

# ZHENGQI, GAO

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## EDUCATION

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, USA

*Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*

Sep 2021 – Jun 2026 (Expected)

- GPA: 5.00/5.00 (Rank: NA); worked with Prof. Duane S. Boning
- Research interests: design automation for photonic/electronic integrated circuits and machine learning

### Fudan University

Shanghai, China

*M.S. in Microelectronics and Solid State Electronics*

Sep 2018 – Jun 2021

- GPA: 3.82/4.00 (Rank: NA); worked with Prof. Jun Tao and Prof. Xin Li (Duke Univ.)
- Research interests: electronic design automation (EDA), and machine learning

*B.E. in Microelectronic Science and Engineering*

Sep 2014 – Jun 2018

- GPA: 3.84/4.00 (Rank: 4/71); selected to Elite Engineering Program (top 5%)
- Relevant coursework: Mathematical Analysis, Probability, Mathematical Statistics and Stochastic Process, Signal and System, Data Structure and Algorithm Design, Design of Analog Integrated Circuits

## PUBLICATIONS

### Machine Learning

1. J. Gu, **Z. Gao**, C. Feng, H. Zhu, R. T. Chen, D. S. Boning, and D. Z. Pan, “NeurOLight: A Physics-Agnostic Neural Operator Enabling Parametric Photonic Device Simulation,” *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (Neurips)*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)
2. **Z. Gao**, F. Sun, M. Yang, S. Ren, Z. Xiong, M. Engeler, A. Burazer, L. Wildling, L. Daniel, and D. S. Boning “Learning from Multiple Annotator Noisy Labels via Sample-wise Label Fusion,” *European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV)*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
3. Z. Xue\*, **Z. Gao\***, S. Ren\*, and H. Zhao, “The Modality Focusing Hypothesis: Towards Understanding Crossmodal Knowledge Distillation,” *Arxiv Preprint*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#) (\* indicates equal contribution)
4. **Z. Gao**, S. Ren, Z. Xue, and H. Zhao, “Training-Free Robust Multimodal Learning via Sample-Wise Jacobian Regularization,” *Arxiv Preprint*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)
5. S. Ren, H. Wang, **Z. Gao**, S. He, A. Yuille, Y. Zhou and C. Xie, “A Simple Data Mixing Prior for Improving Self-Supervised Learning,” *IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, Jun. 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)
6. S. Ren, **Z. Gao**, T. Hua, Z. Xue, Y. Tian, S. He and H. Zhao, “Co-Advise: Cross Inductive Bias Distillation,” *IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, Jun. 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)
7. Z. Xue, S. Ren, **Z. Gao** and H. Zhao, “Multimodal Knowledge Expansion,” *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)*, Oct. 2021. [\[PDF\]](#)

### Design Automation for Photonic/Electronic Integrated Circuits

1. **Z. Gao**, Z. Zhang and D. S. Boning, “Automatic Synthesis of Broadband Silicon Photonic Devices via Bayesian Optimization,” *IEEE Journal of Lightwave Technology (IEEE JLT)*. [\[PDF\]](#)
2. **Z. Gao**, X. Chen, Z. Zhang, U. Chakraborty, W. Bogaerts, and D. S. Boning “Automatic Synthesis of Light Processing Functions for Programmable Photonics: Theory and Realization,” *Arxiv Preprint*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
3. **Z. Gao**, Z. Zhang and D. S. Boning, “Automatic Design of a Broadband Directional Coupler via Bayesian Optimization,” *Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics (CLEO)*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)
4. Z. Liang, H. Wang, J. Cheng, Y. Ding, H. Ren, **Z. Gao**, Z. Hu, D. S. Boning, X. Qian, S. Han, W. Jiang, and Y. Shi “Variational Quantum Pulse Learning,” *IEEE International Conference on Quantum Computing and Engineering (IEEE QCE)*, 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)
5. **Z. Gao** and R. Rohrer, “Efficient Non-Monte-Carlo Yield Estimation,” *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided*

- Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (IEEE TCAD)*. [\[PDF\]](#)
6. **Z. Gao**, J. Tao, Y. Su, D. Zhou, X. Zeng and X. Li, "Fast Statistical Analysis of Rare Failure Events with Truncated Normal Distribution in High-Dimensional Variation Space," *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (IEEE TCAD)*. [\[PDF\]](#)
  7. **Z. Gao**, Z. Chen, J. Tao, Y. Sun, D. Zhou, and X. Zeng, "Bayesian Inference on Introduced General Region: An Efficient Parametric Yield Estimation Method for Integrated Circuits," *ACM/IEEE Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASPDAC)*, Jan. 2021. [\[PDF\]](#)
  8. **Z. Gao**, J. Tao, D. Zhou, X. Zeng and X. Li, "Efficient Rare Failure Analysis over Multiple Corners via Correlated Bayesian Inference," *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (IEEE TCAD)*, Oct. 2020. [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
  9. **Z. Gao**, J. Tao, D. Zhou and X. Zeng, "Efficient Parametric Yield Estimation over Multiple Process Corners via Bayesian Inference Based on Bernoulli Distribution," *IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (IEEE TCAD)*, Oct. 2020. [\[PDF\]](#) [\[Code\]](#)
  10. J. Shi, **Z. Gao**, J. Tao, Y. Su, D. Zhou and X. Zeng, "Multi-Corner Parametric Yield Estimation via Bayesian Inference on Bernoulli Distribution with Conjugate Prior," *IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS)*, Oct. 2020. [\[PDF\]](#)
  11. Y. Li, X. Zeng, **Z. Gao**, L. Lin, J. Tao, J. Han, X. Cheng, M. Tahoori and X. Zeng, "Exploring A Bayesian Optimization Framework Compatible with Digital Standard Flow for Soft-Error-Tolerant Circuit," *IEEE/ACM Design Automation Conference (DAC)*, Jul. 2020. [\[PDF\]](#)
  12. **Z. Gao**, J. Tao, Y. Su, D. Zhou and X. Zeng, "Projection Based Active Gaussian Process Regression for Pareto Front Modeling," *Arxiv Preprint*. [\[PDF\]](#)
  13. **Z. Gao**, J. Tao, F. Yang, Y. Su, D. Zhou and X. Zeng, "Efficient Performance Trade-Off Modeling for Analog Circuit Based on Bayesian Neural Network," *IEEE/ACM International Conference on Computer Aided Design (ICCAD)*, Nov. 2019. [\[PDF\]](#)
  14. J. Tao, **Z. Gao**, D. Zhou and X. Zeng, "Efficient Statistical Analysis for Correlated Rare Failure Events," *IEEE International Conference on Solid-State and Integrated Circuit Technology (ICSICT)*, Nov. 2018. [\[PDF\]](#)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, USA

