

# Hongzhi CHEN

RM 122(A), SHB, CUHK, Hong Kong  
☎ (+852) 6840-6304 | (+86) 150-027-34771  
✉ chzyaobaiwei@gmail.com  
📄 <https://yaobaiwei.github.io/>

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2015.8 - Present **The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)** Shatin, Hong Kong  
**Ph.D.** in Computer Science and Engineering  
◦ Supervisor: Prof. James Cheng
- 2011.9 - 2015.6 **Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST)** Wuhan, China  
**B.Eng** in Computer Science and Technology  
Overall GPA: 3.88 / 4.00    Rank: 1/ 30/ 472 (in a 30-student Honor Class)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My general research interests cover the broad area of distributed systems and databases, with special emphasis on distributed graph systems and distributed machine learning/deep learning systems. My current work focuses on RDMA based OLAP/OLTP systems over property graphs, distributed DL systems and Graph Neural Network systems.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2019.2 - 2019.8 **HUAWEI, 2012 Lab, Parallel and Distributed Computing Laboratory** Shenzhen, China  
◦ **Researcher** (system design) for the **MindSpore** project.  
MindSpore is Huawei's company-level Distributed Deep Learning Platform.
- 2017.5 - 2017.8 **University of Pennsylvania, NetDB Lab, Dept. CIS** P.A., U.S.A.  
◦ **Visiting Scholar**, Distributed Graph Query Optimization.  
Supervisor: **Prof. Boon Thau Loo**.
- 2015.9 - 2016.7 **The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HDL Lab, Dept. CSE** Hong Kong  
◦ **Research Assistant**, Distributed Systems for Large Scale Data Analytics.  
Supervisor: **Prof. James Cheng**.
- 2014.6 - 2015.5 **Microsoft Research Asia, Software Analytics Group** Beijing, China  
◦ **Research Intern**, Large-scale Data Analytics, Distributed System.  
Supervisor: **Qingwei Lin** (Lead Researcher) and **Dr. Jianguang Lou** (Principle Researcher).
- 2013.9 - 2014.6 **HUST, IDC Lab, Dept. CSE** Wuhan, China  
◦ **Research Intern**, System Optimization on Hadoop.  
Supervisor: **Prof. Ruixuan Li**

## PUBLICATIONS

- [1] *High Performance Distributed OLAP on Property Graphs with Grasper* **SIGMOD'20**  
**Hongzhi Chen**, Bowen Wu, Shiyuan Deng, Chenghuan Huang, Changji Li, Yichao Li, James Cheng.
- [2] *Measuring and Improving the Use of Graph Information in Graph Neural Networks* **ICLR'20**  
Yifan Hou, Jian Zhang, James Cheng, Kaili Ma, Richard T. B. Ma, **Hongzhi Chen**, Ming-Chang Yang.
- [3] *Grasper: A High Performance Distributed System for OLAP on Property Graphs* **SoCC'19**  
**Hongzhi Chen**, Changji Li, Juncheng Fang, Chenghuan Huang, James Cheng, Jian Zhang, Yifan Hou, Xiao Yan.
- [4] *A Representation Learning Framework for Property Graphs* **SIGKDD'19**  
Yifan Hou, **Hongzhi Chen**, Changji Li, James Cheng, Ming-Chang Yang.
- [5] *Large Scale Graph Mining with G-Miner* **SIGMOD'19**  
**Hongzhi Chen**, Xiaoxi Wang, Chenghuan Huang, Juncheng Fang, Yifan Hou, Changji Li, James Cheng.
- [6] *Optimizing Declarative Graph Queries at Large Scale* **SIGMOD'19**  
Qizhen Zhang, Akash Acharya, **Hongzhi Chen**, Simran Arora, Ang Chen, Vincent Liu, Boon Loo.

- [7] *Scalable De Novo Genome Assembly Using a Pregel-Like Graph-Parallel System* **TCBB'19**  
Guimu Guo, **Hongzhi Chen**, Da Yan, James Cheng, Jake Chen, Zechen Chong.
- [8] *Lightweight Fault Tolerance in Pregel-Like Systems* **ICPP'19**  
Da Yan, James Cheng, **Hongzhi Chen**, Cheng Long, Purushotham Bangalore.
- [9] *G-Miner: An Efficient Task-Oriented Graph Mining System.* **EuroSys'18**  
**Hongzhi Chen**, Miao Liu, Yunjian Zhao, Xiao Yan, Da Yan, James Cheng.
- [10] *Scalable De Novo Genome Assembly Using Pregel.* **ICDE'18**  
Da Yan, **Hongzhi Chen**, James Cheng, Zhenkun Cai, Bin Shao.
- [11] *GraphD: Distributed Vertex-Centric Graph Processing Beyond the Memory Limit.* **TPDS'18**  
Da Yan, Yuzhen Huang, Miao Liu, **Hongzhi Chen**, James Cheng, Huanhuan Wu, Chengcui Zhang.
- [12] *Norm-Ranging LSH for Maximum Inner Product Search.* **NIPS'18**  
Xiao Yan, Jinfeng Li, Xinyan Da, **Hongzhi Chen**, and James Cheng.
- [13] *Architectural Implications on the Performance and Cost of Graph Analytics Systems.* **SoCC'17**  
Qizhen Zhang, **Hongzhi Chen**, Da Yan, James Cheng, Boon Thau Loo, Purushotham Bangalore.
- [14] *G-thinker: Big Graph Mining Made Easier and Faster.* **arXiv'17**  
Da Yan, **Hongzhi Chen**, James Cheng, M.Tamer.Ozsu, Qizhen Zhang, John C.S. Lui.

