ZHICHAO CAO

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EMAIL: Zhichao.Cao@asu.edu   **HOMEPAGE:** https://isearch.asu.edu/profile/4082902

RESEARCH INTEREST

Data Infrastructure: key-value stores (RocksDB, LevelDB, HBase); NoSQL databases (GraphDB); data deduplication; backup and archive system; file system; hierarchical storage system; distributed storage system; compute-storage disaggregation; memory disaggregation; AI/ML for data infrastructure; data infrastructure for AI/ML (KV-cache offloading, memory extension, vector databases, and sustainable LLMs);

Storage for big data: cloud storage; object storage; storage systems for big graph; storage system in IoT

New storage devices: Disaggregated Memory (with CXL and RDMA); Non-Volatile Memory (NVM); Shingled Magnetic Recording (SMR); Interlaced Magnetic Recording (SMR); Zoned Namespace SSDs (ZNS SSDs); DNA- and Glass-based storage

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Twin-Cities   Aug. 2013 - Jul. 2020
Ph.D. in Computer Science   *Advisor: Prof. David.H.C. Du*

Thesis: High-Performance and Cost-Effective Storage Systems for Supporting Big Data Applications [pdf]

ACM Doctoral Dissertation Award Nomination *by Department of Computer Science and Engineering*

Tsinghua University   Sep. 2009 - Jul. 2013
B.E. in Automation (with honor)   *Advisor: Prof. Qing Li*

EMPLOYMENTS

Assistant Professor	**Arizona State University**	Jan. 2022 - Present
Research Scientist	**Facebook**	Oct. 2019 - Dec. 2021
Research Collaborator	**Facebook**	Sep. 2018 - Sep. 2019
Research Intern	**Facebook**	Jun. 2018 - Aug. 2018
Research Intern	**Veritas**	Jun. 2016 - Aug. 2016
Research Intern	**Hewlett-Packard (HPE)**	Jun. 2015 - Aug. 2015
Research Intern	**Hewlett-Packard (HPE)**	Jun. 2014 - Aug. 2014
Research Assistant	**University of Minnesota, Twin-Cities**	Sep. 2013 - Sep. 2018

PUBLICATIONS

29. [**SOSP'24**] Shushu Yi, Shaocong Sun, Li Peng, Yingbo Sun, Ming-Chang Yang, **Zhichao Cao**, Qiao Li, Myoungsoo Jung, Ke Zhou, Jie Zhang. "BIZA: Design of Self-Governing Block-Interface ZNS AFA for Endurance and Performance." *The 30th ACM Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP)*, November 2024, Pages 313 - 329.[pdf]

28. [**TC'24**] Yixun Wei, **Zhichao Cao**, David HC Du. "CPI: A Collaborative Partial Indexing Design for Large-Scale Deduplication Systems." *IEEE Transactions on Computers*, November 2024.[pdf]

27. [**HotStorage'24**] Viraj Thakkar, Madhumitha Sukumar, Jiaxin Dai, Kaushiki Singh, **Zhichao Cao**. "Can Modern LLMs Tune and Configure LSM-based Key-Value Stores?." *16th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems (HotStorage)*, July 2024, Pages 116 - 123. [pdf] ***Best Paper Award!***

26. [**HotStorage'24**] Chongzhuo Yang, Zhang Cao, Chang Guo, Ming Zhao, **Zhichao Cao**. "Can ZNS SSDs be Better Storage Devices for Persistent Cache?." *16th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems (HotStorage)*, July 2024, Pages 55 - 62. [pdf]

25. [**SIGMOD'24**] Qiaolin Yu, Chang Guo, Jay Zhuang, Viraj Thakkar, Jianguo Wang, **Zhichao Cao**. "CaaS-LSM: Compaction-as-a-Service for LSM-based Key-Value Stores in Storage-Disaggregated Infrastructure." *Proceedings of ACM Conference on Management of Data (SIGMOD)*, Volume 2, Issue 3, Article No.: 124, Pages 1 - 28. [pdf]

