



Felix Zhang

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EDUCATION

University of Toronto

Sept. 2025 – June 2027

Masters of Science in Computer Science

University of Toronto

Sept. 2021 – June 2025

Honours Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Major in Mathematics

3.96/4.0 cGPA

Awards: Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program (FUSRP) (\$3 800), Louis Savlov Scholarships in Sciences And Humanities (\$500), Malcolm Wallace Scholarship (\$4 500), University of Toronto Scholar (\$7 500), Dean's List Scholar, B.C. Achievement Scholarship (\$1 250), District/Authority Scholarship (\$1 250)

PUBLICATIONS

PD3: Prefetching Data with DPUs for Disaggregated Memory

May 2026

Sidharth Sankhe, Felix Zhang, Umayrah Chonee, Sherman Lim, Jason Hu, Jialin Li, Qizhen Zhang

23rd USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant; Far Data Lab, University of Toronto

Sept. 2024 – Aug. 2024

Supervisor: Prof. Qizhen Zhang

- Investigated offloading computations onto SmartNICs and data processing unit (DPUs)
- Parallelized the execution of *Monodepth2* in **Python** and **C++** with the latter achieving linear performance scaling with the number of threads
- Built a DPU-based prefetcher *PD3* with a team of 6 which intercepts network traffic to predict and prefetch data for tiered key-value stores
- Designed an external service for offloading shuffle operations from database management systems which supports either a memory or storage backend managed by DPUs

Research Assistant; University of Toronto

March 2024 – Dec. 2024

Supervisor: Prof. Jack Sun

- Worked on a team of 11 to implement a pedagogical kernel *KidneyOS* in **Rust** to be used in an introductory operating systems course with **500+** students annually
- Enabled thread creation and destruction, multi-threading, pre-emptive scheduling within the thread system
- Led a team of 3 to implement POSIX-compatible syscalls and add support running user-space executables

Research Assistant; PRISM Lab, Bloorview Research Institute

June 2024 – Aug. 2024

Supervisors: Erica Floreani and Prof. Tom Chau; Funded by: FUSRP

- Curated deep-learning models from the literature on denoising electroencephalogram (EEG) data in a team of 4 and benchmarked them on the *EEGDenoiseNet* dataset
- Investigated the applicability of end-to-end transformer models to denoise EEG signals and the impact of using signals' time-frequency representation as input on model performance

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

ML Runtime Engineer; Cerebras Systems

May 2024 – Aug. 2025

- Implemented a runtime virtual memory system in **C++** with a team of 3 which pre-emptively loads data before it is accessed, allowing off-chip memory to be used for the first time with only a **10%** performance penalty
- Added support for network storage in the paging system with remote direct memory access, providing **100 GB/s** read and write speeds with **10 μ s** latency to multiple remote servers
- Enabled the ability log and replay the network operations, decreasing the time to recreate stalls and timeouts by over **80%**, and setup unit tests to automatically catch breakages and performance regressions in the network layer
- Improved the throughput of the network layer by **6%** when transferring data by implementing best practices for remote direct memory access and reducing setup overhead
- Determined the cable and port mapping for a one node cluster which will be used for all future deployments

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages C++, Rust, Python, C, C#, Bash, Java

Frameworks Catch2, PyTest, PyTorch, TensorFlow, OpenCV, scikit-learn, NumPy, Pandas, SciPy, Eigen3

Tools Git, Linux, Unix, tmux, CMake, Docker, Anaconda, Google Colab, QEMU, Jupyter, WSL, Slurm