



**POLYTECHNIQUE  
MONTRÉAL**

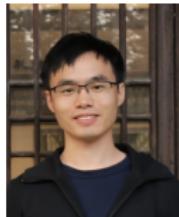
UNIVERSITÉ  
D'INGÉNIERIE



# Laplacian Convolutional Representation for Traffic Time Series Imputation

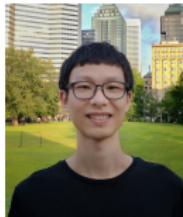
**Xinyu Chen**

July 19, 2023



**Ph.D. Candidate**

Xinyu Chen  
Polytechnique Montréal



**Postdoc**

Dr. Zhanhong Cheng  
McGill University



**Supervisor**

Prof. Nicolas Saunier  
Polytechnique Montréal



**Co-supervisor**

Prof. Lijun Sun  
McGill University

## Current work:

- X. Chen, Z. Cheng, N. Saunier, L. Sun (2022). Laplacian convolutional representation for traffic time series imputation. arXiv preprint arXiv:2212.01529.

## GitHub repository:

- **transdim**: Machine learning for spatiotemporal traffic data imputation and forecasting. (1,000+ stars & 270+ forks on GitHub)  
<https://github.com/xinychen/transdim>

## Slides:

- <https://xinychen.github.io/slides/LCR.pdf>

# Outline

---

- **Motivation**

- Data-Driven ITS

- Time Series Imputation

- Speed Field Reconstruction

- **Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model**

- Reformulate Laplacian Regularization

- **Experiments**

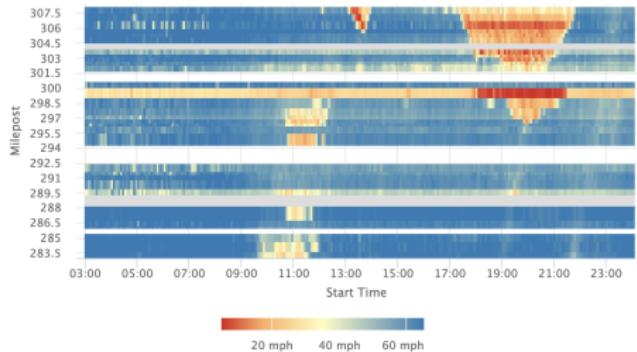
- Univariate Traffic Time Series Imputation

- Multivariate Model for Speed Field Reconstruction

- **Conclusion**

# Motivation

- Portland highway traffic flow data<sup>1</sup>



Traffic speed field

Highway network & sensor locations

- Speed field  $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times T}$  ( $N$  locations &  $T$  time steps)
- Speed field shows strong spatial/temporal dependencies

<sup>1</sup><https://portal.its.pdx.edu/home>

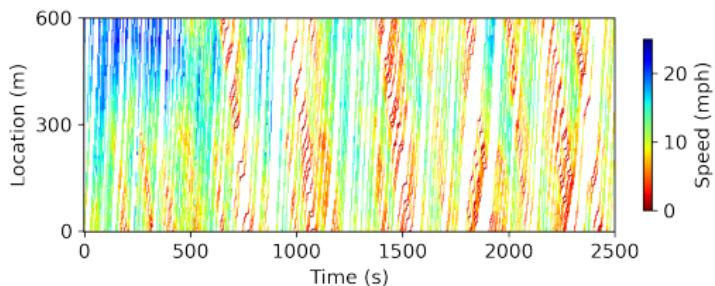
## Motivation

---

- How to reconstruct missing values from partial observations?

# Motivation

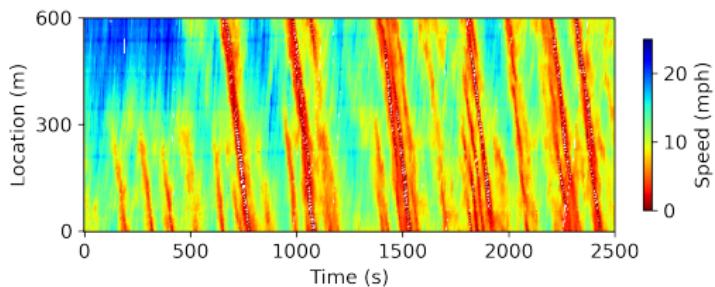
---



200-by-500 matrix  
(NGSIM)



Reconstruct speed field from  
20% sparse trajectories?



