

# Zhenyu Liao

## Curriculum Vitae

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🏠 <https://zhenyu-liao.github.io>  
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📄 Male, Chinese, born in 28/08/1992.

### Education

- 2019 **Ph.D.** Statistics and Machine Learning [L2S, CentraleSupélec, University of Paris-Saclay](#), France.
- 2016 **M.Sc.** Signal and Image Processing [University of Paris-Saclay](#), France.
- 2014 **B.Sc.** Optical & Electronic Information [Huazhong university of Science and Technology](#), China.

### Professional Experiences

- May-June, 2025: CRM-Simons Visiting Scholar, [Centre de recherches mathématiques \(CRM\)](#), Université de Montréal, as a part of the thematic program “[Mathematical Foundations of Data Science](#).”
- June-July, 2024: ANR-LabEx-CIMI Visiting Professor, [Centre International de Mathématiques et Informatique de Toulouse \(CIMI\)](#), Toulouse, France, as a part of the thematic trimester “[Beyond classical regimes in statistical inference and machine learning](#).”
- 2021-now: (**Research**) **Associate Professor** at [School of Electronic Information and Communications, Huazhong University of Science and Technology \(HUST\)](#).
- 2020-2021: **Postdoctoral Scholar** at [ICSI](#) and [Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley](#), hosted by [Michael Mahoney](#).

### Honors and Awards

- 2023: Recipient of the 100 Talents Program of Hubei Province, Hubei, China.
- 2021: Recipient of the Wuhan Youth Talent, Wuhan, China.
- 2021: Recipient of East Lake Youth Talent Program Fellowship of HUST, Wuhan, China.
- 2019: 2nd prize of ED STIC Ph.D. Student Award of University Paris-Saclay, France.
- 2016: Recipient of the Supélec Foundation Ph.D. Fellowship, France.

### Teaching Experiences

- since 2021: Deep Learning and Computer Vision (**undergraduate level**, 16 hours per year), with [Xinggang Wang, EIC](#), HUST, China.
- since 2021: Probability and Stochastic Process (**graduate level**, 32 hours per year), with [Kai Wan, EIC](#), HUST, China.
- 2017-2018: Signal and System 1 Practical Sessions (**undergraduate level**, 54 hours), with [Laurent Le Brusquet, CentraleSupélec](#), France.

## Publications

I’ve co-authored a book and > 20 papers published on conferences and journals on machine learning, signal processing, and statistics, with ~ 900 citations and h-index = 15 according to [Google Scholar](#) (August 2024).

### Books

1. Romain Couillet and **Zhenyu Liao**. *Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning*. Cambridge University Press, 2022. DOI: [10.1017/9781009128490](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009128490).

### Papers in conference proceedings

1. Lingyu Gu and **Zhenyu Liao**. Beta-Companding: Simple and Efficient Non-uniform Quantization of DNNs without Backpropagation. In: *IEEE 34th International Workshop on Machine Learning for Signal Processing (MLSP)*. 2024.
2. Wei Yang, Zhengyu Wang, Xiaoyi Mai, Zenan Ling, C. Robert Qiu, and **Zhenyu Liao**. Inconsistency of ES-PRIT DoA Estimation for Large Arrays and a Correction via RMT. In: *IEEE 32nd European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO)*. 2024.
3. Zenan Ling, Longbo Li, Zhanbo Feng, Yixuan Zhang, Feng Zhou, Robert C. Qiu, and **Zhenyu Liao**. Deep Equilibrium Models Are Almost Equivalent to Not-so-deep Explicit Models for High-dimensional Gaussian Mixtures. In: *Proceedings of the 41st International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*. Vol. 235. PMLR, 2024, pp.30585–30609. <https://proceedings.mlr.press/v235/ling24a.html>.

