

# Peng Xu

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Personal Website: [francis-hsu.github.io](https://francis-hsu.github.io)

## EDUCATION

### Columbia University in the City of New York

#### M.A. in Statistics

- Cumulative GPA: 3.999

Sep 2017 – Dec 2018

### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

#### M.S. in Financial Engineering

- Cumulative GPA: 3.91

Aug 2015 – Dec 2016

#### B.S. in Finance

Aug 2010 – Jun 2015

#### B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics

- Cumulative GPA: 3.74

- Triple-major

- Graduated with Honors in Finance, High Distinction in Mathematics, and High Distinction in Statistics

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine learning; Neural network; Nonparametric statistics; High-dimensional statistics; Financial engineering; Optimal transportation.

## RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

### ▪ Multivariate Ranks and Quantiles using Optimal Transportation

Apr 2019–Present

- Mentor: [Bodhisattva Sen](#)

- We studied the properties of multivariate ranks and quantiles defined through semi-discrete optimal transportation, and proposed applications in goodness-of-fit testing based on these notions. A software package is created for computing and visualizing the statistics we defined.

- Associated R-package: [testOTM](#).

### ▪ Approximate Leave-One-Out Cross-Validation in High Dimension

Jul 2018–Present

- Mentor: [Arian Maleki](#)

- Leave-one-out cross-validation (LOOCV) is a popular choice of tuning method in machine learning. However, its high computational cost makes it less feasible in application. We proposed an efficient approximation method of LOOCV for popular classes of learning scheme, and implemented them for some widely used models, such as kernel SVM and generalized elastic net.

- Associated R-package: [alocv](#).

### ▪ Counting Process Based Dimension Reduction for Survival Analysis

Apr 2017–Present

- Mentor: [Ruoqing Zhu](#)

- We studied a dimension reduction scheme based on counting process for right-censored survival data. The dimension reduction subspace is recovered through semi-parametric estimating equations. We implemented the proposed formula with constraint optimization algorithm on Stiefel manifold, and investigated the effect of regularization in improving the solution sparsity and overall performance.

- Associated R-package: [orthoDr](#).

## PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNALS

- R. Zhu, J. Zhang, R. Zhao, **P. Xu**, W. Zhou, and X. Zhang. [orthoDr: semiparametric dimension reduction via orthogonality constrained optimization](#). *The R Journal*. Jul 2019.

### CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- W. Zhou, S. Wang, **P. Xu**, H. Lu, A. Maleki, and V. Mirrokni. *Approximate Leave-One-Out for Fast Parameter Tuning in High Dimensions*. [2019 INFORMS Data Mining and Decision Analysis Workshop](#), Oct 2019. (Runner-up of the Best Paper Competition, Theoretical Track).

## PREPRINTS

- A.L. Turner, A. Uppal, and **P. Xu**. *Spacing Distribution of a Bernoulli Sampled Sequence*. Oct 2015, arXiv:1510.03500 [math.PR].

## OTHER ACADEMIC PROJECTS

- **Course Development: FinTech and Data Driven Innovation** Jul 2019 – Present
  - Mentor: [Margaret Holen](#)
  - For a class targeted to upper level undergraduates and masters students, I developed python exercises with industry data-sets from FinTech lenders, and developed lecture notes and problem sets that included material on estimation and inference. The class topics include structural models from financial mathematics, classifiers such as logistic regression and ensemble trees, and machine learning fairness.
- **Option Pricing with Variance-Gamma Model** Aug 2015 – Dec 2016
  - Mentor: [Liming Feng](#)
  - We implemented a Hilbert transformation based algorithm for evaluating options under Variance-Gamma model. We further analyzed the effect of additional diffusion term in the Variance-Gamma process and its implication on the asymptotic behavior of the option price.
- **Random Subsets of Discrete Sets** Jan 2014 – Dec 2015
  - Mentor: [Jayadev S. Athreya](#), [Francesco Cellarosi](#)
  - This is a research project from the [Illinois Geometry Lab](#). In this project we inspected the properties and asymptotic behaviors of random subsets of the Farey sequence, and determined the limiting distribution of spacings of a Bernoulli sampled equidistributed sequences.
- **Forecasting Mortgage Default Rate with Statistical Learning Methods**
  - Sponsor: [AXIS Re](#)
  - This is a Practicum research project, and part of the MSFE program. In this project we collected and cleansed large data-set published by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on individual mortgage loans, and created predictive models for default prediction. Multiple classifiers were investigated, such as Bayesian penalized regression, random forests, and linear SVM.

## WORK EXPERIENCES

### **Columbia University**, New York, New York

- Research Associate, [Department of Statistics](#) Jun 2019 – Present
- Teaching Assistant, Department of Statistics Aug 2018 – Dec 2018, Jun 2019 – Present
  - Instructor: [Banu Baydil](#)
  - As a TA for an undergraduate course on introductory statistics, I was responsible for answering questions in office hour, writing solutions for homework/exams, and organizing the course work system.

### **CITIC Securities Company Limited**, Shenzhen, China

- Intern, Research Department Jul 2015 – Aug 2015

### **China Merchants Bank New York Branch**, New York, New York

- Intern, Banking Department Jun 2013 – Jul 2013

## COMPUTER SKILLS

- Languages: C++, Python, R.
- Software:  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Mathematica, MATLAB.