



Universiteit  
Leiden

The Netherlands

## Deep learning for automated analysis of cardiac imaging: applications in Cine and 4D flow MRI

Sun, X.

### Citation

Sun, X. (2023, July 5). *Deep learning for automated analysis of cardiac imaging: applications in Cine and 4D flow MRI*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3629578>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3629578>

**Note:** To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

# Publications

## Journal articles

**Xiaowu Sun**, Pankaj Garg, Sven Plein, Rob J. van der Geest. SAUN: Stack attention U-Net for left ventricle segmentation from cardiac cine magnetic resonance imaging. *Medical Physics*, 48(4), 1750-1763.

**Xiaowu Sun**, Li-Hsin Cheng, Sven Plein, Pankaj Garg, Rob J. van der Geest. Deep learning based automated left ventricle segmentation and flow quantification in 4D flow cardiac MRI. *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance* (under review)

**Xiaowu Sun**, Li-Hsin Cheng, Sven Plein, Pankaj Garg, Mehdi H. Moghari, Rob J. van der Geest. Deep Learning-based Method for Intra-Cardiac Blood Flow Pattern Prediction using 4D Flow Data. *International Journal of Cardiovascular Imaging*. (2023): 1-9.

## Conference proceedings

**Xiaowu Sun**, Li-Hsin Cheng, Rob J. van der Geest. Right Ventricle Segmentation via Registration and Multi-input Modalities in Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging from Multi-disease, Multi-view and Multi-center. *International Workshop on Statistical Atlases and Computational Models of the Heart (STACOM, Oral)*. Springer, Cham, 2021.

**Xiaowu Sun**, Li-Hsin Cheng, Sven Plein, Pankaj Garg, Rob J. van der Geest. Transformer based feature fusion for left ventricle segmentation in 4D flow MRI. *International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention (MICCAI, Oral)*. Springer, Cham, 2022.

**Xiaowu Sun**, Li-Hsin Cheng, Rob J. van der Geest. Combination Special Data Augmentation and Sampling Inspection Network for Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging Quality Classification. *International Workshop on Statistical Atlases and Computational Models of the Heart (STACOM)*. Springer, Cham, 2022.

**Xiaowu Sun**, Li-Hsin Cheng, Rob J. van der Geest. Self-and Cross-attention based Transformer for left ventricle segmentation in 4D flow MRI. *Medical Imaging with Deep Learning (MIDL)*. 2022.

Li-Hsin Cheng, **Xiaowu Sun**, Rob J. van der Geest. Contrastive Learning for Echocardiographic View Integration. *International Conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention (MICCAI, Oral)*. Springer, Cham, 2022.



## Acknowledgements

*“I am not a rich, smart or talented person in the world, but I’m simply an ordinary man who keeps going and going and going”.*

I’ve been using this quotation to encourage myself during the past four and a half years. Being a PhD student outside of China is not easy. I could not have done it without the supporting and help from my supervisors, colleagues, friends and families along this journey. I am deeply grateful to each of you.

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to my promotor Prof. Boudewijn Lelieveldt and my esteemed supervisor Rob van der Geest. Boudewijn, I sincerely appreciate your selfless assistance, unwavering support and the friendly and inclusive work environment that you have fostered.

Rob, throughout our time working together, your friendly and approachable demeanor, open-door policy and willingness to engage in meaningful conversations have been invaluable in helping me navigate complex tasks and projects. Also thank you for organizing the memorable boat trip in Leiden canals and the delightful BBQ in your house. Dankuwel!