4. Yi Song, Kai Wan, **Zhenyu Liao**, Hao Xu, Giuseppe Caire, and Shlomo Shamai. An Achievable and Analytic Solution to Information Bottleneck for Gaussian Mixtures. In: *2024 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*. 2024.
5. Lingyu Gu, Yongqi Du, Yuan Zhang, Di Xie, Shiliang Pu, Robert Qiu, and **Zhenyu Liao**. "Lossless" Compression of Deep Neural Networks: A High-dimensional Neural Tangent Kernel Approach. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. Vol. 35. Curran Associates, Inc., 2022, pp.3774–3787. [https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper\\_files/paper/2022/hash/185087ea328b4f03ea8fd0c8aa96f747-Abstract-Conference.html](https://proceedings.neurips.cc/paper_files/paper/2022/hash/185087ea328b4f03ea8fd0c8aa96f747-Abstract-Conference.html).
6. Hafiz Tiomoko Ali, **Zhenyu Liao**, and Romain Couillet. Random matrices in service of ML footprint: ternary random features with no performance loss. In: *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*. 2022. <https://openreview.net/forum?id=qwULHx9zld>.
7. **Zhenyu Liao** and Michael W Mahoney. Hessian Eigenspectra of More Realistic Nonlinear Models. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. Vol. 34. Curran Associates, Inc., 2021, pp.20104–20117. <https://papers.nips.cc/paper/2021/hash/a7d8ae4569120b5bec12e7b6e9648b86-Abstract.html>.
8. Michal Dereziński, **Zhenyu Liao**, Edgar Dobriban, and Michael Mahoney. Sparse sketches with small inversion bias. In: *Proceedings of Thirty Fourth Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)*. Vol. 134. PMLR, 2021, pp.1467–1510. <https://proceedings.mlr.press/v134/dereziński21a.html>.
9. **Zhenyu Liao**, Romain Couillet, and Michael W. Mahoney. Sparse Quantized Spectral Clustering. In: *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*. 2021. <https://openreview.net/forum?id=pBqLS-7KYAF>.
10. Fanghui Liu, **Zhenyu Liao**, and Johan Suykens. Kernel Regression in High Dimension: Refined Analysis beyond Double Descent. In: *Proceedings of The 24th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*. Vol. 130. PMLR, 2021, pp.649–657. <http://proceedings.mlr.press/v130/liu21b.html>.
11. **Zhenyu Liao**, Romain Couillet, and Michael W. Mahoney. A Random Matrix Analysis of Random Fourier Features: Beyond the Gaussian Kernel, A Precise Phase Transition, and the Corresponding Double Descent. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. Vol. 33. Curran Associates, Inc., 2020, pp.13939–13950. <https://papers.nips.cc/paper/2020/hash/a03fa30821986dffa10fc66647c84c9c3-Abstract.html>.
12. Michal Dereziński, Feynman T Liang, **Zhenyu Liao**, and Michael W. Mahoney. Precise expressions for random projections: Low-rank approximation and randomized Newton. In: *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. Vol. 33. Curran Associates, Inc., 2020, pp.18272–18283. <https://papers.nips.cc/paper/2020/hash/d40d35b3063c11244fbf38e9b55074be-Abstract.html>.
13. **Zhenyu Liao** and Romain Couillet. On Inner-Product Kernels of High Dimensional Data. In: *2019 IEEE 8th International Workshop on Computational Advances in Multi-Sensor Adaptive Processing (CAMSAP)*. IEEE. 2019, pp.579–583. doi: [10.1109/CAMSAP45676.2019.9022455](https://doi.org/10.1109/CAMSAP45676.2019.9022455).
14. Xiaoyi Mai, **Zhenyu Liao**, and Romain Couillet. A Large Scale Analysis of Logistic Regression: Asymptotic Performance and New Insights. In: *IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*. IEEE. 2019, pp.3357–3361. doi: [10.1109/ICASSP.2019.8683376](https://doi.org/10.1109/ICASSP.2019.8683376).
15. Romain Couillet, **Zhenyu Liao**, and Xiaoyi Mai. Classification Asymptotics in the Random Matrix Regime. In: *The 26th European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO)*. IEEE. 2018, pp.1875–1879. doi: [10.23919/EUSIPCO.2018.8553034](https://doi.org/10.23919/EUSIPCO.2018.8553034).
16. **Zhenyu Liao** and Romain Couillet. The Dynamics of Learning: A Random Matrix Approach. In: *Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*. Vol. 80. PMLR, 2018, pp.3072–3081. <http://proceedings.mlr.press/v80/liao18b.html>.
17. **Zhenyu Liao** and Romain Couillet. On the Spectrum of Random Features Maps of High Dimensional Data. In: *Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*. Vol. 80. PMLR, 2018, pp.3063–3071. <http://proceedings.mlr.press/v80/liao18a.html>.
18. **Zhenyu Liao** and Romain Couillet. Random Matrices Meet Machine Learning: A Large Dimensional Analysis of LS-SVM. In: *IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP)*. IEEE. 2017, pp.2397–2401. doi: [10.1109/ICASSP.2017.7952586](https://doi.org/10.1109/ICASSP.2017.7952586).

