

Miaoyan Wang

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Research Interests

Statistical machine learning, high-dimensional statistics, spectral methods for matrices and tensors

Applications to population genetics, gene expression, and brain imaging analysis

Employment

Assistant Professor of Statistics, 2018 - current

Department of Statistics, UW-Madison

Affiliated in Institute for Foundations of Data Science (IFDS), UW-Madison.

Postdoc at UC Berkeley (Computer Science) and at University of Pennsylvania (Math+Biology), 2016-2018.

Supervisor: Yun S. Song

Education

Ph.D., Statistics, The University of Chicago, 2015

Committee: Mary Sara McPeck (chair), Peter McCullagh, Dan Nicolae

B.S., Mathematics, Fudan University, 2010

2007 - 2010: switched to Math major (Rank: 1/172) after admitted into the China national program for talented students in fundamental sciences

2006 - 2007: majored in Computer Science (Rank: 1/105)

Selected Awards

Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship, International Conference of Machine Learning (ICML), 2020.

Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) New Researcher Travel Award, 2020.

NeurIPS Junior Researcher Travel Award, 2019.

Google Cloud Platform Education Grant. Free computing credit to students in class. 2019-2020.

Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education (VCRGE) Travel Fund, UW-Madison, 2018.

Simons Math+X Postdoc Fellowship. Simons Foundation, 2015-2017.

Runner-up for Department of Statistics Consulting Award (ranked as #2 among all PhD students in the departmental vote of 2014). Department of Statistics, The University of Chicago, 2014.

American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Charles J. Epstein Trainee Award for Excellence in Human Genetics Research – semifinalist (27 predoctoral recipients out of ~ 550 candidates), 2014.

International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES) Williams Award for Best Platform Presentation by A Graduate Student – finalist (3 predoctoral recipients out of 156 candidates), 2013.

Paul Meier Fellowship, Department of Statistics, The University of Chicago. 2010 - 2013.

National Merit Scholarship $\times 3$ (\sim top 1-2 per department per year), Ministry of Education of China. 2006 - 2007, 2007 - 2008, 2008 - 2009.

Honors Fellowship in Mathematics $\times 3$, Fudan University, China. 2007 - 2008, 2008 - 2009, 2009 - 2010.

President's list, Top 10 role models out of $\sim 3,300$ freshmen, Fudan University, China, 2006 - 2007.

Publications

Graduate students under my supervision are underlined.

Under review:

- Z. Xu, J. Hu, and **M. Wang**. Exponential tensor regression with covariates on multiple modes. Under review. (2020).
- R. Han, Y. Luo, **M. Wang**, and A. R. Zhang. High-order Loyld algorithm and the statistical optimality. Under review. (2020).

Published:

- C. Lee and **M. Wang**. Optimal tensor denoising and completion based on ordinal observation. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), to appear in Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, in press (2020).
- **M. Wang** and L. Li. Learning from Binary Multiway Data: Probabilistic Tensor Decomposition and Its Statistical Optimality. To appear in Journal of Machine Learning Research, in press, (2020).
- **M. Wang** and Y. Zeng. Multiway clustering via tensor block models. Neural Information Processing Systems 33 (NeurIPS 2019), 715-725, (2019).
- **M. Wang**, J. Fischer, and Y. S. Song. Three-way Clustering of Multi-tissue Gene Expression Data Using Semi-Nonnegative Tensor Decomposition. *Annals of Applied Statistics*. Vol. 13, No. 2, 1103-1127, (2019).
- **M. Wang**, F. Roux, C. Bartoli, C. H.-Chauveau, C. Meyer, H. Lee, D. Roby, M. S. McPeck, and J. Bergelson. Two-Way Mixed-Effects Methods for Joint Association Analyses Using Both Host and Pathogen Genomes. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (direct submission)*. Vol. 115 (24), E5440-E5449, (2018).
Attention score in the top 5% of all research articles ever tracked by Altmetric; Higher than 89% of the research articles published in PNAS.
*For this work, I was selected to present a **platform talk** (21/156 submissions) at the 2nd Meeting for Probabilistic Modeling in Genomics, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY.*
- D. Jiang and **M. Wang**. Recent Developments in Statistical Methods for GWAS and High-throughput Sequencing Studies of Complex Traits. *Biostatistics and Epidemiology*. Vol. 2 (1), 132-159, (2018).
- **M. Wang** and Y. S. Song. Tensor Decomposition via Two-Mode Higher-Order SVD (HOSVD). *Journal of Machine Learning Research W&CP (AISTATS track)*, Vol 54, 614-622, (2017).
- **M. Wang**, K. Dao Duc, J. Fischer, and Y. S. Song. Operator Norm Inequalities Between Tensor Unfoldings on the Partition Lattice. *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, Vol. 520, 44-66, (2017).