24. [**MSST'24**] Zhang Cao, Chang Guo, Ziyuan Lv, Anand Ananthabhotla, **Zhichao Cao**. ""SAS-Cache: A Semantic-Aware Secondary Cache for LSM-based Key-Value Stores." *The 38th International Conference on Massive Storage Systems and Technology (MSST)*, June 2024. [pdf]

23. [**MSST'24**] Gaoji Liu, Chongzhuo Yang, Qiaolin Yu, Chang Guo, Wen Xia, **Zhichao Cao**. "Prophet: Optimizing LSM-Based Key-Value Store on ZNS SSDs with File Lifetime Prediction and Compaction Compensation." *The 38th International Conference on Massive Storage Systems and Technology (MSST)*, June 2024. [pdf]

22. [**DSDE'24**] Chongzhuo Yang, Baolin Feng, Zhang Cao, **Zhichao Cao**. "HyzoneStore: Hybrid Storage with Flexible Logical Interface and Optimized Cache for Zoned Devices." *Proceedings of the 2024 7th International Conference on Data Storage and Data Engineering*, February 2024, Pages 71 - 77. [pdf]

21. [**ICCD'23**] **Zhichao Cao**, Hao Wen, Fenggang Wu, David H.C. Du. "SMRTS: A Performance and Cost-Effectiveness Optimized SSD-SMR Tiered File System with Data Deduplication." *The 41st IEEE International Conference on Computer Design*, 2023 *(Acceptance rate: 28%)*.[pdf]

20. [**ICCD'23**] Hao Wen, **Zhichao Cao**, Bingzhe Li, David Du, Ayman Abouelwafa, Doug Voigt, Shiyong Liu, Jim Diehl and Fenggang Wu. "K8sES: Optimizing Kubernetes with Enhanced Storage Service-Level Objectives." *The 41st IEEE International Conference on Computer Design*, 2023 *(Acceptance rate: 28%)*.[pdf]

19. [**ICCD'22**] Jingsong Yuan, Xiangyu Zou, Han Xu, **Zhichao Cao**, Shiyi Li, Wen Xia, Peng Wang and Li Chen. "A Focused Garbage Collection Approach for Primary Deduplicated Storage with Low Memory Overhead." *The 40th IEEE International Conference on Computer Design*, 2022.[pdf]

18. [**TOS'22**] **Zhichao Cao**, Huibing Dong, Yixun Wei, Shiyong Liu, and David H.C. Du. "IS-HBase: An In-Storage Computing Optimized HBase with I/O Offloading and Self-Adaptive Caching in Compute-Storage Disaggregated Infrastructure." *ACM Transaction on Storage*, Volume 18, Issue 2, May 2022. [pdf]

17. [**TOS'22**] Hiwot Tadese Kassa, Jason Akers, Mrinmoy Ghosh, **Zhichao Cao**, Vaibhav Gogte, Ronald Dreslinski. "Power-optimized Deployment of Key-value Stores Using Storage Class Memory." *ACM Transaction on Storage*, Volume 18, Issue 2, May 2022.[pdf]

16. [**TOS'22**] Xiongzi Ge **Zhichao Cao**, David H.C. Du, Pradeep Ganesan, Dennis Hahn. "HintStor: A Framework to Study I/O Hints in Heterogeneous Storage." *ACM Transaction on Storage*, Volume 18, Issue 2, May 2022. [pdf]

15. [**ATC'21**] Hiwot Tadese Kassa, Jason Akers, Mrinmoy Ghosh, **Zhichao Cao**, Vaibhav Gogte, Ronald Dreslinski. "Improving Performance of Flash Based Key-Value Stores Using Storage Class Memory as a Volatile Memory Extension." *2021 USENIX Annual Technical Conference*, 2021 *(Acceptance rate: 64/341=23%)*. [pdf]

