ZIXIN STEPHEN XU

Darden School of Business, University of Virginia

(+1) 771-219-5586   XuZ25@darden.virginia.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Data Analytics and Decision Science   2023–2028 (Expected)
University of Virginia, Darden School of Business
Research Interests: Behavioral Decision Making, Search Theory, Decision Making under Uncertainty, Data-Driven Pricing, Bandits

M.A., Applied Economics   2019–2021
National University of Singapore

Exchange   2018
University of California, San Diego

B.A., National Economics Management   2015–2019
Central University of Finance and Economics

RESEARCH

Working Papers

- *On the Properties of the Metalog Distribution*
  (Manel Baucells, Lonnie Chrisman, Thomas Keelin, Zixin Stephen Xu)

- *BEACON: Bayesian Optimal Stopping for Efficient LLM Sampling*
  (Guangya Wan[*], Zixin Stephen Xu[*], Sasa Zorc, Manel Baucells, Mengxuan Hu, Hao Wang, Sheng Li)
  [*]Co-first authors with equal contributions

- *Optimal Policies and Structural Properties Search Without Recall Under Normal Uncertainty*
  (Zixin Stephen Xu, Manel Baucells, Sasa Zorc)

Works in Progress

- Optimal Index Policies for Sequential Search: A Unified Framework Under Bayesian Learning
- Bayesian Updating with Forgetting in Online Reinforcement Learning

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Conferences and Workshops

- 2025 UVA Quantitative Psychology DADA Meeting   October 2025
- 2025 INFORMS Annual Meeting   October 2025
- 2025 Purdue Supply Chain and Operations Management Conference   August 2025
- Games and Artificial Intelligence Multidisciplinary Summer School (GAIMSS) & Workshop   June 2025
- Risk, Uncertainty and Decision (RUD) 2025 Conference   June 2025
- 1st Summer School in Experimental and Behavioral Economics & Workshop   August 2024
- Paris School of Economics Industrial Organization Summer School & Workshop   July 2024

Research Associate 2022–2023
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

- Collaborated with Prof. Linyi Zhang on empirical research in ESG Policy, and Industrial Organization
- Tutorials for undergraduate level *Quantitative Methods for Policy Evaluation*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Product Manager 2021–2022
Tencent

- Designed educational platforms integrating quantitative assessment methodologies
- Applied statistical methods to evaluate technology-enhanced learning interventions
- Employed experimental design principles to test platform effectiveness

HONORS AND AWARDS

Darden School of Business Merit Fellowship	2023–2028
National University of Singapore Academic Scholarship (Top 1%)	2020
National University of Singapore Certificate of Excellence (Microeconomics)	2020
National University of Singapore Certificate of Excellence (Quantitative & Computing Methods)	2020
National University of Singapore Certificate of Excellence (Topics in Economic Policy)	2020
Central University of Finance and Economics Excellent Graduate	2019
National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Project Award (Outstanding)	2018
Central University of Finance and Economics Merit Student	2018
Central University of Finance and Economics Outstanding Leader	2018
Central University of Finance and Economics Dean's list	2016–2019
Central University of Finance and Economics Leadership Scholarship	2016–2018
Central University of Finance and Economics Merit Scholarship	2016–2017

SKILLS AND PROFICIENCIES

Statistical and Computational: Python, R, STATA, MatLab, Mathematica, AMPL, MySQL
Languages: Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent)