



Xinyu Chen

Postdoc, MIT (now)

Advisor: Prof. Jinhua Zhao

PhD, University of Montreal ('23)  
Civil Engineering (Transportation)

### Interests

- Advanced computing for engineering
- Urban system & human mobility
- Data-driven traffic flow modeling
- Climate system monitoring
- Machine learning & data science
- Optimization & math programming

Collaboration w/ CEE, EECS, Stat, Math



## Interdisciplinary Research

Computational Engineering in CEE



### PhD (ML for Transportation)

- **Traffic imputation** w/ tensor decomposition  
*Chen et al.'19; Chen et al.'21* in *Transportation Research Part C (cited 300+)*  
*Chen et al.'22* in *IEEE Transactions Intelligent Transportation Systems (cited 100+)*  
*Chen et al.'24* in *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)*
- **Mobility prediction** w/ Nonconvex optimization  
*Chen & Sun'22* in *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI) (cited 250+)*  
*Chen et al.'24* in *INFORMS Journal on Computing (IJOC)*
- **Dynamic climate pattern discovery**  
*Chen et al.'24* in *TKDE*

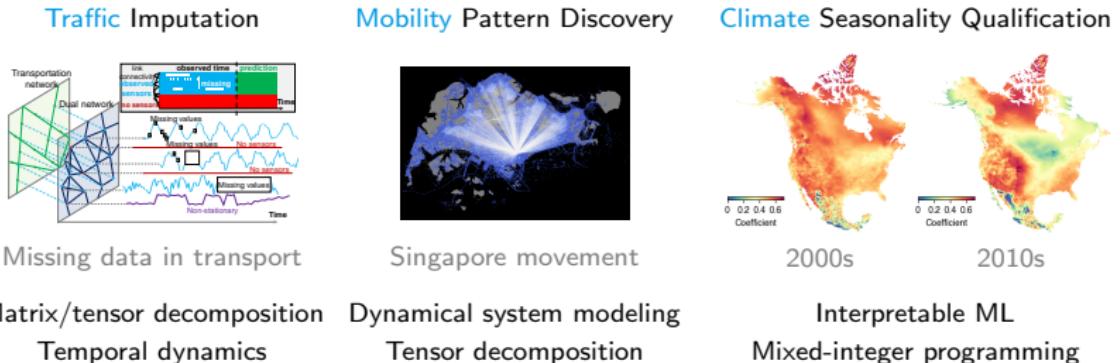
### Postdoc (ML + Optimization for Spatiotemporal Data)

- **Tensor decomposition for ML**  
*Chen et al.'24*, major revision in *TPAMI*
- **Causal inference from climate systems**  
*Chen et al.'24*, 2nd-round review in *TKDE*
- **Mobility periodicity quantification**  
Ready for submission to *IJOC*

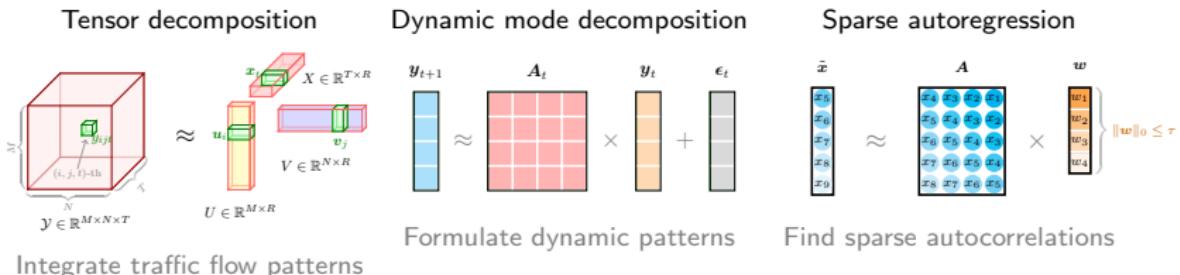


# Research Contributions

- Formulating challenging engineering problems (w/ practical contributions)



- Advancing ML development (w/ methodological contributions)



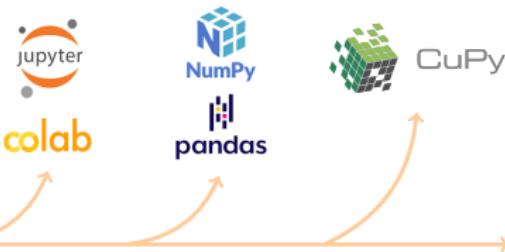
# Reproducible Research for Engineering

- The last mile of AI for computational engineering

Human mobility & smart cities  
Data-driven transport analytics  
Spatiotemporal data modeling  
Interpretable ML for causal inference  
Tensor decomposition for ML

...

Directions & Topics



Reproducible Research

- Advancing ML development with open-source research



**transdim**  
(1,200+ GitHub stars)

ML for Transport Data Imputation

<https://github.com/xinychen/transdim>

The screenshot shows the 'Tensor4ML' initiative page on the MIT website. The page title is 'Tensor Decomposition for Machine Learning' by Xinyi Chen, Sanya Dongyu, Jinhui Zhou (2022). It describes the initiative's goal of advancing tensor decomposition models and algorithms, along with applications in causal and tensor decomposition techniques across a wide range of scientific areas and applications.