I appreciate that I met those friendly and amazing colleagues in LKEB. Niels, it’s my honor to have you as a colleague and friend. I enjoyed our funny daily talks and thank you for your concerns during the Covid pandemic. Li-Hsin, I am grateful for our discussions throughout our weekly group meetings, and it is unforgettable how we worked all night to accomplish the tight deadlines for MIDL and MICCAI. Baldur, your knowledge expands my horizons and I learned a lot from you during our in-depth talks. Marius, I appreciate your encouragement for my oral presentation at MICCAI in Singapore. Berend and Els, thank you for your wonderful concert performances. Oleh, thank you for sharing your trip experiences during LKEB beach outgoing. Michèle, you are always there when I need any IT supporting, also thank you for your “Daddy care” when I worked overtime in office. I would like to thank Patrick, Jeoren, Denis, Jouke and Alexander for your invitation for lunch every working day. Thanks to Jingnan, Li-Hsin, Viktor, Patrick, Yunjie, Yanli, Xiaotong, Chang, Ruochen, Chinmay, Mody, Mohamed, Laurens, Simon, Vincent, Konstantinos, Silvia, Bo, Zhiwei, Qing, Hessam, Sahar, Qian, Kilany and Tahereh, all the members of AI meeting for sharing your cutting-edge technologies. I also had a lot of fun with you guys, playing board games, travelling, hiking and bouldering. Of course, I’ll never forget how awkwardly we run through Schiphol airport to catch the flight, only to miss it.

Special thankfulness goes to my teachers in China. Prof. Shengde Li, thank you for supervising my scientific contests and bachelor thesis, which is where I first experienced academic research. Your rigorous scientific research attitude also shows me how to be an excellent researcher. Prof. Linghua Kong, you were the one who enlightened and encouraged me when I wanted to drop out. Thank you for your selfless assistance tutoring in my mathematics professional competition. Prof. Lizhen Liu, your valuable advice pointed me in the right direction when I was standing at the crossroads.

I extend my sincere thanks to my dear friends. Qing, Lingling, Ling Lin, Zhiwei, Ningning, Kaixuan, Chenhong, Lu, Qian, Zexu, Wensen, Jiemiao and all Chinese PhDs in LKEB, those moments when we cooked, traveled and played games together are the most precious memories in my study abroad. 谢谢. A special gratitude to Ruizhe in Nottingham, it's a great treasure to meet you in UCL summer school. I appreciate your collaboration during the CMRxMotion Challenge. My volleyball teammates in SKC, thank you for all the hilarious moments on and off the field, you made my life in Leiden joyful.

Things are never quite as scary when you've got a best friend. Xiaofan, we encourage each other from undergrad to master, and then to our PhD studies. What a blessing it is to have a buddy like you for more than 10 years.

Last but most certainly not least, I would like to thank my families. 感谢姥姥、姥爷年逾八十，护我周全；感谢爸妈育我成人，焉得谖草，言树之背；姐姐、姐夫以及我亲爱的外甥昊昊，谢谢你们无微不至的关心，一如既往的支持，让我心无旁骛前行。爱你们，I love you all!

## Curriculum Vitae

Xiaowu Sun was born in Yantai, Shandong Province, China in November, 1992. In 2011, he started his bachelor in the major of Applied Mathematics at Dalian Ocean University, Liaoning Province, China. He won national scholarship awards (highest honor) in 2013 and 2014, respectively. In 2015, he received “Best Undergraduate Dissertation Award” and graduated as an “outstanding student” of Liaoning Province. At the same year, he began his master study in the major of software engineering at Capital Normal University, Beijing. In his master project, he developed machine learning based approaches to predict the protein complexes from protein-protein interaction network. In 2018, he got his master degree with “outstanding student”.

From September 2018, he started his PhD study in the Division of Image Processing (LKEB) under the Department of Radiology at Leiden University Medical Center in the Netherlands. His PhD project mainly focuses on automated analysis for cardiac MRI using deep learning based methods. The results of his research are included in this thesis.

From May 2023, he worked as a post-doctoral researcher in EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, with the project of automated analysis of coronary angiography and cardiac ultrasound images using deep learning, under the supervision of Prof. Emmanuel Abbe and Prof. Pascal Frossard.