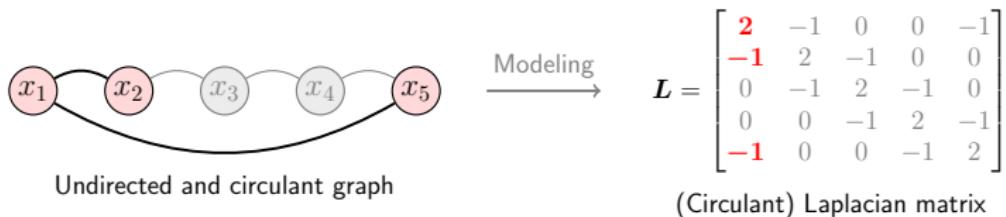
- How to learn from sparse spatiotemporal data?
- How to characterize spatial/temporal local dependencies?

# Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

---

Reformulate Laplacian regularization with circular convolution.

- Intuition of (circulant) Laplacian matrix.



# Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

---

Reformulate Laplacian regularization with circular convolution.

- Intuition of (circulant) Laplacian matrix.

The diagram illustrates the modeling of an undirected and circulant graph. On the left, five nodes labeled  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_4$ , and  $x_5$  are arranged horizontally. Each node is connected to its immediate neighbors, forming a cycle. Below this graph is the label "Undirected and circulant graph". An arrow labeled "Modeling" points from the graph to the right, where the (Circulant) Laplacian matrix  $L$  is defined. The matrix  $L$  is a 5x5 matrix with the following entries:

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

(Circulant) Laplacian matrix

# Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

Reformulate Laplacian regularization with circular convolution.

- Intuition of (circulant) Laplacian matrix.

The diagram illustrates the mapping between an undirected and circulant graph and its corresponding (circulant) Laplacian matrix. On the left, five nodes labeled  $x_1$  through  $x_5$  are arranged in a circle, connected by edges forming a cycle. This is labeled "Undirected and circulant graph". An arrow labeled "Modeling" points to the right, where the (circulant) Laplacian matrix  $\mathbf{L}$  is given as:

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

(Circulant) Laplacian matrix

- Laplacian kernel:  $\ell = (2, -1, 0, 0, -1)^\top$ .

$$\mathbf{L}\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \end{bmatrix} = \ell * \mathbf{x}$$

- Local trend modeling via (Laplacian) temporal regularization:

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|\ell * \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

# Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

---

Reformulate Laplacian regularization with circular convolution.

- Define Laplacian kernel:

$$\boldsymbol{\ell} \triangleq (\underbrace{2\tau, -1, \dots, -1}_{\text{degree}} \underbrace{0, \dots, 0, -1, \dots, -1}_{\tau})^\top \in \mathbb{R}^T$$

for any time series  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_T)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^T$ .

- Local trend modeling via (Laplacian) temporal regularization:

$$\mathcal{R}_\tau(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{L}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{\ell} \star \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2T} \|\mathcal{F}(\boldsymbol{\ell}) \circ \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x})\|_2^2$$

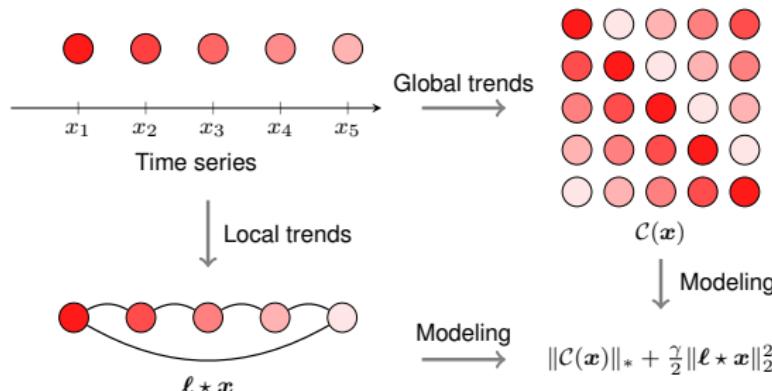
# Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

