ZHICHAO CAO

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EMAIL: Zhichao.Cao@asu.edu HOMEPAGE: ht

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 Ph.D. in Computer Science Aug. 2013 - Jul. 2020 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 UMN 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

- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [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]
- [EIS'15] Qing Li, Zeyuan Wang, Zhichao Cao, Ruiyang Du, and Hao Luo. "Process and data fragmentationoriented 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]
- [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

- [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.
- [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.
- [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.
- [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 CAREER Award	2025
• 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

Con oco (anacigiaaaate iever)

Operating Systems

CSCI 5980 (graduate-level)

Big Data and Storage System

CSCI 2021 (undergraduate-level)

Machine Architecture and Organization

CURRENT STUDENTS SUPERVISED

Chang Guo	Ph.D. Student
Viraj Thakkar	Ph.D. Student
Qi Lin	Ph.D. Student
Zhenyu Zhang	Ph.D. Student

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), Nicholas Seah (2024)

NATIONAL SERVICE

• NSF Panelist: 2024

ACADEMIC SERVICES

- Program Committee of USENIX FAST 2025, 2026
- Program Committee of ACM SIGMOD 2023, 2024 (demo track), 2025, 2026
- Program Committee of VLDB 2024, 2025
- Program Committee of USENIX ATC 2024, 2025
- Program Committee of IEEE ICDCS 2025
- Program Committee of ACM HotStorage 2023, 2024, 2025
- Mentorship Program Co-Chair of USENIX FAST 2025
- Publicity Co-Chair of ACM HotStorage 2025
- Session Chair of USENIX ATC 2024
- Session Chair of ACM HoStorage 2024
- Publicity Co-Chair of MSST 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

Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024 Instructor

> Fall 2018 Guest lecture

Sprint 2014 Teaching assistant

August. 2022 - PresentAugust. 2023 - PresentMay. 2024 - PresentAugust. 2024 - Present

- Program Committee of IEEE NAS 2022
- Program Committee of ACM APSys 2022
- Reviewer of ACM Transaction on Storage (TOS) 2022, 2023, 2024
- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Computers (TC) 2024
- Reviewer of ACM Transactions on Database Systems (TODS) 2024
- Reviewer of ACM Transactions on Architecture and Code Optimization (TACO) 2024
- Reviewer of IEEE Micro 2024
- Reviewer of IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking 2024
- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Computer-Aided Design of Integrated Circuits and Systems (TCAD) 2023
- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Cloud Computing 2022
- Reviewer of IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing 2021
- Reviewer of IEEE Access 2021
- Reviewer of IEEE Intelligent Systems 2021
- Reviewer of The International Journal for the Computer Communications 2021
- Reviewer of The International Journal for the Future Generation Computer Systems 2020
- Volunteer of International Conference on Parallel Processing (ICPP'14)

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT SERVICES

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

INVITED TALKS

- 12. "Decoupled-RocksDB and Its Auto-Tuning with Morden LLMs", *RocksDB End-of-Year Meetup Menlo Park*, *Invited Talk*, CA, 2024.
- 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.
- "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.
- "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 Project: System design for Zoned Namespace SSDs	Feb. 2022 - Present \boldsymbol{PI}
Facebook	Sep. 2018 - Sep. 2019
Project: RocksDB Workload Characterization and Benchmarking	<i>PI</i>
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

FacebookOct. 2019 - Dec. 2021Project: Database and RocksDB ResearchResearch Scientist• RocksDB key value store performance and data integrity research;Research Scientist

- 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

Project: RocksDB Workload Characterization and Benchmarking

- 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

Project: RocksDB Query Workload Resarch

- 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;
- $\bullet\,$ Proposed and implemented the RocksDB synthetic workload generator.

Veritas

Project: Docker Container Live Migration

- Designed and implemented incremental container checkpoint and restore in $\operatorname{RunC}/\operatorname{Docker};$

AUI (JI III

Research Collaborator

Sep. 2018 - Sep. 2019

Jun. 2018 - Aug. 2018 Research Intern

Jun. 2016 - Aug. 2016 Research Intern

- Implemented live migration local plugin and UI with automatic support;
- Designed and implemented machine learning based container live migration algorithm.

Hewlett-Packard (HPE)

Project: : Light Weight Cloud Gateway File System Development

- 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)

Project: Source Deduplication Gateway for HP Catalyst

- 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.

Jun. 2015 - Aug. 2015 Research Intern

Jun. 2014 - Aug. 2014 Research Intern