**Tensor Decomposition for ML**  
(ML initiative)

Math & ML Tutorials

<https://sites.mit.edu/tensor4ml>



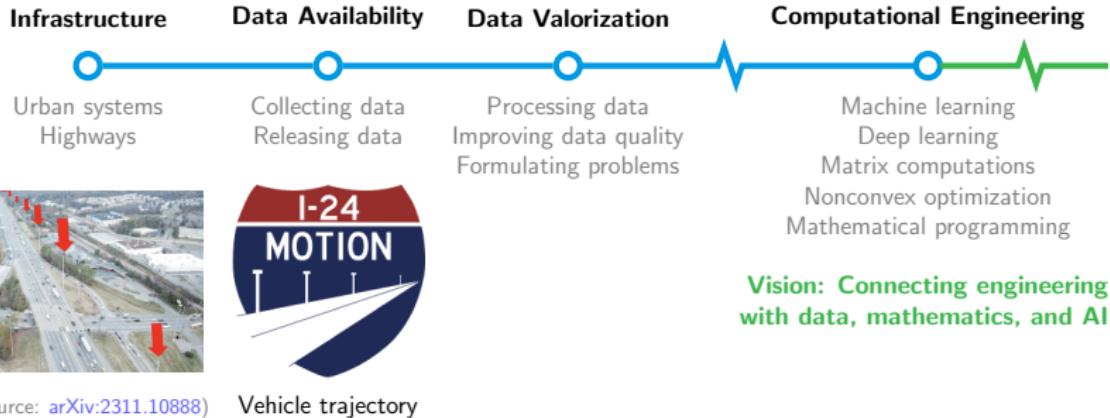
**Spatiotemporal data modeling**  
(Data valorization initiative)

Model Development of ML & Data Science

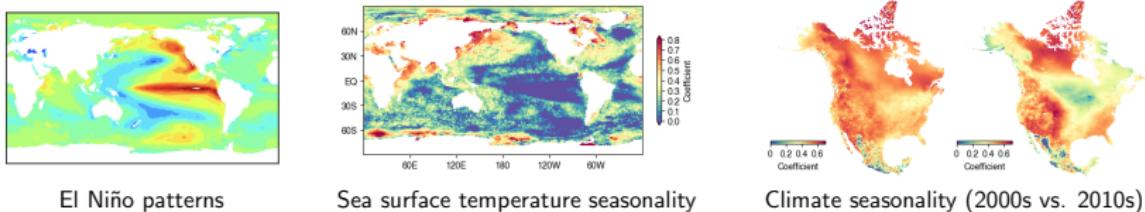
<https://spatiotemporal-data.github.io>

# Building Research Impact at Vanderbilt

- Contributing to CEE, College of Connected Computing & Data Science Institute



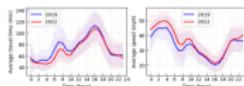
- Contributing to Vanderbilt Center for Sustainability, Energy and Climate



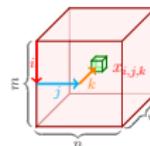
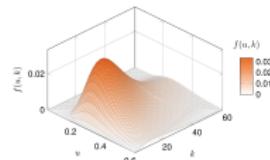
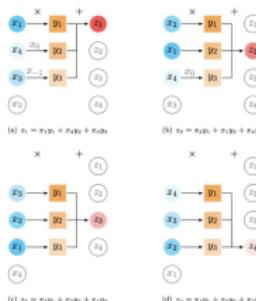
- Supervising students: Undergraduate Summer Research Program; Immersion VU; Experience Vanderbilt; Serving for PhD committee

Teaching & Grant

- **Teaching Interests & Plan**
    - Formats: Tutorial, data example, LaTeX graphic, Python code, GitHub repository, and course website



**Figure 6.** Average travel time and speed from area 32 (i.e., Downtown) to area 76 (i.e., Monroeville) in both 2019 and 2023



**Figure 2.** Illustration of the circular convolution between  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^\top$  and  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, y_3)^\top$ . (a) Computing  $z_1$  involves  $x_0 = x_4$  and  $x_{-1} = x_3$ . (b) Computing  $z_2$  involves  $x_0 = x_4$ . The figure inspired by Prince (2023).

Data-Driven Transportation Analytics

Computing Fundamentals in CEE

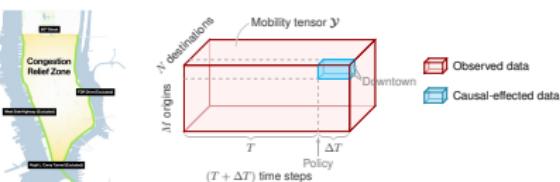
Spatiotemporal Modeling in CEE

- **Grant & Funding**



Transit-Centric Smart Mobility System with ML (DOE)

(PI: Jinhua Zhao, Role: Senior Researcher)



## Causal inference for congestion pricing (NSF, submitted) (PI: Jinhua Zhao; Co-PI: Ankur Moitra, Role: Senior Researcher)