## Laplacian Convolutional Representation (LCR)

For any partially observed time series  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^T$  with observed index set  $\Omega$ , LCR utilizes circulant matrix and Laplacian kernel to characterize **global and local trends** in time series, respectively, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x})\|_* + \gamma \cdot \mathcal{R}_\tau(\mathbf{x}) \\ & \text{s.t. } \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})\|_2 \leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{C} : \mathbb{R}^T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  denotes the circulant operator.  $\|\cdot\|_*$  denotes the nuclear norm of matrix, namely, the sum of singular values.



## Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

---

- LCR model:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & \|\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x})\|_* + \gamma \cdot \mathcal{R}_\tau(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})\|_2 \leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

- Augmented Lagrangian function:

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) = \|\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x})\|_* + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\ell * \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z} \rangle + \frac{\eta}{2} \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{y})\|_2^2$$

where  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^T$  is the Lagrange multiplier, and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the inner product.

- The ADMM scheme:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{x} := \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) \\ \mathbf{z} := \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) \\ = \frac{1}{\lambda + \eta} \mathcal{P}_\Omega(\lambda \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{w} + \eta \mathbf{y}) + \mathcal{P}_\Omega^\perp(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{w}/\lambda) \\ \mathbf{w} := \mathbf{w} + \lambda(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}) \end{array} \right.$$

# Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

- Optimize  $\mathbf{x}$  via fast Fourier transform (in  $\mathcal{O}(T \log T)$  time):

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x} &:= \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x})\|_* + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\ell * \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{w}/\lambda\|_2^2 \\ \implies \hat{\mathbf{x}} &:= \arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\|_1 + \frac{\gamma}{2T} \|\hat{\ell} \circ \hat{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2T} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{z}} + \hat{\mathbf{w}}/\lambda\|_2^2 \\ &= \arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2T} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - (\lambda \hat{\mathbf{z}} - \hat{\mathbf{w}}) \oslash (\lambda \hat{\ell}^* \circ \hat{\ell} + \lambda \mathbb{1}_T)\|_2^2\end{aligned}$$

where we introduce  $\{\hat{\ell}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{z}}, \hat{\mathbf{w}}\}$  referring to  $\{\ell, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}\}$  in the frequency domain.

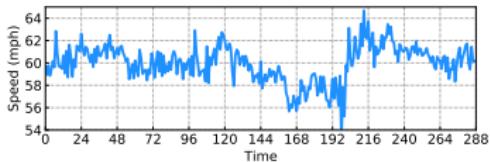
## $\ell_1$ -norm Minimization in Complex Space (Liu & Zhang'22)

For any optimization problem in the form of  $\ell_1$ -norm minimization in complex space:

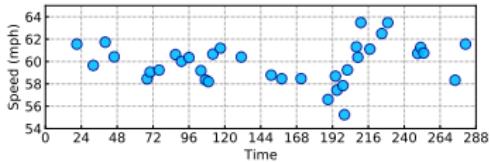
$$\min_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2T} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{h}}\|_2^2$$

with complex-valued  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{h}} \in \mathbb{C}^T$ , element-wise, the solution is given by

