

Chi-Hsien (Salima) Chang

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on **developing theoretical support for model-based genetic algorithms**, aiming to bridge the gap between theoretical understanding and practical applications of algorithms in solving complex optimization problems. Additionally, my research also focuses on **developing improved fully interpretable simulators for pre-mRNA splicing**, aiming to enhance our understanding of splicing processes, thereby improving the interpretation of genetic variants and facilitating therapeutic interventions in gene expression.

EDUCATION

National Taiwan University (NTU) Doctor of Science in Computer Science; GPA: 4.00/4.30	September 2018 – June 2025 (Expected)
National Taiwan University (NTU) Master of Science in Statistics Science; GPA: 3.71/4.30	September 2016 – June 2018
National Chengchi University (NCCU) Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Science; GPA: 3.22/4.30	September 2013 – June 2016

PUBLICATION

- [1] **Chi-Hsien Chang**, Szu-Ping Chen, Monica Poelchau, and Christopher Childers. “Exploring Genetic Information with Ease: The Linkout Plugin for JBrowse 2”. In *the microPublication Biology Journal*, 2023.
- [2] **Chi-Hsien Chang**, Tu-Chin Chiang, Tzu-Hao Hsu, Ting-Shuo Chuang, Wen-Zhong Fang, and Tian-Li Yu. “Taylor Polynomial Enhancer using Genetic Programming for Symbolic Regression”. In *the proceedings of the Companion Conference on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation (GECCO)*, 2023.
- [3] **Chi-Hsien Chang**, Szu-Ping Chen, Christopher Childers, and Monica Poelchau. “From Genetic Variation to Visual Representation: Image Predictions in Insect Databases Using SNP”. In *the Joint Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM) and the Asian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM)*, 2024.
- [4] **Chi-Hsien Chang** and Ting-Shuo Chuang. “Phased Integration of the BOPPPS Model and Large Language Model for Enhanced English Learning”. In *the International Conference on Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching (ALLT)*, 2024.
- [5] Jung-Chun Liu, **Chi-Hsien Chang**, Shao-Hua Sun, and Tian-Li Yu. “Integrating Planning and Deep Reinforcement Learning via Automatic Induction of Task Substructures”. In *the International Conference on Learning Representation (ICLR)*, 2024.
- [6] Tzu-Hao Hsu, **Chi-Hsien Chang**, and Tian-Li Yu. “Program Synthesis on Single-Layer Loop Behavior in Pure Functional Programming”. In *the IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI)*, 2024.
- [7] Tu-Chin Chiang, **Chi-Hsien Chang**, and Tian-Li Yu. “A Novel Symbolic Regressor Enhancer Using Genetic Programming”. In *the IEEE World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI)*, 2024.
- [8] Wen-Zhong Fang, **Chi-Hsien Chang**, Jung-Chun Liu, and Tian-Li Yu. “GP with Ranging-Binding Technique for Symbolic Regression”. In *the proceedings of the Companion Conference on Genetic and Evolutionary Computation (GECCO)*, 2023.
- [9] Po Ying Law, Chia-Cheng Tsai, Tsz Wun Fok, Ching-Ting Wang, **Chi-Hsien Chang**, Tsung-Yu Chin, Yi-Chen Liao, Jen-Kuang Lee, and Chung-Wei Lin. “Secure Medical Data Management Based on Homomorphic Encryption and Secret Sharing”. In *the IEEE International Conference on Smart Cloud (SmartCloud)*, 2023.

INTERNATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Visiting Student	June 2024 (Expected) – May 2025
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- Developing **fully-interpretable simulators for pre-mRNA splicing** to better understand splicing processes for improving the interpretation of genetic variants and facilitating therapeutic interventions in

gene expression. Focusing on applying algorithms to identify suboptimal parses and establishing a quantitative metric for the robustness of predictions for exon and intron.

National Institute of Informatics (NII) Research Intern

February. 2024 – April 2024

- Developing **molecular generation algorithms** with model-based genetic algorithms, linkage learning, and clustering techniques. This approach aims to enhance the representation and analysis of molecular structures, facilitating advancements in computational chemistry and drug discovery.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Research Intern

February 2023 – August 2023

- Developed **Linkout plugin for JBrowse 2**, enhancing the accessibility and utility of genomic data. Additionally, developed a **machine learning model capable of predicting images in insect databases based on single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)**, which holds potential for improving pest identification and management strategies.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

