Dustin Tran

Ph.D. Student
Columbia University
Department of Computer Science
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Education

Ph.D. Computer Science, Columbia University — 2016–
Advisors: David M. Blei, Andrew Gelman

M.S. Computational Science & Engineering, Harvard University — 2014–2015
Advisor: Edoardo M. Airoldi

B.A. (Hon.) Mathematics, Statistics, University of California, Berkeley — 2010–2014

Employment

Research Intern — May 2017 –
OpenAI

Visiting Researcher — May 2016 – Aug 2016
Graduate School of Business, Stanford University
Collaborators: Susan Athey, Matt Hoffman, Kevin Murphy

Visiting Researcher — 2015
Department of Statistics and Computer Science, Columbia University
Supervisors: David M. Blei, Andrew Gelman

Awards

Google Ph.D. Fellowship in Machine Learning ($34,000 + tuition/fees) — 2017–

Columbia SEAS Fellowship (Full funding) — 2016–

Adobe Research Fellowship ($10,000) — 2016

LinkedIn Economic Graph Challenge — 2015

Harvard GSAS Fellowship (Full funding) — 2015

Dorothea Klumpke Roberts Prize in Mathematics — 2014

Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship (Full funding) — 2010–2014

Rose Hills Foundation Science & Engineering Grant ($5,000) — 2013

Cal Alumni Leadership Scholarship ($2,500) — 2010

Publications

PREPRINTS

1. **D. Tran**, D.M. Blei. Implicit causal models.
2. A. Gelman, A. Vehtari, P. Jylänki, T. Sivula, **D. Tran**, S. Sahai, P. Blomstedt, J.P. Cunningham, D. Schiminovich, and C. Robert. Expectation propagation as a way of life: A framework for Bayesian inference on partitioned data.
3. **D. Tran**, R. Ranganath, D.M. Blei. Deep and hierarchical implicit models.
4. **D. Tran**, A. Kucukelbir, A.B. Dieng, D. Liang, M. Rudolph, and D.M. Blei. Edward: A library for probabilistic modeling, inference, and criticism.
5. **D. Tran**, F.J.R. Ruiz, S. Athey, and D.M. Blei. Model criticism for Bayesian causal inference.
6. A.B. Dieng, **D. Tran**, R. Ranganath, J. Paisley, and D.M. Blei. The χ divergence for approximate inference.
7. **D. Tran**, A. Kucukelbir, A. Gelman, B. Carpenter, and D.M. Blei. Stan: Generalizing and automating variational inference.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

8. **D. Tran**, P. Toulis, and E.M. Airoldi. Stochastic gradient descent methods for estimation with large data sets. *Journal of Statistical Software*, To appear.
9. **D. Tran** and D.M. Blei. Comment, "Fast Approximate Inference for Arbitrarily Large Semiparametric Regression Models via Message Passing". *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 112(517):156–158, 2017.
10. A. Kucukelbir, **D. Tran**, R. Ranganath, A. Gelman, and D.M. Blei. Automatic differentiation variational inference. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 18(14):1–45, 2017.

CONFERENCE ARTICLES

11. **D. Tran**, M.D. Hoffman, R.A. Saurous, E. Brevdo, K. Murphy, and D.M. Blei. Deep probabilistic programming. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2017.
12. R. Ranganath, J. Altosaar, **D. Tran**, and D.M. Blei. Operator variational inference. In *Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2016.
13. R. Ranganath, **D. Tran**, and D.M. Blei. Hierarchical variational models. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2016.
14. **D. Tran**, M. Kim, and F. Doshi-Velez. Spectral M-estimation with application to hidden Markov models. In *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, 2016.
15. P. Toulis, **D. Tran**, and E.M. Airoldi. Towards stability and optimality in stochastic gradient descent. In *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, 2016.
16. **D. Tran**, R. Ranganath, and D.M. Blei. The variational Gaussian process. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2016.

