Debojjal Bagchi

Doctoral Student and Graduate Research Assistant
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Education

Doctor of Philosophy — 2023–2027
The University of Texas at Austin
Major: Civil Engineering (Transportation Systems and Operations Research)
GPA: 4.00 / 4.00
Advisor: Dr. Stephen D. Boyles

Master of Science in Engineering (Thesis) — 2023-2025
The University of Texas at Austin
Major: Civil Engineering (Transportation Systems and Operations Research)
GPA: 4.00 / 4.00
Advisor: Dr. Stephen D. Boyles

Bachelor of Science (Research) — 2019-2023
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
Major: Earth & Environmental Science, *Minor:* Mathematics
GPA: 8.7 / 10 (*Major GPA*: 9.4 / 10.0); **Institute gold medal for highest major GPA**
Advisor: Dr. Tarun Rambha

Professional Service

- **Committee Member**, Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee AT014 on Intermodal Freight and Truck Transportation (2025–2028).
- **Committee Member**, Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee AW010 on Ports and Channels (2025, prior to restructuring).

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistantship — Sept 2023 – Dec 2024
"Data-Driven Multimodal Freight Modeling for Waterways and Port" sponsored by Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, US Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center, *PI: Dr. Stephen Boyles*

- Processed and integrated multimodal transportation data from AIS vessel tracking, terminal operations, and landside logistics and conducted stakeholder interviews as part of a research team.
- Built an extensive discrete event simulation using open-source software SimPy in Python for the entire Port of Houston system, including anchorage, channel, terminals, landside trucks, rail, and pipelines.
- Developed a queueing model for the Port of Houston to define operating capacity, and an ordinary differential equation-based model to identify system bottlenecks.
- Simulated disruption scenarios such as hurricanes and intermittent fog to assess port performance under capacity constraints and infrastructure expansion.
- **The work resulted in five conference presentations and six publications in preparation (four methodological, two empirical).**

MITACS Globalink Research Internship **May 2022 – Aug 2022**

"Integrating Waste and Resource Management: Data-Driven Optimization of Urban Mining Logistics" sponsored by MITACS at Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, *PI: Dr. Amina Lamghari*

- Performed an extensive literature review of heuristics for Reverse Logistics (RL) network design problems including Tabu search, simulated annealing, and bee colony optimization.
- Developed a scenario-based Mixed Integer Linear Program (MILP) formulation for the RL network design problem under uncertainties for wood industries of Quebec.
- Developed an Adaptive Large Neighbourhood Search (ALNS) heuristic for the RL network design problem and introduced the concept of adaptive neighborhoods.
- Solved the MILP using CPLEX and implemented the ALNS heuristic in Python.

Undergraduate Research **July 2021 – July 2023**

"A Local Search Heuristic for the Bi-criteria Steiner Traveling Salesman Problem with Time Windows (BST-SPTW)" at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India, *PI: Dr. Tarun Rambha*

- Performed extensive literature review of existing heuristic algorithms for the Traveling Salesman Problem, including Pareto Local Searches, Lin-Kernighan Heuristic, and r-opt.
- Developed and implemented two brute-force exact methods for the Bi-Objective Steiner Traveling Salesman Problem with Time Windows (BSTSPTW).
- Formulated a new scalarization-based Mixed Integer Program (MIP) formulation for BSTSPTW using a single commodity flow based formulation and implemented it using CPLEX.
- Proposed a novel local search-based heuristic with six operators that out-performed an adapted version of Lin-Kernighan-Helsgaun (LKH) heuristic on real world Amazon delivery routes in Austin, US.
- **The work resulted in two conference presentations and a journal article.**

Thesis

[D2] **MS thesis:** Error bounds for stochastic user equilibrium traffic assignment. [**Link**]
Advisor: Dr. Stephen D. Boyles
The University of Texas at Austin

[D1] **Undergraduate thesis:** Energy efficient and safe routing for last mile logistics. [**Link**]
Advisor: Dr. Tarun Rambha
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Publications

[M1] Agarwal, P.[†], **Bagchi, D.**[†], Rambha, T., and Pandey, V. (2025). A Bi-criterion Steiner Traveling Salesperson Problem with Time Windows for Last-Mile Electric Vehicle Logistics. *Computers & Operations Research.* [**Code**] [**Paper**] (**[†]Equal contribution)**

Conference Presentations

[C12] **Bagchi, D.**, Bathgate, K., Boyles, S. D., and Asborno, M. I. (2026). A dynamic ultimate capacity framework for seaport systems. *Transportation Research Board 104th Annual Meeting* (**TRB**), Washington, D.C., USA. *(Accepted)*

