Dustin Tran

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Education

2014–present **Ph.D. Statistics**, *Harvard University*
M.S. Computational Science and Engineering, *Harvard University*
Advisor: Edoardo Airoldi.

2010–2014 **B.A. Mathematics, Statistics**, *University of California, Berkeley*
Advisor: David Aldous. Graduated with *Highest Honors*.

Awards and honors

2015–present Harvard GSAS Fellowship (Full funding)

2014 Dorothea Klumpke Roberts Prize in Mathematics

2010–2014 Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship (Full funding; Top 0.5% of Applicants)

2013 Rose Hills Foundation Science & Engineering Grant

Industry

5/2014–1/2015 **Data Scientist**, *Earnest*, San Francisco, CA
Built the primary algorithm for loan decision-making, which predicts the risk of default for a loan applicant using ensemble methods. Developed the infrastructure for web reporting, which would be used for internal operations, business development, and marketing.

Research

6/2015–present **Visiting Researcher**, *Columbia University*
Working with David Blei on stochastic variational inference with applications to community detection in networks and topic modelling. In collaboration with LinkedIn and Deepak Agarwal from the Economic Graph Challenge.

9/2014–present **Research Assistant**, *Harvard University*
Working with Edo Airoldi on stochastic gradient methods under a statistical framework—including applications to spectral methods and network models.

Working papers

NIPS 2015 **Dustin Tran** and Finale Doshi-Velez. Optimization in spectral methods: efficient learning in partially observable settings.

NIPS 2015 **Dustin Tran** and Edoardo M. Airoldi. Variational inference with copula augmentation.

NIPS 2015 **Dustin Tran**, Panos Toulis, and Edoardo M. Airoldi. Stochastic approximations for the method of estimating equations.

NIPS 2015 Panos Toulis, **Dustin Tran**, and Edoardo M. Airoldi. Stability and optimality in stochastic gradient descent. Preprint arXiv:1505.02417 [stat.ME], 2015.

Publications

Tech Report **Dustin Tran**. Convex techniques for model selection. Preprint arXiv:1411.7596 [math.OC], 2014.

Programming

- Languages: Python (+numpy, +pandas, +sklearn), R, C++, JavaScript (+D3.js), {Ba,z}sh
- Software: Vim, Git, Hadoop, SQL
- Operating Systems: GNU/Linux, BSD