# Sheng'an Xu

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#### Education

## Nanjing University

Sept. 2021 - July 2025

BS in Applied Mathematics

- o GPA: 4.66/5.00 (Rank 1/48 in major, 2/132 in department)
- Selected Coursework: Real Analysis (94), Partial Differential Equations (96.3), Topology (96), Advanced Algebra (98), Probability Theory (97), Numerical Analysis (90), Advanced Optimization (in progress)

### University of Wisconsin, Madison (Exchange Program)

Jan. 2024 - May 2024

- o GPA: 4.0/4.0
- o Coursework: Real Analysis II, Complex Analysis, Lie Algebra, Stochastic Processes, Differential Geometry, Algebraic Topology

## Honors & Awards

- o Meritorious Prize, American Mathematical Contest in Modeling (2023)
- National Scholarship (0.2% in China, 2021-2022)
- Guo-Xie-Birong Scholarship (Highest Honor in department, 2023-2024)
- o Special Scholarship of Basic Sciences, Nanjing University (Top 10% in department, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- Excellent Freshman Student, Nanjing University (2021-2022)
- o Outstanding Leader, Tian-Jian Voluntary Association, Nanjing University (2022-2023)

# Research Experience

## Optimization Based on Diffusion Models

April 2024 – Nov. 2024

Advisor: Prof. Caihua Chen, Nanjing University

- Aimed to increase optimization efficiency and eliminate the innate uncertainties in black-box scenarios by converting black-box optimization into conditional sampling.
- Transformed the generation of a single output solution into the production of a distribution of high-quality solutions, addressing key issues like the instability of one-step methods and the limited adaptability of traditional numerical approaches.
- Employed iterative methods to generate a trajectory of (point, value) pairs for special integer programming problems; Trained a conditional diffusion model on this trajectory dataset, facilitating the generation of feasible solutions for integer programming problems with variable parameters.
- Applied the discrete diffusion model to optimization problems with graph structures and combined with heuristic sampling methods to improve the quality of the resulting solutions.

## Professional Experience

# Machine Learning Engineer

June 2024 - Aug. 2024

Nanjing Huihu Intelligence Technology Co., Ltd

- o Natural Language Processing: Implemented a real-time system to identify, separate, and extract audio clips from videos and audio streams based on distinct voice profiles, ensuring subtitle generation commenced before the halfway mark of each clip; formulated the audio recovery task as a composite optimization problem and applied the accelerated proximal gradient algorithm to tackle it.
- Computer Vision: Assessed the stability of video footage recording law enforcement activities using optical flow techniques; utilized SlowFast and YOLOv10 models to track and evaluate law enforcers' movements, achieving scenario classification accuracy exceeding 80%.

## **Projects**

## Recommendation Algorithm-Guided Database Platform

Sept. 2022 – Jan. 2023

Group Leader

Led a project on MySQL database design, achieving top course scores (93%) and implemented video recommendation features.

- Developed targeted video recommendations using user profiles, browsing history, video quality, novelty, publicity metrics, and calendar-based event dates.
- Designed a top video ranking system with features like video screening and grading, keyword research, and modes optimized for eye comfort and teenagers.
- Managed database security, including comprehensive backup and restoration procedures.

# User Stickiness and Game Complexity

Feb. 2023 - March 2023

Modeler

Awarded the Meritorious Prize in American Mathematical Contest in Modeling.

- Modeled user engagement, collaborated on code implementation, and contributed innovative data-driven insights.
- Predicted charades player growth trends using ARIMA models and analyzed players' guessing behaviors through kernel density estimation.
- Established a word difficulty criterion via the entropy weight method and Embedding techniques, achieving 81.6% accuracy in grading using a linear probability model, after benchmarking against the Fisher linear discriminant model.

### Theoretical Design for Laser Charging Components

Sept. 2021 - Jan. 2022

Group Leader

Demonstrated the potential of the laser charging industry and scored 95% in the oral defense of a seminar course.

- Organized regular discussions on the feasibility of laser charging and led the theoretical design of laser chargers.
- Designed a laser emitter with safety features, balancing cost and performance, and evaluated semiconductor materials for efficient energy conversion and heat dissipation in photovoltaic cells.
- o Designed a photovoltaic-equipped receiver and energy module, optimizing for real-world applications.

### Skills

Programming Languages: C++, Python, MATLAB, R Tools: Excel, GitHub, LaTeX, Mathematica, MySQL

## **Selected Readings**

Convex Optimization by Stephen Boyd and Lieven Vandenberghe Convex Optimization: Algorithms and Complexity by Sébastien Bubeck Lectures on Modern Convex Optimization by Aharon Ben-Tal and Arkadi Nemirovski Real Analysis: Modern Techniques and Their Applications by Gerald B. Folland Essentials of Stochastic Processes by Richard Durrett