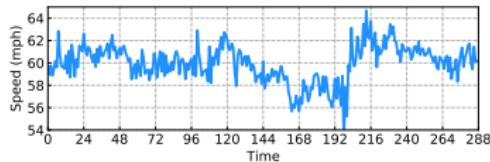
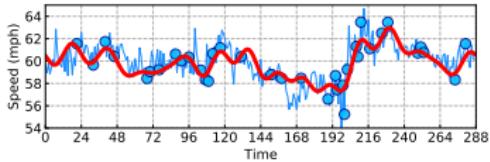
$$\hat{x}_t := \frac{\hat{h}_t}{|\hat{h}_t|} \cdot \max\{0, |\hat{h}_t| - T/\lambda\}, t = 1, \dots, T.$$



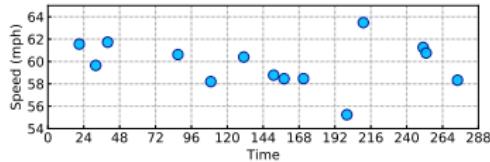
↓ Mask 90% observations



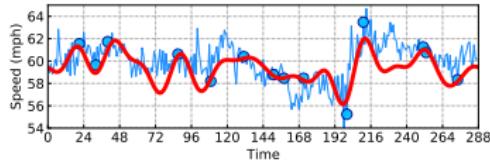
↓ Reconstruct time series



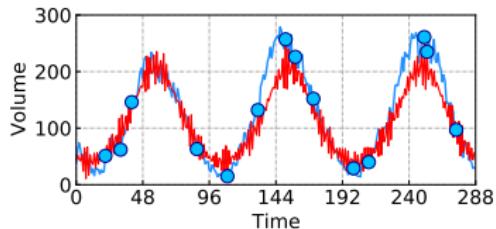
↓ Mask 95% observations



↓ Reconstruct time series

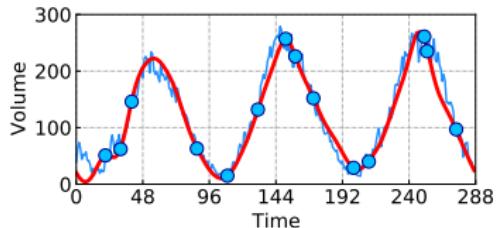


## Circulant matrix nuclear norm minimization



$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\boldsymbol{x}} \quad & \|\mathcal{C}(\boldsymbol{x})\|_* \\ \text{s. t. } \quad & \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y})\|_2 \leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

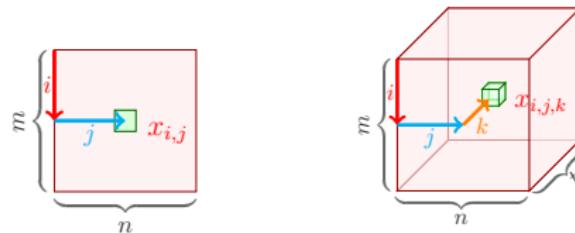
↓ Plus temporal regularization



$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\boldsymbol{x}} \quad & \|\mathcal{C}(\boldsymbol{x})\|_* + \gamma \cdot \mathcal{R}_\tau(\boldsymbol{x}) \\ \text{s. t. } \quad & \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y})\|_2 \leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

# Low-Rank Laplacian Convolutional Model

- What is tensor?  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  vs.  $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n \times t}$

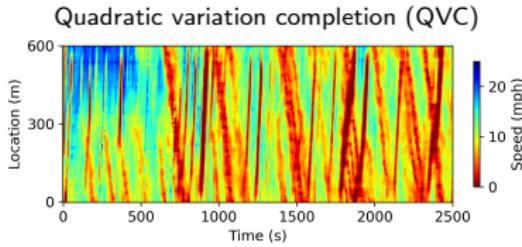


## Multivariate LCR (LCR-2D)

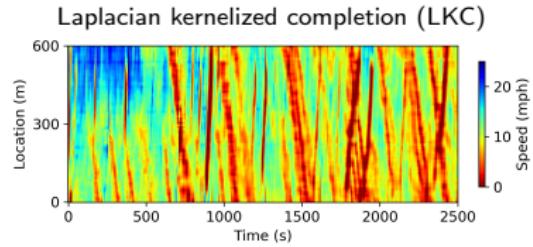
For any partially observed time series  $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times T}$  with observed index set  $\Omega$ , LCR can be formulated as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{X}} \quad & \|\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X})\|_* + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|(\boldsymbol{\ell}_s \boldsymbol{\ell}^\top) \star \mathbf{X}\|_F^2 \\ \text{s.t. } & \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y})\|_F \leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