14. [**FAST'20**] **Zhichao Cao**, Siying Dong, Sagar Vemuri, and David H.C. Du.. "Characterizing, Modeling, and Benchmarking RocksDB Key-Value Workloads at Facebooke." *18th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2020 *(Acceptance rate: 23/138=17% as Full Paper)*. [pdf]

13. [**TC'20**] Fenggang Wu, Bingzhe Li, Baoquan Zhang, **Zhichao Cao**, Jim Diehl, Hao Wen, David HC Du. "Tracklace: Data management for interlaced magnetic recording." *IEEE Transactions on Computers*, Volume: 70 Issue: 3, Page(s): 347 - 358, April 2020. [pdf]

12. [**FAST'19**] **Zhichao Cao**, Shiyong Liu, Fenggang Wu, Guohua Wang, Bingzhe Li, and David H.C. Du. "Sliding

Look-Back Window Assisted Data Chunk Rewriting for Improving Deduplication Restore Performance." *17th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2019 *(Acceptance rate: 26/145=18% as Full Paper)*. [pdf]

11. [**TOS'19**] **Zhichao Cao**, Hao Wen, Xiongzi Ge, and David H.C. Du. "TDDFS: A Tier-aware Data Deduplication based File System." *ACM Transaction on Storage*, 2019. [pdf]

10. [**HotStorage'19**] Fenggang Wu, Bingzhe Li, **Zhichao Cao**, Baoquan Zhang, Minghong Yang, Hao Wen, and David H.C. Du. "ZoneAlloy: Elastic Data and Space Management for Hybrid SMR Drives." *11th USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems*, 2019. [pdf]

9. [**FAST'18**] **Zhichao Cao**, Hao Wen, Fenggang Wu, and David H.C. Du. "ALACC: Accelerating Restore Performance of Data Deduplication Systems Using Adaptive Look Ahead Window Assisted Chunk Caching." *16th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2018 *(Acceptance rate: 23/139=17% as Full Paper)*. [pdf]

8. [**HotStorage'18**] Fenggang Wu, Baoquan Zhang, **Zhichao Cao**, Hao Wen, Bingzhe Li, Jim Diehl, Guohua Wang, and David H.C. Du. "Data Management Design for Interlaced Magnetic Recording." *10th USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems*, 2018. [pdf]

7. [**MASCOTS'18**] Hao Wen, **Zhichao Cao**, Yang Zhang, Xiang Cao, Ziqi Fan, Doug Voigt, and David H.C. Du. "JoiNS: Meeting Latency SLO with Integrated Control for Networked Storage." *IEEE 26th International Symposium on Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation of Computer and Telecommunication Systems*, 2018. [pdf]

6. [**BIGCOM'18**] Shiyong Liu, **Zhichao Cao**, Zhongwen Guo , Guohua Wang , Xupeng Wang , Zhijin Qiu , and Xukun Qin. "NVMTFS: A Non-Volatile Memory Adaptive File System for Tiered Storage System." *IEEE 4th International Conference on Big Data Computing and Communications*, 2018. [Website]

5. [**OTM'16**] Qing Li, Dachuan Li, and **Zhichao Cao**. "Service Oriented Collaborative Simulation in Concept and Design Stages: Framework and Enabling Technologies." *OTM Confederated International Conferences" On the Move to Meaningful Internet Systems". Springer*, 2016. [Website]

4. [**EIS'15**] Qing Li, Zeyuan Wang, **Zhichao Cao**, Ruiyang Du, and Hao Luo. "Process and data fragmentation-oriented enterprise network integration with collaboration modeling and collaboration agents." *Enterprise Information Systems*, 2015. [Website]

3. [**CI'13**] Qing Li, Zeyuan Wang, Weihua Li, **Zhichao Cao**, Ruiyang Du, and Hao Luo. "Model-based services convergence and multi-clouds integration." *Computers in Industry*, 2013. [Website]

