

CHENWEI ZHANG

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EDUCATION

University of British Columbia

Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science

Vancouver, BC, Canada

Sept. 2021 – Expected Aug. 2025

University of Waterloo

Master of Science in Chemistry (Nanoscience), GPA: 4.0/4.0 | TOP 1%

Waterloo, ON, Canada

Sept. 2018 – Feb. 2021

University of Waterloo

Bachelor of Science in Nanoscience (Dean's Honours List), GPA: 3.90/4.0 | TOP 5%

Waterloo, ON, Canada

Sept. 2015 – Aug. 2018

Beijing Jiaotong University

Bachelor of Engineering in Nanotechnology, GPA: 3.90/4.0 | TOP 5%

Beijing, China

Sept. 2015 – Jul. 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Prof. Anne Condon & Prof. Khanh Dao Duc

From Jun. 2023

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC, Canada

- [Paper](#) *A comprehensive survey and benchmark of deep learning-based methods for atomic model building from cryo-EM density maps* is submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
- [Paper](#) *Synthetic High-resolution Cryo-EM Density Maps with Generative Adversarial Networks* is submitted to a peer-reviewed conference.
- Developed generative models including GANs and diffusion models to solve biological problems, such as protein structure modelling.

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Prof. Anne Condon

From Sept. 2021

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC, Canada

- [Paper](#) *ViDa: Visualizing DNA hybridization trajectories with biophysics-informed deep graph embeddings* was accepted to Machine Learning in Computational Biology (MLCB) proceeding, **PMLR** as an oral (top 10%) presentation.
- [Paper](#) *Visualizing DNA Reaction Trajectories with Deep Graph Embedding Approaches* was accepted to Machine Learning for Structural Biology (MLSB) Workshop at **NeurIPS 2022** as a poster presentation.
- Proposed a novel approach known as ViDa that integrates deep graph embeddings and variational autoencoder (VAE) constrained by biophysics-informed losses, to visualize DNA reaction state space and folding trajectory space to understand DNA reaction mechanisms. Open the sourced [code](#) for the ViDa model on GitHub.

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Prof. Pavle Radovanovic

Jun. 2020 – Feb. 2021

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, ON, Canada

- [Paper](#) *Revisiting Plasmonic Properties of Complex Semiconductor Nanocrystals Using Magnetic Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy: A Cautionary Tale* was accepted to **The Journal of Physical Chemistry Part C**.
- Underlined the challenges in assigning absorption bands of complex semiconductor nanocrystals to the localized surface plasmon resonance. Demonstrated the magnetic circular dichroism spectroscopy as an invaluable tool for characterization of these materials.

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Prof. Pavle Radovanovic

Jul. 2019 – Aug. 2020

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, ON, Canada

- [Paper](#) *On the Origin of d^0 Magnetism in Transparent Metal Oxide Nanocrystals* was accepted to **The Journal of Physical Chemistry Part C**.
- Reported a variable-temperature-variable-field magnetic circular dichroism study of ZnO and SnO₂ nanocrystals prepared under oxidizing and reducing conditions. Demonstrated the ability to tune carrier polarization in metal oxide nanocrystals by in situ control of the native defect formation and attest to the anomalous Zeeman splitting of the band states.

Research Assistant | Supervisor: Prof. Pavle Radovanovic

Sept. 2018 – Jun. 2019

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, ON, Canada

- [Paper](#) *Manipulating Carrier Polarization in Semiconductor Nanocrystals* was accepted to **ECS Transactions** of The Electrochemical Society.

- Investigated the role of the synthesis method and post-synthesis processing on the plasmonic properties of antimony-doped SnO₂ nanocrystals. Designed semiconductor nanocrystals with targeted plasmonic properties by proposed synthesis methodology and post-synthesis treatment.

Undergraduate Research Assistant | Supervisor: Prof. Pu Chen

Dec. 2017 – Aug. 2018

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, ON, Canada

- [Report](#) Aqueous Rechargeable Zinc-Ion Battery Using Vanadium Pentoxide Intercalation Cathode.
- Proposed a novel approach to improve the charge/discharge performance of aqueous rechargeable batteries that use zinc ions as electrolyte and vanadium oxide as cathode.