National Taiwan University Teaching Assistant

September 2019 – Current

- **Python (20+ months)**: Provided mentorship to over 100 students on their team projects, contributing to the design of challenging assignments. Achieved a commendable score of 4.35 out of 5.0 based on students' feedback in the teaching assistant's course evaluation, reflecting the high level of educational support and engagement.
- **C# (2 months)**: Recognized with the National Summer College Excellent Teaching Assistant Award for exceptional instructional support. Received a high score of 4.89 out of 5.0 from students' evaluations, indicating superior teaching effectiveness and student satisfaction.
- **Genetic Algorithms (10 months)**: Actively engaged in note-taking during lectures and made these notes available for student review post-class, facilitating deeper understanding and retention of course material. Received an outstanding score of 4.96 out of 5.0 in the teaching assistant's course evaluation, highlighting the value of this initiative to students.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (5 months)**: Taught in English, this course required a nuanced understanding of both subject matter and language to effectively communicate complex concepts. Earned a solid score of 4.0 out of 5.0 from student feedback, reflecting competent instructional delivery in a challenging academic setting.
- **Calculus (10 months)**: Played a crucial role in calculus tutorial sessions by addressing and clarifying students' questions, thereby enhancing their comprehension and problem-solving skills in this fundamental mathematical discipline.

WORK EXPERIENCE

National Taiwan University Research Assistant

February. 2022 – March. 2024

- **Research on Model-based Genetic Programming Applied to Symbolic Regression (8 months)**: Guided master's students through in-depth research discussions on genetic programming, specifically applied to symbolic regression, and conducted comprehensive code reviews to enhance project outcomes.
- **Development of Model-based Real Number Optimization Techniques - Subspace Exploration Combining Characteristics of Discrete and Real Number Domains (11 months)**: Led the experimental design discussions and co-authored the research report for a pioneering study on model-based real number optimization techniques.
- **Learning with Limited Data (35 months)**: Successfully improved the accuracy of a semi-supervised learning model from 77.4% to 81.2% on the MIT-BIH Arrhythmia Database. This enhancement was achieved by integrating data augmentation techniques, including both feature space and instance space augmentation, demonstrating advancements in learning with limited datasets.

- **Research on the Social, Ethical, and Legal Aspects of Artificial Intelligence (4 months):** Conducted a comprehensive survey and synthesis of existing research related to the social, ethical, and legal implications of artificial intelligence, aiming to highlight key challenges within the field.
- **Comprehensive Improvement of Interdisciplinary Teaching/Research Facilities (2 months):** Provided guidance in statistical analysis, encompassing experimental design, survey construction, non-parametric analysis, and post-hoc testing, to significantly enhance the capabilities of interdisciplinary teaching and research infrastructures.
- **Development of Phytosanitary Treatment and Risk Assessment Techniques - Research of Automated Detection Technologies for Significant Quarantine Pests (4 months):** Leveraged statistical analysis using Python to advance the research and development of automated detection technologies for identifying significant quarantine pests.
- **Digital Spectral Mammography Tomography Reconstruction Combining Scatter and Angular Correction (3 months):** Employed statistical analysis using R to refine digital spectral mammography tomography reconstruction techniques.
- **Development of Phytosanitary Pest System Management and Quarantine Treatment Techniques - Development of Plant Quarantine Treatment Technologies (4 months):** Utilized statistical analysis using SAS to facilitate the optimization of plant quarantine treatment technologies.

HONORS & AWARDS

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| • Outstanding University Youth Award at NTU | 2023 |
| • Student Altruism Award at College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, NTU | 2023 |
| • Excellent Teaching Assistant Award at National Summer College, NTU | 2022 |
| • Commencement Speaker for the Master's Degree in Statistics at NTU | 2018 |
| • Instructional Skills Workshops (ISW) International Certification at NTU | 2023 |
| • English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) Teaching Assistant Certification at NTU | 2023 |
| • Team Project 1st Place in the Special Topics in Innovative Integration of Medicine/EECS at NTU | 2022 |
| • Team Project 1st Place in English Written/Oral Communication for Professional Pursuit at NTU | 2022 |
| • Team Project 1st Place in 2nd Yunus Prize on Social Innovation/Entrepreneurship Competition | 2017 |
| • Team Project awarded U-stat Plan at National Taiwan University of Science and Technology | 2018 |
| • Club Evaluation Excellence Award during my tenure as President of Islamic Cultural Club | 2016 |
| • Computer Consultant at NCCU Computer Center | 2014 |
| • Outstanding Service Student Award at Ministry of Education of New Taipei City | 2010 |
| • Team Role Model Award at Education Bureau of New Taipei City | 2010 |
| • The Graduate Students Study Abroad Award at National Science and Technology Council | 2024 |
| • Student Travel Grants awarded by GECCO | 2023 |
| • Student Travel Grants awarded by NTU Electrical Engineering | 2023 |
| • Hon Hai Scholarship awarded by Hon Hai Education Foundation | 2024 |
| • Rotary Scholarship awarded by Rotary Club of Taipei Chengai | 2023 |
| • Rotary Scholarship awarded by Rotary Club of Taipei Midtown | 2022 |