2. [**CCIS'12**] **Zhichao Cao**, Qing Li, Zeyuan Wang, Weihua Li, Jun Li, and Ruiyang Du. "A cloud computing based framework of group-enterprise service integration and sharing." *IEEE 2nd International Conference on Cloud Computing and Intelligence Systems*, 2012. [Website]

1. [**CSSS'12**] Zeyuan Wang, Qing Li, **Zhichao Cao**, Weihua Li, Jun Li, and Ruiyang Du. "A model-based deployment framework of integrated public cloud service." *2012 International Conference on Computer Science and Service System*, 2012. [Website]

ACADEMIC POSTERS AND WORK-IN-PROGRESS

12. [**FAST'24**] Madhumitha Sukumar, Jiaxin Dai, Kaushiki Singh, Vikriti Lokegaonkar, Viraj Thakkar, **Zhichao Cao**. "LLM-assisted Automatic-Configuration and Tuning Framework for LSM-based Key-Value Stores." *22th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2024.

11. [**MSST'24**] Kritshekhar Jha, Alexander Sutila, Ian Mcdonough, Yongfeng Wang, Lillian Seebold, **Zhichao Cao**, Ming Zhao. "ZNSCache: Zoned Namespace (ZNS) SSD based Caching." *The 38th International Conference on Massive Storage Systems and Technology*, 2024.

10. [**FAST'23**] Kritshekhar Jha, Ian Mcdonough, Alexander Sutila, **Zhichao Cao**, and Ming Zhao.. "DM-ZCache: Zoned Namespace (ZNS) SSD based Caching." *21th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2023.

9. [**FAST'23**] Jinghuan Yu, Yixun Wei, **Zhichao Cao**, David H.C. Du, and Chun Jason Xue.. "Level-based Shard Migration in Distributed LSM KV Store." *21th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2023.

8. [**FAST'20**] **Zhichao Cao**, Siying Dong, Sagar Vemuri, and David H.C. Du.. "Characterizing, Modeling, and Benchmarking RocksDB Key-Value Workloads at Facebook." *18th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2020.

7. [**FAST'19**] **Zhichao Cao**, Shiyong Liu, Fenggang Wu, Guohua Wang, Bingzhe Li, and David H.C. Du. "Sliding Look-Back Window Assisted Data Chunk Rewriting for Improving Deduplication Restore Performance." *17th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2019.

6. [**FAST'19**] Fenggang Wu, **Zhichao Cao**, Baoquan Zhang, and David H.C. Du. "Wear-out Aware LSM System for QLC SSDs." *17th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2019.

5. [**FAST'19**] Fenggang Wu, Baoquan Zhang, **Zhichao Cao**, and David H.C. Du. "NVLSM-Tree: A Design of Log-Structured Merge Tree for Hybrid Volatile/Non-Volatile Memory System." *17th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2019.

4. [**FAST'18**] **Zhichao Cao**, Hao Wen, Fenggang Wu, and David H.C. Du. "ALACC: Accelerating Restore Performance of Data Deduplication Systems Using Adaptive Look Ahead Window Assisted Chunk Caching.." *16th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2018.

3. [**FAST'17**] **Zhichao Cao**, Fenggang Wu, Hao Wen, and David H.C. Du. "Optismr: Restore-Performance Optimization for Deduplication Systems Using SMR Drives." *16th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2017.

2. [**FAST'17**] Hao Wen, **Zhichao Cao**, Yang Zhang, and David H.C. Du. "Guaranteed QoS with Integrated Control for Networked Storage." *16th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies*, 2017.

1. [**SoCC'14**] Xiongzi Ge, **Zhichao Cao**, and David H.C. Du. "OneStore: Integrating Local and Cloud Storage with Access Hints." *ACM Symposium on Cloud Computing*, 2014.

