

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## SHORT BIO.

I am a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Computer Science at University of Toronto. I received my Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan School of Information. I study human-computer interaction (HCI) with a focus on software development tools and collaboration. My work has been published at top HCI conferences, including CHI, CSCW, and UIST, and also topic-specific venues like IEEE VL/HCC and ACM IMX. My work has received the best paper award. I have also been on the program committee and paper reviewers for many HCI venues. My review has received Excellent Review recognition.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research in HCI studies challenges that computer programmers at all levels of expertise face when using existing tools and methods to seek support. It combines human and machine computation to create programming support systems that can effectively and scalably assist programmers when needed. The systems I create address challenges including providing within-IDE help in nearly real time, providing feedback to learners at scale, synthesizing code snippets reliably, and testing an interface with high coverage, which neither computers nor humans can effectively solve alone. To make these systems possible, my research explores how to design workflows and interfaces that can effectively coordinate and scale the collective effort of experts, non-experts, and machines.

**Keywords:** Programminig collaboration, developer support tools, end-user programming, CS education tools, crowdsourcing.

## EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, US

Ph.D. in Information Science (2014 - 2020)

- Dissertation: On-demand Collaboration in Programming
- Advisor: Steve Oney (2015-2020), Walter S. Lasecki (2015-2019), Katharina Reinecke (2014-2015)
- Committee: Mark Ackerman, Mark Guzdial, Philip Guo

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, US

M.S in Applied Mathematics (2014)

- Master Thesis: Asymptotic Series Solutions To One-Dimensional Helmholtz Equation
- Thesis Advisor: Harvey Segur

B.S. in Applied Mathematics and B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering (2014)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

- Postdoctoral Fellow, (Jan. 2021 - present)
- Host: Prof. Tovi Grossman

Google, Mountain View, CA, US

- UX Research Intern, (May. 2019 - Aug. 2019)
  - Host: Dr. Tao Dong
- Supporting programming learning via live streaming [8]

Snap Inc., Seattle, WA, US

- Research Intern, (Jan. 2018 - Apr. 2018)
- Hosts: Dr. Andrés Monroy-Hernández and Dr. Rajan Vaish  
Interviewed with staffed Snap Story curators on their curation tools experience. Drew design implications. Developed a hybrid-machine workflow and system for rapid video curation. Conducted a large-scale (30k+ video) study to explore the effectiveness of the approach [4].

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, US

- Undergraduate Research Intern, (Jun. 2013 - Aug. 2013)
- Advisors: Professor Katharina Reinecke, Professor Krzysztof Gajos  
Developed a web application that quantifies websites' aesthetics and predicts visual preference of people with different cultural background.

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, US

- Research Assistant, (Sep. 2012 - May 2014)
- Advisor: Professor Tom Yeh  
Developed and conducted in-lab experiments for the DARPA active authentication project on personal computer and smart phone. Applied image and video processing techniques for pattern recognition [1].

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, US

- Research Assistant, (Sep. 2012 - May 2014)
- Advisor: Professor Harvey Segur  
Generalized hyperasymptotic series mechanism to approximate other functions. Discovered unavoidable oscillation in hyperasymptotic series mechanism.