## Journal papers

1. Jingcheng Wang, Shaoliang Zhang, Jianming Cai, **Zhenyu Liao**, Christian Arenz, and Ralf Betzholz. Robustness of random-control quantum-state tomography. *Phys. Rev. A* **108** (2 2023), 022408. doi: [10.1103/PhysRevA.108.022408](#).
2. Yacine Chitour, **Zhenyu Liao**, and Romain Couillet. A geometric approach of gradient descent algorithms in linear neural networks. *Mathematical Control and Related Fields* **13**(3) (2023), 918–945. doi: [10.3934/mcrf.2022021](#).
3. **Zhenyu Liao**, Romain Couillet, and Michael W Mahoney. A random matrix analysis of random Fourier features: beyond the Gaussian kernel, a precise phase transition, and the corresponding double descent. *Journal of Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiment* **2021**(12) (2021), 124006. doi: [10.1088/1742-5468/ac3a77](#).
4. **Zhenyu Liao** and Romain Couillet. A Large Dimensional Analysis of Least Squares Support Vector Machines. *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing* **67**(4) (2019), 1065–1074. doi: [10.1109/TSP.2018.2889954](#).
5. Cosme Louart, **Zhenyu Liao**, and Romain Couillet. A Random Matrix Approach to Neural Networks. *The Annals of Applied Probability* **28**(2) (2018), 1190–1248. doi: [10.1214/17-AAP1328](#).

## Research Grants

- 2024-2026: **PI**, Guangdong Key Lab of Mathematical Foundations for Artificial Intelligence Open Fund “Generalization Theory for Transformer-based Models via Random Matrix Methods” (OFA00003), ¥100K, with Jeff Yao as co-PI.
- 2024-2026: **PI**, HUAWEI Research Fund, “Algorithm and Theory of High-dimensional Dynamical Systems” (TC20240702035), ¥800K, with Zenan Ling as co-PI.
- 2023-2025: **PI**, National Natural Science Foundation of China, youth program “Fundamental Limits of Pruning Deep Neural Network Models via Random Matrix Methods” (NSFC-62206101), ¥300K.
- 2023-2025: **PI**, HUAWEI Research Fund, “Random Matrix Driven Theory and Algorithm for Wireless Communication” (TC20231122043), ¥590K.
- 2022-2024: **contributor**, National Natural Science Foundation of China, grants for “Mathematical Foundations for Future Communications (Information Theory)” (NSFC-12141107), ¥3M. PI: Robert C. Qiu.
- 2021-2022: **PI**, CCF-Hikvision Open Fund, *Random Matrix Theory and Information Bottleneck for Neural Network Compression* (20210008), ¥280K, with Kai Wan as co-PI.
- 2021-2023: **PI**, Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities of China, *Large Dimensional Random Matrix Methods in Machine Learning: Theory and Practice* (No. 2021XXJS110), ¥500K.
- 2021-2023: **contributor**, Key Research and Development Program of Hubei Province, *Research on Key Technologies of Next-generation Industrial Internet Network* (2021BAA037), ¥1 000K., PI: Daiming Qu.
- 2018-2021: **contributor**, NSF Research Grant, *Combining Stochastics and Numerics for Improved Scalable Matrix Computations* (NSF-1815054), \$500K, PI: Michael W. Mahoney.
- 2018-2021: **contributor**, Programme d’Investissements d’avenir, *GSTATS IDEX DataScience Chair*, University of Grenoble-Alpes, €300K, PI: Romain Couillet.
- 2014-2017, **contributor**, French National Research Agency, *Random Matrix Theory for Large Dimensional Graphs* (ANR-14-CE28-0006), €300K, PI: Romain Couillet.

## Professional Services

### Organization of Scientific Activities

- Co-organizer of the 2024 LMCRC Workshop on Mathematical Information Science, Paris, France, 2024.
- **General co-chair** of [10th EAI International Conference on IoT as a Service \(EAI IoTaaS 2024\)](#), Wuhan, China, 2024.
- Co-organizer of the workshop on High-dimensional Learning Dynamics ([HiLD](#)) at [ICML 2023](#), Honolulu, USA, with [Sanjeev Arora](#), [SueYeon Chung](#), [Murat Erdogdu](#), [Surya Ganguli](#), and [Andrea Montanari](#) as plenary speakers.
- 2022 Joint workshop on “[Math for Data Science](#)” between [HUST](#) and [University of Paris-Saclay](#), with more than 40 000 online attendees, see [playback](#).