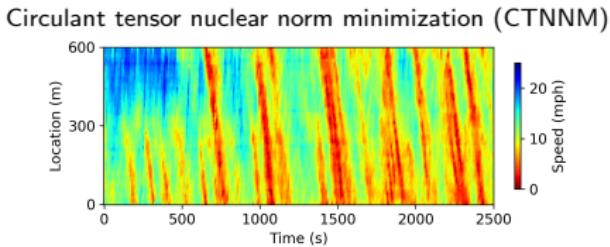
where  $\mathcal{C} : \mathbb{R}^{N \times T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{N \times N \times T \times T}$  denotes the circulant operator.



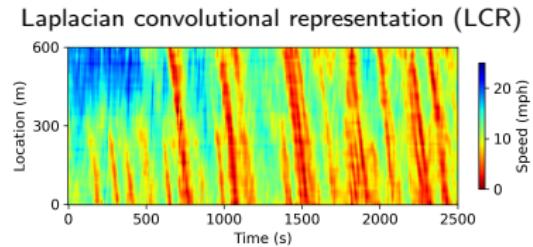
MAPE = 51.50% & RMSE = 4.86mph



MAPE = 46.94% & RMSE = 4.34mph



MAPE = 43.51% & RMSE = 1.65mph



MAPE = 41.29% & RMSE = 1.55mph

- QVC & LKC:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{X}} \quad & \frac{\gamma}{2} \|(\ell_s \ell^\top) \star \mathbf{X}\|_F \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y})\|_F \leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

- CTNNM:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{X}} \quad & \|\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{X})\|_* \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y})\|_F \leq \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

# Conclusion

---

- **(Starting point)** How to reconstruct sparse speed field?
  - ✓ Matrix factorization (**MF**)   ✓ Tensor factorization (**TF**)
- **(Highlight)** The importance of spatiotemporal modeling in low-rank methods?
  - Spatial/temporal **smoothing** regularization:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{W}, \mathbf{X}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{P}_{\Omega}(\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{W}^{\top} \mathbf{X}) \right\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} (\|\mathbf{W}\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{X}\|_F^2) \\ & + \frac{\lambda}{2} (\|\mathbf{W} \Psi_1^{\top}\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{X} \Psi_2^{\top}\|_F^2) \end{aligned}$$

- Automatic temporal modeling via **Hankelization**:

$$\min_{\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{X}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{P}_{\tilde{\Omega}} \left( \mathcal{H}_{\tau}(\mathbf{Y}) - \sum_{r=1}^R \mathbf{u}_r \otimes \mathbf{v}_r \otimes \mathbf{x}_r \right) \right\|_F^2$$

vs.

$$\min_{\mathbf{Q}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathcal{P}_{\dot{\Omega}} \left( \mathcal{H}_{\tau_1, \tau_2}(\mathbf{Y}) - \sum_{r=1}^R \mathbf{q}_r \otimes \mathbf{s}_r \otimes \mathbf{u}_r \otimes \mathbf{v}_r \right) \right\|_F^2$$

- **(Challenge)** How to solve the **high memory consumption** issue in the Hankelization process?



POLYTECHNIQUE  
MONTRÉAL

UNIVERSITÉ  
D'INGÉNIERIE



# Thanks for your attention!

Any Questions?

## About me:

- 🏠 Homepage: <https://xinychen.github.io>
- 👤 GitHub: <https://github.com/xinychen> (3.4k+ stars)
- 💻 Blog: <https://medium.com/@xinyu.chen> (70k+ views)
- ✉️ How to reach me: [chenxy346@gmail.com](mailto:chenxy346@gmail.com)