- **M. Wang**, J. Jakobsdottir, A. V. Smith, and M. S. McPeck. G-STRATEGY: Optimal Selection of Individuals for Sequencing in Genetic Association Studies. *Genetic Epidemiology*, Vol. 40, No. 6, 446-60, (2016).

*Highlighted as **Editor's Pick Paper** of this issue.*

*For part of this work, I was named a **semifinalist for the 2014 ASHG Charles J. Epstein Trainee Award** (27 predoctoral recipients out of 550 candidates) for Excellence in Human Genetics Research at the Annual Meeting of American Society of Human Genetics; Also invited to give a platform talk (top 8%) in 2014 ASHG.*

*For a different part of this work, I was named a **finalist for the 2013 IGES Williams Award** (3 out of 156) for Best Platform Presentation by a Graduate Student at the Annual Meeting of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society; Also invited to give one of the six talks in Neels and Williams Awards Session in 2013 IGES.*

- B. W. Engelmann, Y. Kim, **M. Wang**, B. Peters, R. S. Rock, and P. D. Nash. The Development and Application of A Quantitative Peptide Microarray Platform to Protein Interaction Domain Specificity Space. *Molecular and Cellular Proteomics*, Vol. 13, No. 12, 3647-62, (2014).

Current Funding

As sole PI:

National Science Foundation DMS-1915978, "Spectral methods for high-dimensional tensors", \$179k, 2019-2022.

Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, Fall Research Competition, "Tensor theory and methods in Data Science", \$39k, 2020-2021.

as Co-PI or Senior Personal:

National Science Foundation. TRIPODS: Collaborative: Institute for Foundations of Data Science, Role: senior personal (PI: Stephen J Wright). 2020-2025.

U.S. Department of Defense, ARMY. "Resolving the enigma of Factor Analysis", Role: co-I (PI: Karl Rohe). 2020-2023.

Mentoring

PhD students

Chanwoo Lee (2019 -), Jiaxin Hu (2019 -)

Masters students:

Yuchen Zeng (2018 - 2020). On to CS PhD student in UW-Madison

Zhuoyan Xu (2018 - 2020). On to Statistics PhD student in UW-Madison.

PhD thesis committee

Luxi Cao (Statistics), Ruosi Guo (Statistics), Lili Zheng (Statistics), Praewa Wongburi (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Rungang Han (Statistics)

Selected Invited Talks

Department Seminars:

Columbia University, Department of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, 02/2020.
UW-Madison, Institute of Foundation of Data Science (IFDS), Brown Bag talk, 12/2019.
Fudan University, School of Data Science, Shanghai, China, 07/2019.
East China Normal University, Faculty of Economics and Management, Shanghai, China, 07/2019.
The University of Chicago, Department of Statistics, IL, 11/2018.
UW-Madison, Computation and Informatics in Biology and Medicine (CIBM) seminar, 11/2018.
UW-Madison, Systems, Information, Learning and Optimization (SILO) Seminar, 10/2018.
Stanford University, Department of Statistics, 08/2018.
UC Berkeley, Department of Biostatistics, 04/2018.
CMU, Department of Statistics and Data Science, 02/2018.
Columbia University, Department of Statistics, 02/2018.
University of Toronto, Department of Statistics, Canada, 02/2018.
UW-Madison, Department of Statistics, 01/2018.
Duke University, Department of Statistics, 01/2018.
Johns Hopkins University, Department of Biostatistics, 01/2018.
Queen's University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Canada, 01/2018.
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 12/2017.
University of Pennsylvania, Song's Group, 09/2016.
Boston University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, 08/2016.

Conference Talks:

Eastern North American Region (ENAR), International Biometric Society, 03/2020.
International Conference on Frontiers of Data Science, Hangzhou, China, 05/2019.
European Society for Evolutionary Biology - Coevolution Workshop, Munich, Germany, 03/2019.
International Conference on Data Science, Shanghai, China, 12/2018.
Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) China Meeting, Dalian, China, 07/2019.
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, 08/2018.
Joint Statistical Meetings, Chicago, IL. 08/2016.
Platform talk (**top 13% of all submissions**), the 2nd Meeting for Probabilistic Modeling in Genomics, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY. 10/2015.
Platform talk (**top 8% of all submissions**), American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. 11/2014.