Undergraduate Research Intern | Supervisor: Prof. Yuliang Zhao

Jun. 2016 – Aug. 2017

National Center for Nanoscience and Technology

Beijing, China

- Applied China Academy of Sciences Students' Innovative Practice Training Program 2017 as a project leader and conducted a one-year project on cancer treatment via nanomedicine, and awarded the research intern scholarship.
- Constructed drug-loaded nanoparticles and improved the targeting ability of docetaxel to a certain extent.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Machine Learning Intern | Supervisor: Dr. James Chen

Jun. 2023 – Jun. 2024

Amgen

Burnaby, BC, Canada

- Protein structure modelling and cryo-EM analysis with machine learning approaches.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Sept. 2021 – Apr. 2023

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC, Canada

- **CPSC 340/532M**: Machine Learning and Data Mining
- **CPSC 330**: Applied Machine Learning
- **CPSC 322**: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Teaching Assistant

Sept. 2018 – Dec. 2020

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, ON, Canada

- **CHE 102**: Chemistry for Engineers
- **CHEM 120L**: General Chemistry Laboratory I
- **CHEM 123L**: General Chemistry Laboratory II

PUBLICATIONS

Synthetic High-resolution Cryo-EM Density Maps with Generative Adversarial Networks

Jul. 2024

Submitted

[Download](#)

- [Chenwei Zhang](#), Anne Condon, Khanh Dao Duc

A comprehensive survey and benchmark of deep learning-based methods for atomic model building from cryo-EM density maps

Jul. 2024

Submitted

[Download](#)

- [Chenwei Zhang](#), James Chen, Anne Condon, Khanh Dao Duc

ViDa: Visualizing DNA hybridization trajectories with biophysics-informed deep graph embeddings

Nov. 2023

Machine Learning in Computational Biology (oral). PMLR 240:148-162, 2024

[Download](#)

- [Chenwei Zhang](#), Jordan Lovrod, Boyan Beronov, Khanh Dao Duc, Anne Condon

EMPOT: partial alignment of density maps and atomic model fitting using unbalanced Gromov-Wasserstein divergence

Oct. 2023

Conference Workshop Paper accepted at NeurIPS 2022

[Download](#)

- Aryan Tajmir Riahi, [Chenwei Zhang](#), James Chen, Anne Condon, Khanh Dao Duc

Revisiting Hybridization Kinetics with Improved Elementary Step Simulation

Aug. 2023

Journal Paper accepted to DNA29

[Download](#)

- Jordan Lovrod, Boyan Beronov, [Chenwei Zhang](#), Erik Winfree, Anne Condon

Revisiting Plasmonic Properties of Complex Semiconductor Nanocrystals Using Magnetic Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy: A Cautionary Tale <i>Journal Paper accepted to J. Phys. Chem. C</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron Kenny-Wilby, Gyorgy Jaics, <u>Chenwei Zhang</u>, Penghui Yin, Pavle V. Radovanovic 	Jan. 2023 Download
Visualizing DNA Reaction Trajectories with Deep Graph Embedding Approaches <i>Conference Workshop Paper accepted at NeurIPS 2022</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Chenwei Zhang</u>, Khanh Dao Duc, Anne Condon 	Oct. 2022 Download
On the Origin of d⁰ Magnetism in Transparent Metal Oxide Nanocrystals <i>Journal Paper accepted to J. Phys. Chem. C</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Chenwei Zhang</u>, Penghui Yin, Wenhuan Lu, Victor Galievsky, Pavle V. Radovanovic 	Dec. 2021 Download
Manipulating Carrier Polarization in Pure and Doped Metal Oxide Semiconductor Nanocrystals <i>M.Sc. Thesis at UWaterloo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Chenwei Zhang</u> 	Feb. 2021 Download
Manipulating Plasmonic Properties of Sb-Doped SnO₂ Nanocrystals by Controlling Dopant Oxidation State via Synthesis Method and Processing Conditions <i>Conference Paper accepted to ECS Trans.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Chenwei Zhang</u>, Penghui Yin, Pavle V. Radovanovic 	Sept. 2020 Download