CONFERENCE  
PAPERS AND  
JOURNALS

**Approximate Acceptance Rates:** CHI: 23%, UIST: 22%, CSCW: 25%, VL/HCC: 30%, IMX: 26%

11. **Yan Chen**, Tovi Grossman. Umitation: Retargeting UI Behavior Examples for Website Design. *ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST)*, 2021.
10. April Yi Wang\*, **Yan Chen\***, John Joon Young Chung, Christopher Brooks, and Steve Oney. PuzzleMe: Leveraging Peer Assessment for In-Class Programming Exercises. In *Proceedings of the International ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2021)*.
9. **Yan Chen**, Sang Won Lee, and Steve Oney. CoCapture: Effectively Communicating UI Behaviors on Existing Websites by Demonstrating and Remixing. In *Proceedings of the International ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2021)*, Virtual, USA.
8. **Yan Chen**, Walter S. Lasecki, and Tao Dong. Towards Supporting Programming Education at Scale via Live Streaming. In *Proceedings of the International ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2020)*.
7. **Yan Chen**, Jaylin Herskovitz, Walter S. Lasecki, and Steve Oney. A Hybrid Crowd-Machine Workflow for Program Synthesis. *IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing VL/HCC '20*.
6. **Yan Chen**, Jaylin Herskovitz, Gabriel Matute, April Wang, Sang Won Lee, Walter S. Lasecki, and Steve Oney. EdCode: Towards Personalized Support at Scale for Remote Assistance in CS Education. *IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing VL/HCC '20 (Best Paper)*.
5. **Yan Chen**, Maulishree Pandey, Jean Y. Song, Walter S. Lasecki, and Steve Oney. Improving

Crowd-Supported GUI Testing with Structural Guidance. In *Proceedings of the International ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2020)*, Hawaii, USA.

4. **Yan Chen**, Andres Monroy-Hernandez, Ian Wehrman, Steve Oney, Walter S. Lasecki, Rajan Vaish. Sifter: A Hybrid Workflow for Theme-based Video Curation at Scale. In *Proceedings of the International ACM Conference on Interactive Media Experiences (IMX 2020)*, Barcelona, Spain.
3. **Yan Chen**, Sang Won Lee, Yin Xie, Yiwei Yang, Walter S. Lasecki, Steve Oney. Codeon: On-Demand Software Development Assistance. In *Proceedings of the International ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2017)*, Denver, USA.
2. **Yan Chen**, Steve Oney, Walter S. Lasecki. Towards Providing On-Demand Expert Support for Software Developers. In *Proceedings of the International ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2016)*, San Jose, USA.
1. Vishal Patel, Tom Yeh, M Salem, Yangmuzi Zhang, **Yan Chen**, Rama Chellappa, Larry Davis. Screen Fingerprints: a Novel Modality for Active Authentication. *IT Professional* 15, no. 4 (2013):38-42.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

9. **Yan Chen**, Yaxing Yao, Jasmine Jones. WireOn: Supporting Remote Collaboration for Embedded System Development. Demo at *The International ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2020)*.
8. **Yan Chen**, Jasmine Jones, Steve Oney. On-demand Programming Assistance. New Future of Work Symposium at Microsoft Research.
7. Yan Chen. Mocking-up Desired UI Behaviors from UI Element-Based Recording. Graduate Consortium at *IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages & Human-Centric Computing (VLHCC'19)*.
6. **Yan Chen**, Steve Oney, and Walter S. Lasecki. Enhancing Context and Guidance for Asynchronous Collaboration. Poster at *Human Computer Interaction Consortium (HCIC'18)*.
5. Sang Won Lee, **Yan Chen**, and Walter S. Lasecki. Speech-To-Tasks: Real-Time Crowd Generation of Task Lists from Speech. Demo at *The AAAI Conference on Human Computation (HCOMP '17)*.
4. Sang Won Lee, **Yan Chen**, Noah Klugman, Sai R. Gouravajhala, Angela Chen, and Walter S. Lasecki. Exploring Coordination Models for Ad Hoc Programming Teams. Late-Breaking-Work at *International ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2017)*, Denver, USA.
3. **Yan Chen**, Steve Oney, Walter S. Lasecki. Expert Crowd Support Systems for Software Developers. Collective Intelligence 2016, New York, USA. (Oral presentation)
2. **Yan Chen**, Steve Oney, Walter S. Lasecki. Automatically Capturing Context to Create Microtasks for Software Development. Workshop at *International ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2016)*, San Jose, USA.
1. Esther Vasiete, **Yan Chen**, Ian Char, Tom Yeh, Vishal Patel, Larry Davis, Rama Chellappa. Toward a non-intrusive, physio-behavioral biometric for smartphones. In *Proceedings of the 16th international conference on Human-computer interaction with mobile devices & services. (MobileHCI 2014)*, pp. 501-506. Toronto, Canada.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, US