Neel and Williams Awards Talk, International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 09/2013.

Industry Research Lab Talks:

Bosch Center for Artificial Intelligence in North America, Sunnyvale, CA, 06/2018.

Global Analytic Group. Takeda Pharmaceuticals Inc., Deerfield, IL. 08/2014.

Poster Presentations (*presented by students I mentored):

*The 33rd Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 12/2019.

*Computation and Informatics in Biology and Medicine (CIBM) Training Program and the Bio-Data Science (BDS) Program, Madison, 11/2019.

*2018 Berkeley Statistics Annual Research Symposium (BSTARS), Berkeley, CA, 03/2018.

The 20th International Conference on Artificial intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), Florida, Fort Lauderdale, 04/2017.

The 7th Midwest Statistics Research Colloquium, Chicago, IL, 03/2014.

Teaching

Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence (MTLE) Fellow, 2019 -2020.

Lecturer, 2018 - current

Spring 2020. STAT 850: Theory and Application of Regression and Analysis of Variance-II (PhD core)

Fall 2019. STAT 849: Theory and Application of Regression and Analysis of Variance-I (PhD core)

Spring 2019. STAT 602: Statistical Methods–II (senior undergraduate)

Fall 2018. STAT 601: Statistical Methods–I (senior undergraduate)

Fall 2013. STAT 23400: Statistical Models and Methods (junior students in economics major)

Teaching Assistant at UChicago, 2011 - 2015

STAT 22000: Statistical Methods and Applications. Professor: Peter McCullagh

STAT 24400: Statistical Theory and Methods 1. Professor: Stephen Stigler and Debashis Mondal

STAT 24500: Statistical Theory and Methods 2. Professor: Debashis Mondal and Weibiao Wu

College Tutor at UChicago, Summer 2013: ECON 21000: Econometrics

Software

- **Tensor_ordinal**: A set of R tools for noise reduction and completion from ordinal tensor data with possibly missing values.

<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/tensorordinal/index.html>

- **Tensor_regress**: R program for generalized tensor regression with covariates on multiple modes.

<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/tensorregress/index.html>

- **Tensor_sparse**: R program for multiway clustering via tensor block models.
<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/tensorsparse/index.html>
- **Binary-Tensor**: R program for low-rank tensor estimation from binary observations.
<https://github.com/Miaoyanwang/Binary-Tensor>
- **Multi-Cluster**: Matlab/R programs for three-way clustering of gene expression tensorial data.
<https://github.com/Miaoyanwang/Multi-Cluster>
- **TM-HOSVD**: Matlab program for efficient decomposition of higher-order tensors.
<https://github.com/Miaoyanwang/Two-mode-HOSVD>
- **ATOMM**: C program for association analysis with a two-organism mixed-effects model.
<https://github.com/Miaoyanwang/Two-way-MMA>
- **G-STRATEGY**: C program for optimal selection strategy of individuals for genotyping based on phenotypes and pedigrees. <https://github.com/Miaoyanwang/G-STRATEGY>

Services

Seminar Organizer:

European Society for Evolution Biology - Coevolution workshop, Munich, Germany, 2019

International Conference on Frontiers of Data Science, Hangzhou, China, 2019

Department Weekly Seminar Committee, Madison, WI, 2018 - 2019.

Grant Review Panel:

Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong, Physical Science Panel, 2020.

Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC, NSF equivalent in Canada), Discovery Grant Competition Panel, 2020.

University of Wisconsin Madison, Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), Pilot Program, 2019.

Department Committee for PhD admission, PhD qualification exam, MS exam. 2018 - now.

Reviewer for Journal of the American Statistical Association (JASA), Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B, Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR), NIPS Comp Bio, Linear Algebra and Applications, Linear and Multilinear Algebra, Statistics and Probability Letters.

Member in IMS (Institute of Mathematical Statistics), SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics), ASHG (American Society of Human Genetics), IGES (International Genetic Epidemiology Society), Gooley Chocolate Cake Lunch (women faculty in the physical science in UW-Madison), Women in Probability (an NSF-funded organization for women active in probability research in North America).

Statistical Consultant, The University of Chicago, 2011 - 2015. Led consulting projects and supervised Masters and junior PhD students to provide statistical support for the larger university community.