

Ziang Niu

Statistics Ph.D. Student

University of Pennsylvania
Academic Research Building
265 S. 37th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: +1 (267) 639 7092
Email: ziangniu@wharton.upenn.edu
Homepage: <https://ziangniu6.github.io/>

Education

University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), Ph.D. in Statistics, 2028 (expected).
Research Advisor: Eugene Katsevich and Bhaswar B. Bhattacharya.

University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), M.A. in Applied Mathematics, 2023.
Research Advisor: Eugene Katsevich and Bhaswar B. Bhattacharya.

Renmin University of China (Beijing, China), B.A. in Economic Statistics, 2021.
Thesis Advisor: Wei Li.

Experience

Student academic research

Master student researcher, University of Pennsylvania (2021–2023).

I developed novel theory and methodology for (conditional) independence testing and high-dimensional inference problems. See [3, 4, 5].

Undergraduate student researcher, Renmin University of China, (2020–2021).

I designed, studied theoretically, and implemented a two-stage framework to conduct the causal inference for high-dimensional treatment allowing for unobserved confounding. See [2].

Undergraduate student researcher, University of College London, (2020–2021).

I proposed a novel method to boost the inference for intractable likelihood models with the Quasi-Monte Carlo method. See [1].

Fellowship and Awards

- Lawrence David Brown Best Student Paper Award (2024).
Department of Statistics and Data Science at Wharton, UPenn.
- SIAM Annual Meeting Student Travel Award (2021).
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.
- Undergraduate Study Scholarship (2017–2019).
Renmin University of China.

Professional Service Activities

- *Reviewer*, NeurIPS (1), JMLR (1), JASA (2), Bernoulli (2), JRSS-A (1), EJS(1).

Presentations

Invited Seminar Presentations

- *High-dimensional causal inference: estimation and inference for high-dimensional treatment in the presence of unobserved confounding.*
Data Mining Center of Renmin University of China, May. 28, 2021.

Contributed Conference Oral Presentations

- *A reconciliation between finite-sample and asymptopia-based methods in conditional independence testing*
Lawrence David Brown student workshop, Mar. 22, 2024, in Philadelphia, USA. [Slides]
Joint Statistical Meeting, Aug. 5-10, 2023, in Toronto, Canada.
- *Inference for ATE using heterogeneity: generalized 2SLS and double machine learning perspectives*
Statistical Society of Canada Annual Meeting, May 28-31, 2023, in Ottawa, Canada.
- *Estimation and inference for high-dimensional nonparametric additive instrumental-variables regression.*
Chinese R Conference, Nov. 20-21, 2021, in Beijing, China.
ICSA-Canada Chapter Symposium, Jul. 8-10, 2022, in Banff, Canada. [Slides]

Conference Poster Presentations

- *Discrepancy-based Inference for Intractable Generative Models using Quasi-Monte Carlo.*
Lifting Inference with Kernel Embeddings, Jan. 10-14, 2022, online. [Video] [Slides]
SIAM Annual Meeting, Jul. 19-23, 2021, online. [Poster]
Paris AI Summer School, Jul. 5-9, 2021, online.

Mentorship

- Vikram Balasubramanian
Directed Reading Program, UPenn, Sep.-Dec., 2022.
- Alexandru Lopotenco
Undergraduate Research in Probability and Statistics, UPenn, Jan.-May., 2022.
- Ryan Jeong
Undergraduate Research in Probability and Statistics, UPenn, Jan.-May., 2022.

Publications and Preprints

- [1] Z. Niu*, J. Meier*¹, and F-X. Briol. Discrepancy-based Inference for Intractable Generative Models using Quasi-Monte Carlo. *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, 2022. Available on <https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.11561>.
- [2] Z. Niu, Y. Gu, W. Li. Estimation and inference for high-dimensional nonparametric additive instrumental-variables regression. In submission, 2022+. Available on <https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.00111>.

¹* stands for equal contribution

- [3] S. Mukherjee, **Z. Niu**, S. Halder, B. B. Bhattacharya, G. Michailidis. High Dimensional Logistic Regression Under Network Dependence. To appear at *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2022+. Available on <https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.03200>.
- [4] **Z. Niu***, A. Chakraborty*, O. Dukes, and E. Katsevich. Reconciling model-X and doubly robust approaches to conditional independence testing. To appear at *Annals of Statistics*. Available on <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.14698>.
- [5] **Z. Niu**, B. B. Bhattacharya. Distribution-free joint independence testing and robust independent component analysis using optimal transport. In submission, 2022+. Available on <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.15639>.