## PROJECTS

My research focuses on the design and implementation of distributed systems and their applications. I have led or participated as the core developer of the following projects.

- 
- Grasper An RDMA-enabled high performance OLAP system over property graphs with good scalability. We proposed a novel execution engine, called Expert Model, to provide tailored optimizations with adaptive parallelism control for query operators. Grasper achieves order of magnitudes performance improvements over existing systems (e.g., Titan, JanusGraph, OrientDB, Neo4j).
  - PGE A representation learning framework for property graph embedding. The key idea of PGE is a three-step framework to leverage both the topology and property information into Graph Neural Networks for a better node embedding result.
  - G-Miner A distributed graph processing system aimed at general graph mining problems, which have intensive local computation inside a subgraph. We modeled each subgraph processing as a task and designed a task-based pipeline to improve the parallelism between computation and communication. A dynamic task stealing mechanism as well as an efficient cache strategy were also proposed to further speed up the task processing.
  - G-thinker Real applications, such as graph matching and community detection, often require computation intensive graph analytics, which cannot be represented by vertex-centric algorithms for efficient execution in systems like Pregel and GraphLab. We proposed G-thinker, a new subgraph-centric general graph processing distributed system, which is natural for subgraph finding problem.
  - PPA-assembly A scalable toolkit for de novo genome assembly was developed based on Pregel. PPA-Assembly provides a set of key operations in genome assembly, which were implemented by practical Pregel algorithms (PPAs) with strong performance guarantees.
  - GraphD It offers out-of-core support for processing very big graphs in a small cluster of commodity PCs, with performance comparable with the state-of-the-art distributed in-memory graph systems.
  - LWCP A fault tolerance mechanism for Pregel-like systems with performance tens of times faster than the conventional checkpointing mechanisms.
  - FPMS A novel and general distributed framework to mine frequent patterns, including frequent item-sets/sequences/graphs.

I also joined in some other research projects during my work at CUHK, UPenn and MSRA.

- 
- GraphRex An efficient framework for graph processing on datacenter infrastructure. The key technical contribution of GraphRex is the identification and optimization of a set of global operators whose efficient implementation is crucial to the good performance of large, datacenter-based graph analysis.

- RANGE-LSH Using maximum inner product for similarity search, which significantly outperforms SIMPLE-LSH. RANGE-LSH is robust to the shape of 2-norm distribution and different partitioning methods.
- Pregel+ An open-source Pregel implementation with optimizations to reduce communication cost and eliminate skewness in communication.
- More** If you are also interested in my previous works at **MSRA, Software Analytics Group**, please visit my homepage for more details. My works at MSRA focused more on distributed data analytics, including OLAP, pattern mining, text clustering and anomaly detection. I participated in 4 projects as a core developer, i.e. Service-Intelligence, Service-Insider, iDice and In4. In particular, both **Service-Intelligence** and **iDice** have been published in **ICSE'16**, and **In4** has been published in **KDD'18**.

---

## AWARDS & HONORS

- 2019.11 SoCC'19 Travel Award
- 2019.5 SIGMOD'19 Travel Award
- 2018.4 EuroSys'18 Travel Award
- 2016 - 2020 CUHK Postgraduate Studentship.
- 2015.6 The original winner of **Hong Kong PhD Fellowship**.
- 2015.6 **"Stars of Tomorrow" at Microsoft Research Asia** (Only 15% research interns won the Award)
- 2015.6 Outstanding Graduates (3% in HUST)
- 2014.10 CCF (China Computer Federation) National **Top 100** Outstanding Undergraduates (**Top 0.1%**)
- 2014.9 Academic Excellence Scholarship (2% in HUST)
- 2014.9 Merit Undergraduate (2% in HUST)
- 2013.9 National Undergraduate Scholarship (2% in HUST)
- 2013.9 Merit Undergraduate (2% in HUST)
- 2012.9 Most Outstanding Undergraduate (1% in HUST)
- 2012.9 Academic Excellence Scholarship (2% in HUST)

---

## TEACHING

- Spring, 2018 CSCI1020: Hands-on Introduction to C++
- Fall, 2017 ENGG1110: Problem Solving By Programming
- Spring, 2017 ENGG1110: Problem Solving By Programming
- Fall, 2016 ENGG1110: Problem Solving By Programming

---

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### External Reviewer

- 2020 SIGMOD
- 2019 SIGMOD
- 2018 VLDB, ICDE
- 2017 VLDB, ICDE, CCGRID, BigData
- 2016 VLDB, KDD, SOCC, ICDM, DASFAA, BigData, APWeb

### Participation in

- 2019 ACM Symposium on Cloud Computing, Santa Cruz, California, U.S.A.
- 2019 International Conference on Management of Data, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2018 European Conference on Computer Systems, Porto, Portugal
- 2015 China National Computer Congress, Zhengzhou, China

---

## SKILLS

- Programming C/C++, C#, Java, Python
- Operating Linux, Windows

