

# Jian Cao

Postdoctoral Researcher

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## Education

- 2020 *Ph.D.* in Statistics, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
- 2016 *M.Sc.* in Finance, Shanghai Jiaotong University
- 2014 *B.Sc.* in Applied Mathematics, University of Science and Technology of China

## Areas of Specialization

*Gaussian Processes, Variable Selection, Spatial Statistics, Computational Statistics, Low-rank Methods, High-performance Computing*

## Journal Articles

- 2023 Cao\*, J., Kang, M.\*, Jimenez, F., Sang, H., Schäfer, F., & Katzfuss, M. (2023). “Variational Sparse Inverse Cholesky Approximation for Latent Gaussian Processes via Double Kullback-Leibler Minimization,” accepted by the 40th International Conference on Machine Learning
- 2022 Cao, J., Guinness, J., Genton, M. G., & Katzfuss, M. (2022). “Scalable Gaussian-process Regression and Variable Selection using Vecchia Approximations,” *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2022, **23**(348), pp.1-30
- 2022 Cao, J., Durante, D., Genton, M. G. (2022). “Scalable Computation of Predictive Probabilities in Probit Models with Gaussian Process Priors,” accepted by *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 2022, **31**(3), pp.709-720
- 2022 Cao, J., Genton, M. G., Keyes, D. E., & Turkiyyah, G. M. (2022). “tlrmvnmvt: Computing High-Dimensional Multivariate Normal and Student-*t* Probabilities with Low-rank Methods in R,” *Journal of Statistical Software*, **101**, pp.1-25
- 2022 Abdulah, S., Li, Y., Cao, J., Ltaief, H., Keyes, D. E., Genton, M. G., & Sun, Y. (2022). “Large-scale Environmental Data Science with ExaGeoStatR,” accepted by *Environmetrics*
- 2021 Cao, J., Genton, M. G., Keyes, D. E., & Turkiyyah, G. M. (2021). “Exploiting Low Rank Covariance Structures for Computing High-Dimensional Normal and Student-*t* Probabilities,” *Statistics and Computing*, **31**(1), pp.1-16

- 2021 Cao, J., Genton, M. G., Keyes, D. E., & Turkiyyah, G. M. (2021). “Sum of Kronecker Products Representation and Its Cholesky Factorization for Spatial Covariance Matrices from Large Grids,” *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis*, **157**, pp.107165
- 2021 Huang, J., Fang, F., Turkiyyah, G., Cao, J., Genton, M. G., & Keyes, D. E. (2021). “An  $O(N)$  Algorithm for Computing Expectation of  $N$ -dimensional Truncated Multi-variate Normal Distribution I: Fundamentals,” *Advances in Computational Mathematics*, **47**(5), pp.1-34
- 2019 Cao, J., Genton, M. G., Keyes, D. E., & Turkiyyah, G. M. (2019). “Hierarchical-block Conditioning Approximations for High-dimensional Multivariate Normal Probabilities,” *Statistics and Computing*, **29**, pp.585-598
- 2023 Cao, J., Zhang, J., Sun, Z., & Katzfuss, M. (2022). “Locally Anisotropic Covariance Functions on the Sphere,” in revision for *Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics*

## Talks & Posters

- 2022 **ENVR 2022 Workshop** Provo, UT, USA  
Poster: Scalable Gaussian Process Regression and Variable Selection under Automatic Relevance Determination Kernels
- 2022 **IMSI Gaussian Processes Workshop** Chicago, IL, USA  
Poster: Scalable Gaussian Process Regression and Variable Selection under Automatic Relevance Determination Kernels
- 2022 **Joint Statistical Meetings** Washington D.C., USA  
Contributed Session: Scalable Gaussian Process Regression and Variable Selection under Automatic Relevance Determination Kernels
- 2022 **ISBA World Meeting** Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Contributed Talk: Scalable Gaussian Process Regression and Variable Selection under Automatic Relevance Determination Kernels
- 2022 **SETCASA Poster Competition** College Station, TX, USA  
Poster: Scalable Gaussian Process Regression and Variable Selection under Automatic Relevance Determination Kernels
- 2022 **Texas A&M Statistics Cafe** College Station, TX, USA  
Presentation: Scalable Gaussian Process Regression and Variable Selection under Automatic Relevance Determination Kernels
- 2021 **TAMIDS Research Conference** College Station, TX, USA  
Presentation: Scalable Gaussian Process Regression and Variable Selection under

## Automatic Relevance Determination Kernels

- 2020 ***Joint Statistical Meetings*** Virtual Conference  
Contributed Session: Sum of Kronecker Products Representation for Spatial Covariance Matrices and Its Factorization
- 2019 ***Joint Statistical Meetings*** Denver, CO, USA  
Topic-Contributed Session: Exploiting Low Rank Covariance Structures for Computing High-Dimensional Normal and Student- $t$  Probabilities
- 2018 ***Big Data Meets Large-Scale Computing*** IPAM, Los Angeles, CA, USA  
Poster: Exploiting Low Rank Covariance Structures for Computing High-Dimensional Normal and Student- $t$  Probabilities
- 2018 ***Joint Statistical Meetings*** Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Poster: Hierarchical-block Conditioning Approximations for High-dimensional Multivariate Normal Probabilities
- 2017 ***Joint Statistical Meetings*** Baltimore, MD, USA  
Contributed Session: Hierarchical-block Conditioning Approximations for High-dimensional Multivariate Normal Probabilities

## Awards

- 2020 ***Al-Kindi Statistics Student Research Award***  
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
- 2019 ***Winner of the Student Paper Competition***, Section on Statistical Computing and the Section on Statistical Graphics of ASA  
Title: “Exploiting Low Rank Covariance Structures for Computing High-Dimensional Normal and Student- $t$  Probabilities”

## Short Courses

- 2019 ***A Short Course on Deep Learning***, KAUST Saudi Arabia
- 2017 ***Winter School on Hierarchical Matrices***, Kiel Germany

## Teaching

- 2022 April TAMIDS Webinar “Scalable Gaussian Process Approximation and Optimization
- 2018 Fall Teaching Assistant for MS level *Probability and Statistics*
- 2017 Fall Teaching Assistant for MS level *Probability and Statistics*

## Programming Languages

R, C++, and Python

### R Package

*tlrmvnmvt*, published on *CRAN*

Compute high-dimensional multivariate normal (MVN) and multivariate Student- $t$  (MVT) probabilities with tile-low-rank and block reordering ([LINK](#))