- Introduction to Programming (with Anthony Whyte), (Fall 2019)
- User Interface Development (with Walter Lasecki), (Winter 2019)
- User Interface Development (with Mark Guzdial), (Fall 2018)
- User Interface Development (with Mark Ackerman), (Fall 2017)
- Introduction to Programming (with Steve Oney and Paul Resnick), (Fall 2016)
- Data Visualization (with Eytan Adar), (Fall 2015)

HONORS & AWARDS	<p>University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Research Grant ('19)</p> <p>Best paper award, VL/HCC'20.</p> <p>Special Recognition Received for Excellent Review CHI'19.</p> <p>Selected as a HCIC-Funded Student in University of Michigan to participate in Human Computer Interaction Consortium(HCIC) 2018 "AI &amp; HCI".</p> <p>University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Student Travel Grant ('16, '17, '20)</p> <p>University of Michigan School of Information Student Travel Grant ('16, '17, '20)</p>
STUDENTS SUPERVISED	<p>University of Toronto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blaine Lewis</b> (2021-), ongoing PhD student at U of T.</li> <li>• <b>Bryan Wang</b> (2021-), ongoing PhD student at U of T.</li> <li>• <b>Jiannan Li</b> (2021-), ongoing PhD student at U of T.</li> <li>• <b>Karthik Mahadevan</b> (2021-), ongoing PhD student at U of T.</li> <li>• <b>Majeed Kazemitabaar</b> (2021-), ongoing PhD student at U of T.</li> <li>• <b>Carlos McGregor</b> (2021-), ongoing Master student at U of T.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Pu</b> (2021-), ongoing Master student at U of T.</li> </ul> <p>University of Michigan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Muhan Zhao</b> (Summer 2020), now grad student at CMU.</li> <li>• <b>Yunjie Guo</b> (Summer 2020), now SWE at Meituan.</li> <li>• <b>Ruidong Liu</b> (Fall 2019), now PhD student at Cornell.</li> <li>• <b>Jessica Wu</b> (Winter 2019), now SWE at Amazon.</li> <li>• <b>Yiwei Yang</b> (2015 - 2016), now PhD student at U. Washington.</li> <li>• <b>Gabriel Matute</b> (2016 - 2017), now PhD student at UC Berkely.</li> <li>• <b>Jaylin Herskovitz</b> (2016 - 2017), now PhD student at UMich.</li> <li>• <b>Yin Xie</b> (Summer 2016), now interaction designer at Internet Brands.</li> </ul> <p>University of Colorado at Boulder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ian Char</b> (Fall 2013 - Spring 2014), now PhD student at CMU.</li> </ul>
SERVICE	<p>Paper reviewing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PC: HCOMP Demo/WiP '17, CHI LBW'19, VL/HCC'21</li> <li>• Reviewer: CHI '16-'21, UIST '16-'21, CSCW '17-'21</li> </ul> <p>Led "POSSE Workshop: Introduction to Web Programming" (Workshop) @ POSSE Foundation, 2018, Ann Arbor, MI, United States</p> <p>Michigan Interactive and Social Computing Research Group (MISC) student coordinator ('19)</p>
PRESS	<p>Best practice guidance for live streaming programming, Google (2019) (youtube: <a href="https://bit.ly/36W0Pkg">https://bit.ly/36W0Pkg</a>)</p>

Best practices for hosting a live streaming coding session, Google (2019)  
(medium: <https://bit.ly/2SfEavb>)

## REFERENCES

### **Steve Oney**

Assistant Professor of School of Information at the University of Michigan

### **Tovi Grossman**

Associate Professor of Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto

### **Mark Ackerman**

Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan

### **Katharina Reinecke**

Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington