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## Education

- **Stanford University** *2022 to Present*  
Ph.D  
– Field: Theoretical Computer Science
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** *2021 to 2022*  
M.Eng.  
– Thesis Supervisor: Virginia Vassilevska Williams
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** *2017 to 2021*  
B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering and in Mathematics

## Research and Work Experience

- **Stanford University** *Sep. 2022 to present*  
Ph.D. currently advised by Prof. Aviad Rubinfeld  
– Focus on algorithms and complexity.
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** *Sep. 2021 to Sep. 2022*  
M.Eng. with thesis supervised by Prof. Virginia Vassilevska Williams  
– Focus on algorithms and complexity.
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** *Feb. 2020 to Dec. 2020*  
UROP advised by Professor Michael Sipser  
– Focus on algorithms and complexity.
- **Microsoft Corporation, Bellevue, WA** *Summer 2019*  
Intern  
– Software engineer intern.
- **Pony.ai, Inc., Fremont, CA** *Summer 2018*  
Intern  
– Software engineer intern.

## Publications

- [1] Ran Duan, Jiayi Mao, Xiao Mao, Xinkai Shu, and Longhui Yin. Breaking the sorting barrier for directed single-source shortest paths, 2025. URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.17033>, arXiv:2504.17033.  
(STOC 2025 Best Paper)
- [2] Xiao Mao.  $(1 - \epsilon)$ -approximation of knapsack in nearly quadratic time. In *Proceedings of the 56th Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing*, STOC 2024, page 295–306, New York, NY, USA, 2024. Association for Computing Machinery. doi:10.1145/3618260.3649677 (In ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC 2024)).
- [3] Xiao Mao. Fully dynamic all-pairs shortest paths: Likely optimal worst-case update time. In *Proceedings of the 56th Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing*, STOC 2024, page 1141–1152, New York, NY, USA, 2024. Association for Computing Machinery. doi:10.1145/3618260.3649695 (In ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC 2024)).
- [4] Xiao Mao Mingyang Deng, Ce Jin. Approximating Knapsack and Partition via Dense Subset Sums. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA)*, 2023.
- [5] Ziqian Zhong Mingyang Deng, Xiao Mao. On Problems Related to Unbounded SubsetSum: A Unified Combinatorial Approach. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA)*, 2023.
- [6] Xiao Mao. Breaking the Cubic Barrier for (Unweighted) Tree Edit Distance. In *Proceedings of the 62nd IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS)*, 2021.  
(Machtey Award for Best Student Paper) (Published in the SICOMP Special Issue for FOCS 2021)

## Selected Awards and Scholarships

- **FOCS 2021** 2021  
Best Student Paper (Machtey Award)
- **45th ICPC World Finals** November 2022  
Gold medal, 1st place
- **International Olympiad in Informatics** July to August 2017  
Silver medal
- **National Olympiad in Informatics, China** July 2016  
Gold medal, 1st place

## Talks

- **Breaking the Cubic Barrier for (Unweighted) Tree Edit Distance**
  - FOCS 2021 Feb 2022
  - Yao Class student seminar Sep 2021
  - Theory seminar at the University of Washington Mar 2022
- **Fully Dynamic All-Pairs Shortest Paths: Likely Optimal Worst-Case Update Time** June 2023
  - STOC 2024
- **$(1 - \epsilon)$ -Approximation of Knapsack in Nearly Quadratic Time** June 2023
  - STOC 2024

- **Approximating Knapsack and Partition via Dense Subset Sums**
  - SODA 2023

*Jan 2023*

## Service

- Conference Reviewing: ITCS 2022, SWAT 2022, MFCS 2022, SODA 2024, STOC 2024, FOCS 2024, SODA 2025, SODA 2025, STOC 2025