

# Xiang (Jenny) Ren

---

Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Engineering  
University of Toronto

Email: [jenny.ren@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jenny.ren@mail.utoronto.ca)  
URL: <https://jrenx.github.io/>

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Engineering  
M.A.Sc. in Computer Engineering  
University of Toronto  
*Advisor:* Ding Yuan

Sep 2017 - Aug 2024 (expected)  
Sep 2015 - Mar 2018

B.A.Sc. with Honours in Electrical Engineering  
University of Toronto

Sep 2010 - June 2015

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Performance and reliability of system software (operating systems, distributed systems, database). Automating performance and failure diagnosis for system software. Building performant software for emerging hardware.

## PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Xiang (Jenny) Ren, Sitao Wang, Zhuqi Jin, David Lion, Adrian Chiu, Tianyin Xu, and Ding Yuan. Relational Debugging – Pinpointing Root Causes of Performance Problems. In *Proceedings of the 17th USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI'23)*, July 2023. Acceptance rate: 19.6%
- [2] Tanakorn Leesatapornwongsa, Xiang Ren, and Suman Nath. FlakeRepro: automated and efficient reproduction of concurrency-related flaky tests. In *Proceedings of the 30th ACM Joint European Software Engineering Conference and Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering (ESEC/FSE'22)*, November 2022. (Industry track)
- [3] Ruibin Li, Xiang Ren, Xu Zhao, Siwei He, Michael Stumm, and Ding Yuan. ctFS: Eliminating File Indexing with Contiguous File System on Persistent Memory. In *Proceedings of the 20th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies (FAST 22)*, February 2022.
- [4] Xiang (Jenny) Ren, Kirk Rodrigues, Luyuan Chen, Camilo Vega, Michael Stumm, and Ding Yuan. An Analysis of Performance Evolution of Linux's Core Operations. In *Proceedings of the 27th ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP19)*, October 2019. Acceptance rate: 13.7%
- [5] Yongle Zhang, Serguei Makarov, Xiang Ren, David Lion, and Ding Yuan. Pensieve: Non-Intrusive Failure Reproduction for Distributed Systems using the Event Chaining Approach. In *Proceedings of the 26th Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP '17)*, October 2017. Acceptance rate: 16.8%

## IMPACT & VISIBILITY

- Root causes diagnosed by Perspect[1] helped MongoDB developers close two open bugs: MongoDB-57221, MongoDB-56274; Perspect[1] is requested by the MMTk memory management framework and attracted interest from CockroachDB.
- [3] is invited to appear in USENIX ;login: and ACM Transaction on Storage (TOS) and given best paper honorable mention.
- [4] is featured by the *morning paper* and LEBench[4] is deployed by Amazon.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Software Engineering Intern**, MongoDB, Mentor: Daniel Gottlieb June - August 2022  
Investigated the root causes of the performance creep between MongoDB v4.4 and v6.0.
- **Research Intern**, Microsoft Research Redmond, Mentor: Suman Nath June - August 2020  
Automated reproduction of flaky tests in cloud systems.
- **Research Assistant**, University of Toronto, Advisor: Ding Yuan May - August 2014  
Automated log analysis of distributed systems.
- **Software Engineering Intern**, Marin Software, San Francisco May 2013 - May 2014  
Data engineering, web programming & automating integration tests.
- **Research Assistant**, University of Toronto, Advisor: Tarek Abdelrahman Summer 2012  
Built support of parallel programming Pragmas in the LLVM compiler infrastructure.

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- University of Toronto Fellowship 2019
- Edward S. Rogers Sr. Graduate Scholarships 2018
- Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship 2017
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship 2016
- Bell Scholarship 2015

## INVITED TALKS

Relational Debugging – Pinpointing Root Causes of Performance Problems.

- the 17th USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI'23), Boston, USA, July 2023.
- Australian National University Foundations Seminar, August 2023.

An Analysis of Performance Evolution of Linux's Core Operations.

- The 27th Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP19), Huntsville, ON, Canada, October 2019.

## SERVICE & OUTREACH

Assisted committee members in reviewing:

- 2023 OSDI, SOSP
- 2022 OSDI
- 2021 SOSP, ASPLOS
- 2020 NSDI
- 2019 HotOS
- 2018 OSDI
- 2017 SOSP
- 2015 ASPLOS
- 2014 OSDI

2021 SOSP vice session chair

Attended the Diversity workshop at SOSP'15, SOSP'17 and SOSP'19, a forum to support minority and female students in software systems research.

## TEACHING

- **Teaching Assistant**, ECE 1747H Parallel Programming 2020  
Graded and assisted students with final projects.
- **Teaching Assistant**, ECE297 Design and Communication 2019  
Graded and assisted students with programming assignments.
- **Teaching Assistant**, ECE 244 Programming Fundamentals 2015, 2016, 2018  
Taught and developed materials for weekly tutorial sessions.  
Assisted students with programming assignments.
- **Teaching Assistant**, CSC369 Operating Systems 2018  
Graded and assisted students with programming assignments.
- **Teaching Assistant**, APS105 Computer Fundamentals 2017  
Graded and assisted students with programming assignments. **Student rating: 6.7/7**
- **Teaching Assistant**, ECE344 Operating Systems 2016  
Graded and assisted students with programming assignments.