HONORS, AWARDS, PATENT, AND GRANTS

- NSF CNS CSR Small Core Grant   2024
- HotStorage 2024 Best Paper Award   2024
- VLDB 2024 Distinguished Reviewer Award   2024
- OpenAI Researcher Access Program Credit Award   2024
- Indonesia-US Research Collaboration Award   2024
- Indonesia-US Research Collaboration Award   2023
- Google Cloud Research Credit Award   2022
- FAST Travel Grant   2019
- U.S. Patent "System and Methods for Performing Live Migrations of Software Containers", 15/261,596[P].   2018
- FAST Travel Grant   2017
- Best Innovation Pod among all intern teams of Veritas   2016

TEACHING

| **CSE 511 (graduate-level)** | Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024 |
| *Data Processing at Scale* | *Instructor* |

| **CSE 330 (undergraduate-level)** | Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024 |

Operating Systems	*Instructor*
CSCI 5980 (graduate-level)	Fall 2018
Big Data and Storage System	*Guest lecture*
CSCI 2021 (undergraduate-level)	Sprint 2014
Machine Architecture and Organization	*Teaching assistant*

CURRENT STUDENTS SUPERVISED

Chang Guo	Ph.D. Student	August. 2022 - Present
Viraj Thakkar	Ph.D. Student	August. 2023 - Present
Qi Lin	Ph.D. Student	May. 2024 - Present
Zhenyu Zhang	Ph.D. Student	August. 2024 - Present

THESIS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

- Ph.D. thesis defense committee: Yiming Wei (2024)

- Master thesis defense committee: Sungho Hong (2022), Viraj Thakkar (2023), Manimozhi Sekar (2024), Vrutik Halani (2024)

ACADEMIC SERVICES

- Program Committee of USENIX FAST 2025, 2026

- Program Committee of ACM SIGMOD 2023, 2024 (demo track), 2025

- Program Committee of VLDB 2024, 2025

- Program Committee of USENIX ATC 2024, 2025

- Session Chair of USENIX ATC 2024

- Session Chair of ACM HoStorage 2024

- Publicity Co-Chair of MSST 2024

- Program Committee of ACM HotStorage 2023, 2024

- Program Committee of ACM SYSTOR 2024

- Session Chair of IEEE ICCD 2023

- Program Committee of ICPP 2023

- Session Chair of ACM SIGMOD 2023

- Proceedings Co-Chair of ACM SIGMOD 2023

- Virtual Chair of ACM HotStorage 2022

- Program Committee of IEEE NAS 2022

- Program Committee of ACM APSys 2022

- Reviewer of ACM Transaction on Storage (TOS) (2022, 2023)

- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Computers (TC)

- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (TCAD)

- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Cloud Computing

- Reviewer of IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking

- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing
- Reviewer of IEEE Access
- Reviewer of IEEE Intelligent Systems
- Reviewer of The International Journal for the Computer Communications
- Reviewer of The International Journal for the Future Generation Computer Systems
- Volunteer of International Conference on Parallel Processing (ICPP'14)

DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Ph.D. Admission Committee	2022 - Present
Faculty Search Committee	2022, 2023, 2024
DSAE Graduate Program Committee (Chair)	2022 - 2024

INVITED TALKS

11. "Storage and Machine Learning - What can we learn from each other?", *16th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems **Santa Clara, Panelist***, CA, 2024.

10. "Can ZNS SSDs be Better Storage Devices for Persistent Cache?", *16th ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems **HotStorage'24***, CA, 2024.

9. "LSM-based Key-Value Stores in AI/ML Era", *University of Chicago **Chicago, Invited Talk***, IL, 2024.

8. "SMRTS: A Performance and Cost-Effectiveness Optimized SSD-SMR Tiered File System with Data Deduplication", *The 41st IEEE International Conference on Computer Design **ICCD'23***, DC, 2023.

7. "Optimizing LSM-based Key-Value Stores for Disaggregated Infrastructure and New Storage Devices", ***UC Santa Cruz, Invited CSE Seminar***, CA, 2023.