[C11] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.**, Boyles, S. D., Mitchell, K. N., Asborno, M. I., and Kress, M. M. (2026). Characterizing anchorage queue dynamics due to channel fog closures at the Port of Houston. *Transportation Research Board 104th Annual Meeting* (**TRB**), Washington, D.C., USA. *(Accepted)*

[C10] Robbennolt, J., **Bagchi, D.**, and Boyles, S. D. (2026). Dynamic traffic assignment with uncertain demand: A localized queue spillback approach. *Transportation Research Board 104th Annual Meeting* (**TRB**), Washington, D.C., USA. *(Accepted)*

[C9] Robbennolt, J, **Bagchi, D.** and Boyles, S. D. (2025). Localized Queue Spillback with Uncertain Demand. *10th International Symposium on Dynamic Traffic Assignment* (**DTA2025**), Salerno, Italy.

[C8] **Bagchi, D.** and Boyles, S. D. (2025). Error bounds for stochastic user equilibrium traffic assignment. *12th Triennial Symposium on Transportation Analysis conference* (**TRISTAN XII**), Okinawa, Japan.

[C7] **Bagchi, D.**, Bathgate, K., and Boyles, S. D. (2025). A framework for measuring maritime port system capacities with limited input data. *Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting 2024* (**INFORMS**), Seattle, USA. **(Invited session)**

[C6] **Bagchi, D.**, Bathgate, K., and Boyles, S. D. (2025). A queuing-theory-based operating capacity model for multimodal port operations. *Transportation Research Board 104th Annual Meeting 2023* (**TRB**), Washington, D.C., USA. **(Lectern session)**

[C5] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.**, and Boyles, S. D. (2025). Use of AIS data to characterize vessel mix in Houston port operations for simulation. *Transportation Research Board 104th Annual Meeting 2023* (**TRB**), Washington, D.C., USA. **(Lectern session)**

[C4] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.**, and Boyles, S. D. (2024). Identifying capacities in a multimodal maritime freight network. *Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting 2024* (**INFORMS**), Seattle, USA. **(Invited session)**

[C3] **Bagchi, D.**, and Boyles, S. D. (2024). Error Bounds for Stochastic User Equilibrium Traffic Assignment. *Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting 2024* (**INFORMS**), Seattle, USA. **(Invited session)**

[C2] **Bagchi, D.**, Agarwal, P., Rambha, T., and Pandey, V. (2023). A Local Search Heuristic for Bi-criterion Steiner Traveling Salesman Problem. *Transportation Research Board 102nd Annual Meeting 2023* (**TRB**), Washington, D.C., USA.

[C1] **Bagchi, D.**, Agarwal, P., Rambha, T., and Pandey, V. (2022). A Local Search Heuristic for Bi-criterion Steiner Traveling Salesman Problem. *Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Annual Meeting 2022* (**INFORMS**), Indianapolis, USA.

Working Papers

[W8] **Bagchi, D.**, Bathgate, K., Boyles, S.D., Mitchell, K.N., Asborno, M.I., and Kress, M.M. (2025). A queuing theory-based operating capacity model for multi-modal port operations. **[Preprint]**

[W7] **Bagchi, D.**, Bathgate, K., Boyles, S.D., Mitchell, K.N., and Asborno, M.I. (2025). A Dynamic Ultimate Capacity Framework for Seaport Systems.

[W6] **Bagchi, D.**[†], Bathgate, K.[†], Boyles, S.D., Mitchell, K.N., Asborno, M.I., and Kress, M.M. (2025). A Generalizable Simulation Framework for Evaluating the Resilience and Capacity of Multimodal Port Operations. **[Code]** **([†]Equal contribution)**

[W5] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.**, Boyles, S.D., Mitchell, K.N., Asborno, M.I., and Kress, M.M. (2025). Hurricane Characteristics Influencing Multimodal Freight Resilience at the Port of Houston.

[W4] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.**, Boyles, S.D., Mitchell, K.N., Asborno, M.I., and Kress, M.M. (2025). Characterizing anchorage queue dynamics due to channel fog closures at the Port of Houston.

[W3] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.**, Boyles, S.D., Mitchell, K.N., Asborno, M.I., and Kress, M.M. (2025). Use of AIS Data to Characterize Vessel Mix in Houston Port Operations for Simulation.

[W2] Robbennolt, J., **Bagchi, D.**, and Boyles, S. D. (2025). Dynamic traffic assignment with uncertain demand: A localized queue spillback approach.

[W1] **Bagchi, D.** and Boyles, S. D. (2025). Error bounds for stochastic user equilibrium traffic assignment.