### Peer Reviewing

- Referee of [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#).
- External reviewer of [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada \(NSERC\)](#).
- Referee of [National Natural Science Foundation of China \(NSFC\)](#).

- Conferences: [NeurIPS](#), [ICML](#), [ICLR](#), [SODA](#), [AISTATS](#), [AAAI](#), [ECAI](#), [CAMSAP](#).
- Journals: [Journal of Machine Learning Research \(JMLR\)](#), [IEEE Trans. on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence \(IEEE-TPAMI\)](#), [IEEE Trans. on Signal Processing \(IEEE-TSP\)](#), [IEEE Trans. on Neural Networks and Learning Systems \(IEEE-TNNLS\)](#), [Transactions on Machine Learning Research \(TMLR\)](#), [Springer Statistics and Computing \(STCO\)](#), [SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing \(SISC\)](#), [Pattern Recognition \(PR\)](#), [Random Matrices: Theory and Applications \(RMTA\)](#), [Latin American Journal of Probability and Mathematical Statistics \(ALEA\)](#), [Foundations of Computational Mathematics \(FoCM\)](#), [Neural Processing Letters \(NPL\)](#), [PLOS ONE](#).

## Tutorials and Invited Talks

- 5 H mini-course on “Random Matrix Theory for Machine Learning”, thematic trimester on “[beyond classical regimes in statistical inference and machine learning](#),” Centre International de Mathématiques et Informatique de Toulouse ([CIMI](#)), Toulouse, France, 2024.
- Invited talk on “Recent Advances in Random Matrix Methods for Deep Learning Theory” at [CSML 2024](#), Shanghai, China, August, 2024.
- Invited talk on “A Random Matrix Approach to Explicit and Implicit Deep Neural Networks” at Institut de Mathématiques de Toulouse ([IMT](#)), Toulouse, France, July, 2024.
- 12 H mini-course on “Random Matrix Theory for Modern Machine Learning: New Intuitions, Improved Methods, and Beyond” at Institut de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse ([IRIT](#)), Toulouse, France, July, 2024.
- 5 H short course on “Random Matrix Theory and Its Applications in ML” at Jiangsu Normal University, China, 2024. Links to recordings: [part 1](#) on RMT and [part 2](#) on its application to deep learning.
- 3 H mini-course on “[Random Matrix Theory in Deep Learning: An Introduction](#)”, [Northeast Normal University](#), Changchun, Nov, 2023.
- Invited talk on “Neural Tangent Kernel in High Dimensions: From Theory to Practice,” [Beijing Jiaotong University School of Computer and Information Technology](#), Beijing, Oct, 2023.
- Invited talk on “Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: with Applications to “Lossless” Compression and Training of DNNs”, [International Chinese Statistical Association \(ICSA\) China Conference](#), Chengdu, July, 2023.
- Invited talk on “On the inversion bias of randomized sketching”, [Shenzhen Conference on Random Matrix Theory and Applications \(RMTA 2023\)](#), CUHK-Shenzhen, June, 2023.
- Invited talk on “Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: with Applications to “Lossless” Compression and Training of DNNs”, [Guangzhou Institute of International Finance](#), Guangzhou, June, 2023.
- Invited talk on “Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: with Applications to “Lossless” Compression and Training of DNNs”, Wuhan University, Wuhan, June, 2023.
- Invited talk on “Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: “Lossless” Compression of Large and Deep Neural Networks”, [NCIIP 2023](#), Changchun, Jinlin, May, 2023.
- Invited talk on “[Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: “Lossless” Compression of Large and Deep Neural Networks](#)”, SPMS MAS Seminar Series, School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Jan, 2023.
- Invited talk on “[Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: An Application to “Lossless” Compression of Large and Deep Neural Networks](#)”, SDS Workshop on “Topics in Random Matrix Theory”, CUHK-Shenzhen, October, 2022.
- Invited talk on “[Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: “Lossless” Compression of Large Neural Networks](#)”, Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences (IIIS), Tsinghua University, August, 2022.
- Invited talk on “Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning: “Lossless” Compression of Large Neural Networks”, [China conference on Scientific Machine Learning \(CSML 2022\)](#), August, 2022.
- Invited talk on “[Random Matrix Methods for Machine Learning](#)”, [Gaoling School of Artificial Intelligence](#), Renmin University of China, March, 2022.
- Invited talk on “Performance-complexity Trade-off in Large Dimensional Spectral Clustering”, [HUST Vision and Learning Salon 2021](#), Huazhong University of Science and Technology, December, 2021.
- Invited talk on “A Random Matrix Approach to Large Dimensional Machine Learning”, [AI+Math Colloquia](#), Institute of Natural Sciences, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, 2021.
- Invited talk on “A Random Matrix Approach to Large Dimensional Machine Learning”, [STAT-DS Seminar](#), Department of Statistics and Data Science, Southern University of Science and Technology, 2021.
- Invited talk on “A Random Matrix Approach to Large Dimensional Machine Learning”, [Optimization Seminar](#), [Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science](#), Chinese Academy of Science, 2021.



