

Niangjun Chen

1 Fusionopolis Way, Connexis North Tower 16-16, Singapore 138632 | niangjun@gmail.com

<https://niangjunchen.github.io>

Research Interests

I am broadly interested in the design and analysis of online algorithms, optimization, mechanism design and their applications in enhancing operational efficiency of power grid, data centers, and transportation systems.

Education

California Institute of Technology

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| Ph.D. in Computer Science | GPA 4.1/4.3 | 10/2012 – 09/2017 |
| Master of Science | GPA 4.1/4.3 | 10/2012- 06/2014 |

University of Cambridge

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| B.A. in Computer Science | 1 st Class Honors in all three years | 10/2008 – 06/2011 |
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Employment

Research Scientist

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| Institute of High Performance Computing, A*STAR | 12/2017 – Present |
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Ph.D. in Computer Science

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| California Institute of Technology | 09/2012 – 09/2017 |
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Research Intern

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| Qualcomm Research | 06/2015 – 09/2015 |
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Research Engineer

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| Institute for Infocomm Research, A*STAR | 08/2011 – 06/2012 |
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Honors and Awards

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| ACM Sigmetrics Student Travel Grant | 2015, 2016 |
| National Science Scholarship (PHD), A*STAR, Singapore | 2012 |
| A*STAR Roll of Honor | 2012 |
| Foundation Scholar, Pembroke College Cambridge University | 2009, 2010, 2011 |

Publications

J. Comden, S. Yao, N. Chen, H. Xing, Z. Liu “Online Optimization in Cloud Resource Provisioning: Predictions, Regrets, and Algorithms”, ACM Sigmetrics, 2019.

N. Chen, G. Goel, A. Wierman “Smoothed Online Convex Optimization in High Dimensions via Online Balanced Descent”, Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), 2018.

N. Ruhi, K. Dvijotham, N. Chen, A. Wierman “Opportunities for price manipulation by aggregators in electricity markets” IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid, 9(6), 5687-5698.

N. Chen, “Online Algorithms: From Prediction to Decision”, Ph.D Thesis, California Institute of Technology, 2018

Y. Nakahira, N. Chen, L. Chen, S. Low “Smoothed Least Laxity First Algorithm for EV Charging”, Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Future Energy Systems, 242-251, 2017.

P. London, N. Chen, S. Vardi, A. Wierman “Distributed optimization via local computation algorithms”, ACM Sigmetrics Performance Evaluation Review 45 (2), 30-32

G. Goel, N. Chen, A. Wierman “Thinking Fast and Slow: Optimization Decomposition Across Timescales”, 2017 56th Conf. on Decision and Control, 1291-1298.

N. Ruhi, N. Chen, K. Dvijotham, A. Wierman “Opportunities for price manipulation by aggregators in electricity markets”, ACM Greenmetrics 2016, **Best Student Paper**.

N. Chen, J. Comden, Z. Liu, A. Gandhi and A. Wierman “Using Predictions in Online Optimization: Looking Forward with an Eye on the Past”, ACM Sigmetrics Performance Evaluation Review 44(1), 193-206, 2016.

N. Chen, X. Ren, S. Ren and A. Wierman “Greening Multi-tenant Data Center Demand Response”, Performance Evaluation, 91: 229-254 (2015)

N. Chen, A. Wierman, A. Agarwal, S. Barman and L. Andrew “Online Convex Optimization with Prediction”, in Proc. ACM Sigmetrics: 191-204, June Portland

N. Chen, “Model predictive control for deferrable loads scheduling”, Master Thesis, California Institute of Technology, 2014

N. Chen, L. Gan, S. H. Low, A. Wierman “Distributional Analysis for Model Predictive Deferrable Load Control”, in Proc. IEEE 53rd Conf. on Decision and Control: 6433-6438, Dec 2014 Los Angeles

N. Chen, T. Q. S. Quek, and C. W. Tan, “Electric vehicles charging in smart grid: Optimality and valley-filling algorithms”, IEEE Trans. on Selected Topics in Signal Processing 2014 8(6), 1073-1083

Z. Liu, A. Wierman, Y. Chen, B. Razon, N. Chen “Data Center Demand Response: Avoiding the Coincident Peak via Workload Shifting and Local Generation”, in Performance Evaluation 70, no.

10 (2013): 770-791

L. Gan, A. Wierman, U. Topcu, N. Chen, S. Low “Real-Time Deferrable Load Control: Handling Uncertainties of Renewable Generation”, in Proc. ACM e-Energy May 2013 Berkeley

N. Chen, T. Q. S. Quek, and C. W. Tan, “Optimal charging of electric vehicles in smart grid: characterization and valley-filling algorithms”, in Proc. IEEE SmartGridComm November 2012 Taiwan

Professional Activities

Reviewer for:

- Transactions on Networking
- Transactions on Signal Processing
- Transactions on Automatic Control
- Transactions on Smart Grid
- Transactions on Power Systems
- Transactions on Sustainable Energy
- NIPS(2018), ICML(2018), PSCC(2017), ACC(2017), CDC(2017), WCNC (2012, 2014)

Teaching Experience

TA for CS 146 (Platforms and Internet Marketplaces), Spring 2016
TA for CS 144 (Networks: Structure and Economics), Winter 2015
TA for CS 144 (Ideas Behind Our Networked World), Winter 2014
TA for CS 101C (Special Topics in Data Privacy), Spring 2013

Tools and Techniques: Proficiency in Java, Matlab, C/C++, Python, good working knowledge with Bash scripting, HTML