Technical Presentations and Posters

[T2] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.,** and Boyles S. D (2024). Simulation methods for measuring multimodal maritime freight system capacity, and resilience: A case study at the Port of Houston. *Presented in UT Austin Center for Transportation Research Annual Symposium, 2025*, Austin, USA.

[T1] Bathgate, K., **Bagchi, D.,** and Boyles S. D (2024). Data-Driven Modeling for Multimodal Port Resilience Assessment. *Presented in UT Austin Center for Transportation Research Annual Symposium, 2024*, Austin, USA.

Open source projects

[P2] **Major contributor** (one of two primary developers), Data-driven multimodal freight simulation framework for waterways and ports. **[Code]** **[Documentation]** **[Technical manual]**

[P1] **Major contributor** (one of two primary developers), Safe and energy-efficient routing of last-mile electric freight vehicles. **[Code]**

Awards and Certifications

- **Professional development award** from Graduate School, UT Austin (2025).
- **Certified engineering teaching assistant** from Cockrell School of Engineering, UT Austin (2025).
- **Graduate school fellowship** awarded by UT Austin Graduate School (2023-2027).
- **Institute gold medal** awarded by Indian Institute of Science for best performance in 4-year Bachelor of Science (Research) in Earth and Environmental Science (2023).
- **MITACS Globalink Research Internship** (GRI) awarded by MITACS, Canada (2022).
- **Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) fellowship** awarded by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (2019-2023).
- Awarded "Special Honor" in category "Academic excellence by a student" in The **Telegraph School Awards** (2019).
- Awarded **Dhirubhai Ambani scholarship** by Reliance Foundation (2019).
- **Jagadish Bose National Talent Search (JBNSTS) fellowship** (2018).
- **National Talent Search (NTSE) Scholarship** awarded by National Council of Education Research and Training, India (2017).

Test Scores

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) – 155/170 (Verbal Reasoning), 167/170 (Quantitative Reasoning), 4.0/6.0 (Analytical Writing), 2023.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT Test – 29/30 (Reading), 29/30 (Listening), 26/30 (Writing), 25/30 (Speaking), 109/120 (Overall), 2023.
- All India Rank 40 in National Creativity Aptitude Test (NCAT), 2020.
- **99.3 percentile score in Joint Entrance Examination (Main)** out of 1.5 million candidates, 2019.
- **Among top 1% in Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced)** out of 120 thousand candidates, 2019.
- 96% in All India Senior School Certificate Examination (12th Board examination), 2019.
- CGPA 10/10 in All India Secondary School Examination (10th board examination), 2017.

Teaching Experience

CE 311S Probability and Statistics for Civil Engineers

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2025, Fall 2025

- Assisted with major course redesign.
- Led two weekly discussion and recitation sections of 20 students each.
- Consolidated feedback rating 4.02 / 5.00 (Spring 2025) across seven parameters.

Skills and Interests

- **Research interests:** Freight and maritime logistics, traffic assignment, congestion pricing.
- **Technical skills:** Optimization, discrete event simulation, machine learning, data analysis, operations research, mathematical programming, Markov decision processes, reinforcement learning.
- **Programming languages:** Python, C, Julia, GAUSS, SQL.
- **Coursework:**
  - **Transportation:** Transportation network analysis, dynamic traffic assignment, railway project design & construction, public transportation, traffic engineering, discrete choice modeling, infrastructure systems.
  - **Operations research and mathematics:** Linear programming, non-linear programming, optimization, Markov decision processes, game theory, introduction to computing for AI & ML, linear algebra, real analysis.

Referee Service

Journal Referee

- Transportation Research Part B (2 reviews).

Conference Referee

- Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting (8 reviews).

Society Service

- **Community Service Chair**, UT Student Transportation Council, UT Austin chapter of Institute of Transportation Engineers (2023–2025)
- **Member**, Notebook Drive, Indian Institute of Science (2019–2023)

Co-Curricular Activities

- **Spanish Guitar**: Diploma with first-division distinction from Nikhil Bharat Sangeet Samiti.
- **Chess**: Member of All India Chess Federation, peak stable Lichess ratings (@debojjalb): 1423 (Rapid), 1453 (Blitz), 1175 (Bullet), 1502 (Puzzels).

Leadership Roles

- Co-founded CoachIO, an ed-tech startup to provide affordable boot-camp courses to KVPY and Olympiad aspirants across India. Managed a team of 9 members with gross revenue over 5 lakh INR.
- Coordinated and sourced funding for Quadspark, a national level quiz competition as a part of Pravega, IISc, Bengaluru. The event witnessed 1200+ participants and was held in 3 stages.
- Content creator on personal YouTube channel Debojjal Bagchi. The channel currently has over 10k subscribers and 1M+ views.