17. **D. Tran**, D.M. Blei, and E.M. Airoldi. Copula variational inference. In *Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2015.

Software

1. Edward: A library for probabilistic modeling, inference, and criticism 2016–
   D. Tran, A. Kucukelbir, A.B. Dieng, D. Liang, M. Rudolph, and D.M. Blei.
2. Stan: A probabilistic programming language 2012–
   A. Gelman, B. Carpenter, M. Hoffman, D. Lee, B. Goodrich, M. Betancourt, M. Brubaker, J. Guo, P. Li, A. Riddell, M. Inacio, J. Arnold, M. Morris, R. Trangucci, R. Goedman, B. Lau, J. Gabry, A. Kucukelbir, R. Grant, **D. Tran**, K. Sakrejda, A. Vehtari, R. Lei, and S. Weber.
3. sgd: An R package for large-scale estimation 2015–
   D. Tran, P. Toulis, and E.M. Airoldi.

Teaching

1. Teaching Assistant | Columbia University 2016
   STAT/CS 6509: Foundations of Graphical Models
2. Teaching Fellow | Harvard University 2015
   AM 205: Advanced Scientific Computing–Numerical Methods
3. Teaching Assistant | University of California, Berkeley 2013
   MATH 10B: Methods in Calculus, Statistics, Combinatorics
4. Teaching Assistant | University of California, Berkeley 2011
   MATH 128A: Numerical Analysis

Professional Service

Journal Reviewing

Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning 2016–

Information Sciences 2016–

Journal of Machine Learning Research 2016–

Statistics and Computing 2016–

Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence 2016–

Conference Reviewing

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence 2018

Artificial Intelligence and Statistics 2017

International Conference on Learning Representations 2016, 2017

International Conference on Machine Learning 2016, 2017

Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining 2016

Neural Information Processing Systems 2016, 2017

Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence 2016, 2017

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

ICML Workshop: Implicit Generative Models 2017

NIPS Workshop: Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference 2016

NIPS Workshop: Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference 2015

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Statistical Association

Association of Computing Machinery

Bernoulli Society

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

Institute for Mathematical Statistics

International Society for Bayesian Analysis

Royal Statistical Society

MENTORING

Akshay Khatri (M.S. Columbia University, 2017)

Invited Talks and Panels

1. Probabilistic Programming Meetup – MENLO PARK, CA 2017
2. Diana-HEP Meeting – GENEVA, CH 2017
3. 2nd S2I2 HEP/CS Workshop – PRINCETON, NJ 2017
4. Pfizer – BOSTON, MA 2017
5. The New York Academy of Sciences – NEW YORK, NY 2017
6. Etsy – BROOKLYN, NY 2017
7. PPAML/DARPA Meeting – ARLINGTON, VA 2017
8. New York City Machine Learning Meetup – NEW YORK, NY 2017
9. Johns Hopkins University – BALTIMORE, MD 2017
10. NIPS Workshop: Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference – BARCELONA, ES 2016

11. NIPS Workshop: Practical Bayesian Nonparametrics – BARCELONA, ES 2016
12. Netflix Research – LOS GATOS, CA 2016
13. OpenAI – SAN FRANCISCO, CA 2016
14. Twitter Cortex – CAMBRIDGE, MA 2016
15. Google Brain – MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 2016
16. International Conference on Learning Representations – SAN JUAN, PR 2016
17. PPAML/DARPA Meeting – NEW YORK, NY 2016
18. Harvard University – CAMBRIDGE, MA 2016
19. NIPS Workshop: Advances in Approximate Bayesian Inference – MONTREAL, CA 2015
20. NIPS Workshop: Black Box Learning and Inference – MONTREAL, CA 2015
21. Massachusetts Institute of Technology – CAMBRIDGE, MA 2015
22. Harvard University – CAMBRIDGE, MA 2015
23. Microsoft Research – CAMBRIDGE, MA 2015
24. University of Connecticut – STORRS, CT 2015
25. Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems – TÜBINGEN, DE 2015