- Invited talk on “A Data-dependent Theory of Overparameterization: Phase Transition, Double Descent, and Beyond” at [Workshop on the Theory of Over-parameterized Machine Learning \(TOPML\) 2021](#). April 20-21, 2021. Link to [video](#).
- Invited talk on “Performance-complexity Trade-off in Large Dimensional Spectral Clustering”, [Statistics Seminar](#), Research School of Finance, Actuarial Studies and Statistics, Australian National University, Canberra, 2021.
- Invited talk on “Performance-complexity Trade-off in Large Dimensional Spectral Clustering”, HUAWEI First Mini-workshop on Random Matrix Theory and Machine Learning, Paris, 2021.
- Invited talk on “Performance-complexity Trade-off in Large Dimensional Spectral Clustering”, [STA 290 Seminar](#), Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis, 2021.
- Invited talk on “Dynamical Aspects of Learning Linear Neural Networks”, The Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, [Second Symposium on Machine Learning and Dynamical Systems](#), 2020. Link to [recording](#).
- Invited talk on “Random Matrix Advances in Large Dimensional Machine Learning”, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, [Random Matrices and Complex Data Analysis Workshop](#), Shanghai, 2019.
- Invited talk on “Random Matrix Viewpoint of Learning with Gradient Descent”, [DIMACS, Workshop on Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra, Statistics, and Optimization](#), Rutgers University, 2019. Link to [recording](#).
- Invited talk on “Recent Advances in Random Matrix Theory for Machine Learning and Neural Nets”, workshop of the [Matrix](#) series on “*Random matrix theory faces information era*”, Kraków, Poland, 2019. Link to [recording](#).
- Invited talk on “Dynamical Aspects of Deep Learning” (with Y. Chitour), *Séminaire d’Automatique du plateau de Saclay* of [iCODE](#) institute, Paris, France, 2019.
- Invited talk on “Recent Advances in Random Matrix for Neural Networks”, *Workshop on deep learning theory*, Shanghai JiaoTong University, China, 2018.
- **Tutorial** on “[Random Matrix Advances in Machine Learning and Neural Nets](#)” (with R. Couillet and X. Mai), *The 26th European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO’18)*, Roma, Italy, 2018.

## References

- **Prof. Romain Couillet**
  - Full Professor at University Grenoble-Alps, France
  - Holder of the UGA MIAI LargeDATA Chair, University-Grenoble-Alps, France.
  - ✉ [romain.couillet@gipsa-lab.grenoble-inp.fr](mailto:romain.couillet@gipsa-lab.grenoble-inp.fr)
- **Prof. Yacine Chitour**
  - Full Professor at Pairs-Sud, University Paris-Saclay, France.
  - Director of the H-CODE institute, University Paris-Saclay, France.
  - ✉ [yacine.chitour@l2s.centralesupelec.fr](mailto:yacine.chitour@l2s.centralesupelec.fr)
- **Prof. Michael W. Mahoney**
  - Associate Adjunct Professor at Department of Statistics, UC Berkeley, CA, USA.
  - Director of the UC Berkeley FODA (Foundations of Data Analysis) Institute, Berkeley, CA, USA.
  - ✉ [mmahoney@stat.berkeley.edu](mailto:mmahoney@stat.berkeley.edu)