

# ZIXIN STEPHEN XU

Darden School of Business, University of Virginia  
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## EDUCATION

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**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 Strategy, Mechanism Design

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

**Visiting Student** 2018  
**University of California, San Diego**

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

## RESEARCH

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### 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)  
Under review at *NeurIPS 2025*  
\*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
- Learning under Metalog Distribution
- Bayesian Updating with Forgetting in Online Reinforcement Learning

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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### Conferences and Workshops

- 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

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### Product Manager - To-Business

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

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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

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