Research Assistant to Prof. Duane S. Boning

Sep 2021 – Jun 2026 (expected)

- Investigated neural network uncertainty quantification on regression problem
- Researched on automatic light processing functions synthesis on programmable photonics
- Optimized silicon photonic devices via Bayesian optimization

### Shanghai Qizhi Institute

Shanghai, China

Research Assistant to Prof. Hang Zhao

Mar 2021 – Jun 2021

- Exploited multimodal learning under knowledge distillation
- Developed a method to address adversarial attack by utilizing the multimodal data

### Southern Methodist University

Remotely

Research Assistant to Prof. Ron Rohrer

May 2020 – Sep 2021

- Built a power grid DC simulator for the electromigration problem
- Analyzed parametric yield based on the adjoint method

### Fudan University (State Key Laboratory of ASIC & System)

Shanghai, China

Research Assistant to Prof. Jun Tao (in collaboration with Prof. Xin Li)

Sep 2016 – Jul 2021

- Improved post-silicon yield estimation with the domain adaptation technique
- Estimated multi-corner failure rate and yield with Bayesian inference
- Modeled performance trade-off of analog circuits based on a Bayesian neural network
- Optimized a time variant analog filter by hierarchical clustering (bachelor thesis)
- Developed an SRAM failure-rate estimation tool in collaboration with Prof. Xuan Zhang (WUSTL) [\[see here\]](#)

## TEACHING AND INTERNSHIPS

### Fudan University (FDU) and Duke Kunshan University (DKU)

China

Teaching Assistant

Sep 2019 – Mar 2020

- Performed TA duties for Design of Analog Integrated Circuits at FDU (instructor: Prof. Jun Xu) and Introduction to Programming & Data Structure at DKU (instructor: Prof. Dennis Quan [Duke Univ.])

#### **Baidu Inc.**

*Quality Assurance (QA) Engineering Intern*

Shanghai, China  
Jun 2017 – Sep 2017

- Measured the robustness of programs and took charge of the FEEDS project

#### **SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| • Outstanding Graduates of Shanghai (top 5%)  | 2021             |
| • National Scholarship, Fudan University (top 1%)   | 2020             |
| • Rising Star of Academic, Fudan University (awarded to 11 graduate students majoring in Sci. & Engi.)  | 2020             |
| • Pacemaker to Merit Student, Fudan University (awarded to 15 graduate students)                        | 2019             |
| • First Prize Scholarship, Fudan University (top 5%)  | 2019             |
| • National Gold Award, China “Internet+” College Student Innovation & Entrepreneur Competition (top 5%) | 2018             |
| • National 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize, China Post-Graduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling (top 15%)        | 2018             |
| • Outstanding Undergraduates of Shanghai (top 5%)   | 2018             |
| • Meritorious Winner, American Mathematical Contest in Modeling (top 13%)                               | 2017             |
| • Top 11%, 2017 IEEE Xtreme Global Programming Competition (out of 3,350 teams worldwide)               | 2017             |
| • First Prize Scholarship, Fudan University (top 5%)  | 2015, 2016, 2017 |
| • National 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize, China Mathematical Contest in Modeling (top 15%)                      | 2016             |

#### **REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS**

##### **PRML Solution Manual (GitHub 800+ Stars)**

*An Original Solution Manual for Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning (PRML)*

Shanghai, China  
Sep 2017 – Present

- Solved nearly all exercises in *PRML* [[see here](#)]
- Communicated with people globally via email, helping them solve problems relevant to *PRML*

##### **Auto-Grading System**

*An Auto-Grading System Developed at DKU*

Kunshan, China  
Jan 2020 – Mar 2020

- Led a small TA group to peruse the source code of Submittity
- Developed a fully automatic grading system based on Submittity

##### **“Dr. Stanley’s House” (Puzzle Video Game) Written in Haskell**

*Final Project for Introduction to Functional Programming: From C/C++ to Haskell*

Shanghai, China  
Sep 2018 – Jan 2019

- Implemented the game with a complete plot via Haskell [[see here](#)]
- Organized the program structure, sorted the logic, and set the schedule as the team leader
- Exploited Haskell libraries (e.g., SDL2, SDL2-ttf, and SDL2-mixer) to add music and animation

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

##### **Computer and Language Skills**

- **Programming languages & Software:** C/C++, MATLAB, Python, Linux, HSPICE, SPECTRE, Lumerical
- **Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (native), English (proficient)

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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- **Independent reviewer:** ICCAD, IEEE TCAD, CVPR, etc.,