8. Y. Pu, **Z. Gan**, R. Henao, C. Li, S. Han and L. Carin "VAE Learning via Stein Variational Gradient Descent", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2017
9. Y. Zhang, D. Shen, G. Wang, **Z. Gan**, R. Henao and L. Carin "Deconvolutional Paragraph Representation Learning", *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2017
10. **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**
11. 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
12. Y. Zhang, C. Chen, **Z. Gan**, R. Henao and L. Carin "Stochastic Gradient Monomial Gamma Sampler", *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2017
13. **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**
14. **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**
15. 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
16. **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
17. 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
18. 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**
19. Y. Zhang, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin "Generating Text via Adversarial Training", *NIPS Workshop*, 2016
20. 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

21. 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 (NIPS)*, 2016
22. J. Song, **Z. Gan** and L. Carin “Factored Temporal Sigmoid Belief Networks for Sequence Learning”, *Int. Conf. Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2016
23. 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**
24. 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**
25. **Z. Gan**, C. Li, R. Henao, D. Carlson and L. Carin “Deep Temporal Sigmoid Belief Networks for Sequence Modeling”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2015
26. R. Henao, **Z. Gan**, J. Lu and L. Carin “Deep Poisson Factor Modeling”, *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2015
27. **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
28. **Z. Gan**, R. Henao, D. Carlson and L. Carin “Learning Deep Sigmoid Belief Networks with Data Augmentation”, *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2015

### Book Chapter

1. **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.

### Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant	09/2014-12/2014
STA 601 - Bayesian and Modern Statistics	
Instructor: David Dunson, Ph.D	
Teaching Assistant	01/2015-05/2015
ECE 587 - Information Theory	
Instructor: Ahmad Beirami, Ph.D	

### Professional Activities

**Journal Reviewer:** Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, IET Computer Vision, Entropy

**Conference Reviewer:** AAAI 2019/2016, NIPS 2018/2016, CVPR 2018, EMNLP 2018, ICML workshop 2018, ACCV 2018, IJCAI 2016, UAI 2016/2015

### Talks

- “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

## Software Skills

Python (Theano, Tensorflow, PyTorch), Matlab, R and C

## Awards

ECE Fellowship, Duke University, 2013

National Scholarship, Department of Minister of Education of China, 2010-2013.

## Graduate Coursework

Bayesian and Modern Statistics, Probabilistic Machine Learning, Advanced Machine Learning, Statistical Inference, Statistical Computation, Information Theory, Graphical Models & Inference, Optimization For Engineers