PERSONAL/SCHOOL PROJECTS

VideoCLIP-based Evaluation Metrics for Text-to-Video Generative Tasks <i>University of British Columbia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed a VideoCLIP-based evaluation metric for text-to-video generators, dubbed VCLIP-Metric, to capture the sequential information in the video and compare its semantic information with the input text. Our results show that the final score is almost twice the existing CLIP frame-based metric. View the report. Open the sourced code for the VCLIP-Metric model on GitHub. 	Sept. 2022 – Dec. 2022 Vancouver, BC, Canada
i-ViDa: Visualizing Energy Landscapes and Trajectories of DNA Reactions <i>University of British Columbia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed a user-friendly interactive visualization tool, i-ViDa, in the shape of a website by using D3.js, which allows users to plot latent space produced by ViDa, and then manipulate the visualization of energy landscapes and trajectories of interest. View the report. Open the sourced code for the i-ViDa model on GitHub. 	Sept. 2022 – Dec. 2022 Vancouver, BC, Canada
Approximating and visualizing path spaces in large CTMCs <i>University of British Columbia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented a version of the Pathway Elaboration algorithm in Julia that can be used for arbitrary CTMCs where the rate matrices are represented explicitly and used Julia's plotting packages to curate tools that meaningfully illustrate the state distributions and trajectory samples in large CTMCs. View the report. The sourced code will be released on GitHub soon. 	Mar. 2022 – Apr. 2022 Vancouver, BC, Canada
VASLA: Visually Assisted Sound-Localization and Amplification <i>University of British Columbia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed VASLA, a tool to help alleviate machines' difficulty in separating sounds of interest from background sounds in noisy environments. View the report. Open the sourced code for the VASLA model on GitHub. 	Nov. 2021 – Dec. 2021 Vancouver, BC, Canada
Quantum Valley Investments Problem Pitch Competition <i>University of Waterloo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competed in a pitch competition, which awards winners funding for conducting research and founding a startup, to conquer challenges of training data quality problems in AI, especially in the healthcare AI market. 	May 2020 – Jul. 2020 Waterloo, ON, Canada
Kaggle Competitions – COVID-19 Study <i>University of Waterloo</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won the bronze medal for the COVID-19 competition. 	Mar. 2020 – Apr. 2020 Waterloo, ON, Canada

ACTIVITIES

- Sept. 2024: [Poster presentation](#) at 30th International Conference on DNA Computing and Molecular Programming (DNA30), Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.
- Dec. 2023: [Poster presentation](#) at Machine Learning in Structural Biology (MLSB2023) at NeurIPS 2023, New Orleans, USA.
- Dec. 2023: [Oral presentation](#) at 18th Machine Learning in Computational Biology Conference (MLCB2023), University of Washington, Seattle, USA.
- Sept. 2023: [Poster presentation](#) at 29th International Conference on DNA Computing and Molecular Programming (DNA29), Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan.
- Sept. 2023: [15-minute talk](#) at Workshop - Mathematical Methods for Exploring and Analyzing Morphological Shapes across Biological Scales, BIRS, Banff, Canada.
- Dec. 2022: [Poster presentation](#) at Machine Learning in Structural Biology (MLSB2022) at NeurIPS 2022, New Orleans, USA.
- Aug. 2022: [Poster presentation](#) as coauthor at 28th International Conference on DNA Computing and Molecular Programming (DNA28), University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA.
- Spring 2018: **Mentor** of junior undergraduate students from 2+2 program at UWaterloo.
- Winter 2017, Spring 2018: **Member** of International Peer Community & Conversation Partner Program at UWaterloo.
- Winter 2018: **Member** of UW Photo Club, skilled at digital SLR camera photography, photo editing and video clipping.
- Jul. 2016 – Aug. 2016: **Volunteer** in the “Explore China” project held by AIESEC in Beijing.
- Winter 2015: **Head** of the Enrollment Association Shanxi Province Group at BJTU.

HONOURS, AWARDS, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Jun. 2023 – Jun. 2024: **Mitacs Accelerate Fellowship**, Amgen Canada & University of British Columbia
- From Sept. 2021: **International Tuition Award, Faculty of Science PhD Tuition Award, President’s Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award, Research Assistant Scholarship**, University of British Columbia
- Sept. 2018 – Feb. 2021: **International Master’s Student Award (IMSA), Science Graduate Award (SGA), Research Graduate Scholarship**, University of Waterloo
- May 2018, Sept. 2018: **Dean’s Honours List**, University of Waterloo
- 2017 – 2018: **International Tuition Grant**, University of Waterloo
- Oct. 2016, Oct. 2017, Oct. 2018: **Academic Scholarships (Top 5%)**, Beijing Jiaotong University
- Nov. 2017: **Scholarship of Student’s Innovation**, Chinese Academy of Science

SKILLS

- **Languages:** English, Mandarin
- **Programming Languages:** Python, Julia, MATLAB, C/C++, HTML, Markdown, Bash, CSS, \LaTeX
- **Frameworks:** PyTorch, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, Keras
- **Developer Tools:** AWS EC2/S3, Nvidia DGX, Git, Docker, Apptainer(Singularity), Unix and Unix-based servers, CUDA, VS Code, PyCharm,
- **Libraries:** NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Plotly, NetworkX