



Dear professor and admission committee,

It is my utmost honor and privilege to present to the prestigious Stanford University, my statement of purpose:

### A Brief Opening

I matriculated at *urban planning* Nanjing University in 2014 (first choice *physics*), and transferred to *financial engineering* in 2016. During the past *two* years I changed from a timid wanderer to an aggressive partaker, and as bygone dots emerge connected future vision clear ahead I am now ready for next leap via *MS&E* at Stanford.

### What makes me ME

Life is a series of correlated events, yet can stretch in the most unexpected way. Aside from skills the undergraduate years afforded me with a positive set of beliefs, that put in right hands sure declares a bright prospect.

Past experiences inform me challenges are shortcuts to transcendence. As a transfer student I chose to complete the ordinary credit requirement in an extraordinary way, namely advanced courses first, to accelerate burn-in. Though originally forced into *Data Structure*, the remedial three-week self-taught college-level C shored up both competence and confidence for afterwards actively enrolled programming related course, where no matter in machine learning or big data projects I exhibited unnatural adaptiveness judging from peers' open performance.

Throughout the post-transfer study I had better pursuit than grade points. Initially arrived as an introverted outsider teaming with the inadequate, my innate uncompromisingness drove me to *ace* nearly *all* group projects *alone*. Applying models wildly beyond course expectation embracing aesthetic principles, my endeavor not only ignited huge personal progress, but also helped won professors and later friends, to whom I am greatly indebted.

My confidence amassed eventually to an upheaval that calls for increasingly radical ambitious moves, after watch and learned from manifold brilliant minds. For the first time, this year I overcame my long-accompanied shyness greedily reached out for every single chance, as a result I joined research got my first paper, procured internship met awesome people, for me starting is everything, and being turned down simply testifies my discerning taste.

Perhaps my uniqueness owes much to the first darkest two years, there afflicted by unrequited love from both person and major the insipid bitterness provoked fundamental thinking of life, a bargain price exacted for what fate bestows. It is been through desperations that I so come to appreciate help, for those generous ones received I seek to pay it back and pass it on, entertaining someday through personal influence make world a better place.

Fronting the future unpredictable at best, instead of here revealing plans I hold on to principles borrowed from investor Warren Buffett, i.e. *'brain, passion and integrity'*, being both who I aspire to grow to be and would like to partner with. I imagine myself being a snowball, bearing in mind a distant picture I pick the path of steepest ascent, everyday reflection empowers me to jump out of either obstacles or local maxima, and I'll keep rolling.

### Why Stanford MS&E

When people talk about Stanford they conventionally mean the best, as along my inglorious path of growth I feel genuine fortune encountering a handful of Stanford People, where unassumingness is their second trait in common other than success. In research this summer led by *Prof. Xiaowei Ding* (advisor *Prof. Kay Giesecke*), the sleepless nights simulation of applying various OR/ML strategies to optimize routing pattern as well as resource allocation convinced me where my sense of accomplishment is truly from, meanwhile the paper far from content spurs me well to hasten, as I seized chance to consult *Prof. Zizhuo Wang* (advisor *Prof. Yinyu Ye*) during his visit, and I seek resolving my unfinished conundrum inside a tough yet fruitful journey at great MS&E Stanford.

Outside the academic paradise Stanford serves as rendezvous for most disruptive geniuses, people come to shake the world gathering around the promised land on which *the wind of freedom blows*, and I was lucky again breathing the invigorating air by acquiring internship at Amino Capital right next-door, there witnessing tech pioneers and their ideas beckons me to be part of them, and the inclusive, flexible MS&E cannot be more ideal.

On Lagunita *Prof. Tim Roughgarden* by courtesy of MS&E ignited my passion for algorithms in the first several clips, where his pulsating rhythm, insightful understanding, extreme simplicity together with ingenious humor made study pure delectation. It was only my first course from Stanford and I have no idea who I shall become if I could be there, in fact I am finishing this application now to return sooner to my online Stanford immersion. Last I want to express hearty thanks for your patience, and may I be honored to welcome you at <https://zzsang.com>.

Yours sincerely,

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