

Qiang Yang, PhD

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Research Interests

- Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (Transfer Learning), Planning
- Big Data: Data Mining

Employment History

Jan 2018 – Present: Chair Professor HKUST, Webank Chief AI Officer

Jan 2015 – Dec 2018: Department Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, HKUST, New **Bright Named Professor of Engineering, Chair Professor**, HKUST; Director of HKUST Big Data Institute, Director of WeChat-HKUST AI Technology Lab (WHAT LAB), Director of HKUST Big-Data Bio-Intelligence Lab, Director of HKUST Smart-Digital City Lab with Thales, Digital China. Co-Chair of HKUST Data Science Committee.

June 2012 – Nov 2014: Founding Head, Huawei Noah's Ark Lab. Chair of the Big Data Technical Committee in Huawei. This lab's mission was to build a world-class research in artificial intelligence and Big Data. The lab has now grown to over 50 people in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and has led three major projects in Big Data and AI in Huawei. In three years, the lab helped Huawei in beating IBM in the banking business, set up the first 30 Million user cloud based recommendation engine, and led a Big Data project with China Unicom for Telecom Carrier business group.

June 2007 - : Full Professor, Postgraduate Studies Director (2007-2009), Associate Head (Research, 2011 -). Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China. Specialization: Transfer Learning, Big Data and Machine Learning.

Sept 2007 – Sept 2011. Founding Co-director of HKUST Risk Management and Business Intelligence Program (RMBI Program), HKUST.

Sept 2001 to May 2007: Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China.

2001 to 2003 Full Professor on leave at School of Computing Science, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC Canada. On leave from SFU from Aug 2001 to Aug 2003. Director of Graduate Studies at School of Computing Science, Simon Fraser University, Canada (2001).

Sept 1995 to 2001 Associate Professor, Canadian NSERC Industry Research Chair, School of Computing Science, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC CANADA V5A 1S6.

July 1994 to Aug 1995. Associate Professor, University of Waterloo
Department of Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Computer Science Department, Waterloo Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

Aug 1989 to June 1994. Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Computer Science Department, Waterloo Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1. Promoted to Tenured Associate Professor in 1994.

Education

1989 Ph.D. University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland USA 20742. Computer Science Department, Thesis: Improving the Efficiency of Planning.

1987 M.Sc. University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland USA. Computer Science Department. Thesis: A Planning System for Manufacturing Process Planning

1984 M.Sc. University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland USA. Astrophysics. MSc. Thesis: An Electromagnetic Model of Solar Flares

1982 B.Sc. Peking University, Beijing China, Astrophysics Program of Geophysics Department. Subsequently, I was selected by the CUSPEA program for graduate study in the US in 1982.

Society Recognition

- Fellow of ACM, Fellow of Chinese AI Society
- Fellow of Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, AAAI Fellow (first Chinese scholar to get the honor), for significant contributions to machine learning, planning and case-based reasoning in Artificial Intelligence. 2013 –
- Fellow of IEEE, for significant contribution to data mining, transfer learning and AI 2009 –
- Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS Fellow, for significant contribution to machine learning and data mining research and services. 2012 –
- Fellow of International Association of Pattern Recognition, IAPR Fellow, for significant contributions to machine learning, transfer learning and data mining. 2011 –
- ACM Distinguished Scientist, for significant contribution to machine learning and data mining. 2011 –

Professional Services

Society Leadership

- Founding President of AI and Robotics Society of Hong Kong (2018 -)
- President of IJCAI (International Joint Conference on AI, 2017 – 2019)
- AAAI Executive Council Member (Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence)
- IJCAI Program Chair, 2015 (International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence)
- Chair, China ACM KDD Chapter
- IEEE Computer Society, Fellows Committee Member. 2012 – 2013
- Trustee of International Joint Conference on AI (IJCAI, 2011-2017), one of seven members worldwide and the only Asian member.
- Vice President of Chinese Artificial Intelligence Society (2014 -)
- Vice Chair of ACM Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence (SIGAI/SIGART). July 2010 – Aug 2014
- Hong Kong Working Group on Cloud Computing Standards
- Hong Kong Science Park Advisory Board on Big Data Technology