6. "RocksDB Secondary Cache, Checksum, and Optimizations", *Nebula Graph Meetup,* ***Invited Talk***, CA, 2021.

5. "Characterizing, Modeling, and Benchmarking RocksDB Key-Value Workloads at Facebook", *18th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies **[FAST'20]***, CA, 2020.

4. "RocksDB Workload Analyzing and Benchmarking", *RocksDB Community Meetup,* ***Invited Talk***, CA, 2020.

3. "Sliding Look-Back Window Assisted Data Chunk Rewriting for Improving Deduplication Restore Performance", *17th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies **[FAST'19]***, MA, 2019.

2. "ALACC: Accelerating Restore Performance of Data Deduplication Systems Using Adaptive Look Ahead Window Assisted Chunk Caching", *16th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies **[FAST'18]***, CA, 2018.

1. "Optismr: Restore-Performance Optimization for Deduplication Systems Using SMR Drives", *15th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies **[FAST'17]***, CA, 2017.

RESEARCH COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRIES

Western Digital — Feb. 2022 - Present
Project: System design for Zoned Namespace SSDs — ***PI***

Facebook — Sep. 2018 - Sep. 2019
Project: RocksDB Workload Characterization and Benchmarking — ***PI***

Hewlett-Packard (HPE) — Sep. 2016 - Jun. 2018
Project: Integrating SDS with SDN — *with Hao Wen*

Veritas   Sep. 2016 - Jun. 2017
Project: Global data allocation and migration project   ***co-PI*** *with David H.C Du*

Symantec   Sep. 2015 - Jun. 2016
Project: Federated and Distributed Storage System   ***co-PI*** *with David H.C Du*

NetApp   Sep. 2013 - Jun. 2015
Project: Integrating Local Storage and Cloud with Access Hints   ***co-PI*** *with David H.C Du*

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCES

Facebook   Oct. 2019 - Dec. 2021
Project: Database and RocksDB Research   ***Research Scientist***

- RocksDB key value store performance and data integrity research;
- RocksDB data protection and workloads exploration;
- New storage devices for key-value stores;
- Research of integrating AI/ML models with RocksDB for performance improvement.

Facebook   Sep. 2018 - Sep. 2019
Project: RocksDB Workload Characterization and Benchmarking   ***Research Collaborator***

- Key value store workload collecting in large scale social graph, storage system, and AI platform
- Enhance RocksDB tracing tool and analyzing tool and workload characterization;
- Propose and develop the Key-value store workload characterization methodologies.

Facebook   Jun. 2018 - Aug. 2018
Project: RocksDB Query Workload Resarch   ***Research Intern***

- Designed and implemented the RocksDB query level trace analyzing tool;
- Deploying the trace collecting tool in two different shadow services and delivered real-world workload analyzing and characterization;
- Proposed and implemented the RocksDB synthetic workload generator.

Veritas   Jun. 2016 - Aug. 2016
Project: Docker Container Live Migration   ***Research Intern***

- Designed and implemented incremental container checkpoint and restore in RunC/Docker;
- Implemented live migration local plugin and UI with automatic support;
- Designed and implemented machine learning based container live migration algorithm.

Hewlett-Packard (HPE)   Jun. 2015 - Aug. 2015
Project: : Light Weight Cloud Gateway File System Development   ***Research Intern***

- Designed and implemented data deduplication module for the file system;
- Implemented LRU cache with cache auto shrinking to optimize file system performance;
- Implemented multi-thread infrastructure (thread pool and thread management).

Hewlett-Packard (HPE)   Jun. 2014 - Aug. 2014
Project: Source Deduplication Gateway for HP Catalyst   ***Research Intern***

- Designed and implemented the light-weight gateway with source deduplication;
- Designed and developed the WSGI based RESTful request gateway for HP Catalyst to support Openstack and replace Swift.