William Zijie Zhang

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EDUCATION

Polytechnique Montreal

Montreal, Canada

Master's in Electrical Engineering, Supervisor: Antoine Lesage-Landry

Sept. 2024 - Present

Concordia University

Montreal, Canada

Bachelor of Computer Science Honours, Minor in Mathematics and Statistics

Sept. 2020 - May. 2024

University of Manchester

Manchester, United Kingdom

Concordia Student Exchange Program, Exchange Ambassador

Jan. 2023 - June. 2023

EXPERIENCE

NumFOCUS

Gridmatic

Open Source Core Developer @ CVXPY

Aug. 2024 – Present

Remote

• Helped lead the release for version 1.6.0

• Triaged GitHub issues, reviewed pull requests, helped userbase by answering questions on Discord

• Discussed future direction of the project with the maintainer team

Research Scientist Intern

June 2024 – Sept. 2024

Cupertino, California

• Mentors: Steven Diamond and Amir Mousavi

• Led the development of new CVXPY features: ND expressions matching NumPy's API and sparse variables reducing problem dimension

• Helped implement these new features into a battery (CAISO) and market (ERCOT) simulator

• Supported the retail team with visualizations of backtest performance for a controllable load with ancillary awards

Open Source Contributor @ CVXPY

June 2023 - Aug. 2024

Google Summer of Code - NumFOCUS

Remote

• Mentor: Philipp Schiele, Final Report: Link

• Improved compilation time of parametrized convex optimization problems by **up to 100x**. These performance benefits affect almost all of CVXPY's users.

• Implemented canonicalization backends in NumPy and SciPy by replacing the original sparse tensor representation. Designing new backends in python-graphBLAS and Rust.

• Benchmarked and analyzed issues raised by the community in domains such as: Plasticity Modelling, Quantum Computing and Portfolio Optimization.

• NumFOCUS independent developer contract: updating the CVXPY documentation and webpage

PROJECTS

Compeuler | Lexical and semantic analysis, AST and code generation

Jan. 2024 - May 2024

- developed a $\mathrm{LL}(1)$ grammar from a set of syntax rules for a custom language
- formed and visualized abstract syntax trees using Graphviz and the visitor pattern while parsing nodes
- generated and executed MOON assembly code for simple programs of the language

Broadcasting in NetworkX | Graph Theory, Algorithms and Heuristics

Aug. 2023 – Dec. 2024

- Supervisor: Hovhannes Harutyunyan, Final Report: Link
- Implemented a linear-time tree broadcasting algorithm using the Python graph analysis library NetworkX
- Contributed to NetworkX's graph algorithms suite by introducing a new section for broadcasting

Presentations

Convex Programming with CVXPY

Manchester, United Kingdom

Manchester Interdisciplinary Mathematics Undergraduate Conference

Mar. 2023

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Frameworks: CVXPY, NumPy, SciPy, NetworkX, graphBLAS

Languages: Python, SQL, C/C++, JavaScript, Java

Developer Tools: Git, Docker, MongoDB, Microsoft Azure, Databricks

Certifications: Databricks Data Engineering Associate, Microsoft Azure Fundamentals