

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH
STUDENT SUPERVISOR AWARD



Professor Reynold CHENG Chun Kong
鄭振剛教授

Professor
Department of Computer Science

Professor Cheng received his BEng in Computer Engineering and MPhil in Computer Science from the University of Hong Kong and his MSc and PhD from Purdue University in 2003 and 2005, respectively. He is Associate Dean of Engineering, Associate Director of the Musketeers Foundation Institute of Data Science at HKU, and Undergraduate Programme Director of Data Science and Engineering. He is also an academic advisor to the College of Professional and Continuing Education of Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Data science has recently been gaining attention from all sectors. The huge volumes of data collected from governments, companies and individuals are the main driving force of AI, prediction and decision-making. Professor Cheng's research focusses on high-performance algorithms for big data – probabilistic databases, big graphs and crowdsourcing. His work on pattern extraction on large data networks received a Research Highlight Award from the Special Interest Group on Management of Data (SIGMOD) of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). He is also engaged in 'Data Science for Social Good', involving the development of data-driven solutions for elderly and family care sectors in Hong Kong; these works have resulted in two Hong Kong Information and Communications Technology Awards and an HKU Engineering Knowledge Exchange Award.

Professor Cheng was conferred as an ACM Distinguished Member in 2023. He was listed by Stanford University among the world's top 2% scientists in 2022 and recognised as a 2023 AI 2000 Most Influential Scholar. Such achievements would not be possible without the hard work of his research students. He believes that every student has strengths, and he is devoted to unleashing their potential, improving their intellectual thinking, furnishing their research skills, and ultimately supporting their success. His students have become faculty members at Nanyang Technological University, University of Science and Technology of China, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen etc, pursued PhDs at overseas universities from UC Berkeley, Cornell to Oxford, or joined big tech companies such as Microsoft, Google and X after graduation.