

# Ran Chen (She/Her/Hers)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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RESEARCH Interests Reinforcement Learning, Data-driven Decision-making, Revenue Management, Optimization, Statistical Machine Learning, High-dimensional Statistics, Nonparametric Statistics, Health Care

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS Postdoc Associate

2022 - Present

Laboratory for Information and Decision System

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Advisor: Martin Wainwright

Teaching Fellow

2022

Wharton Data Science Academy

Research Fellow

2022

The Wharton School University of Pennsylvania Advisor: Linda Zhao

EDUCATION

### The Wharton School

September 2017 - August 2022

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

Ph.D. in Statistics and Data Science

 ${\bf Dissertation:} \ \ {\it Estimation \ and \ Inference \ for \ Convex \ Functions \ and \ Computational}$ 

Efficiency in High Dimensional Statistics (pdf)

Advisor: Tony Cai

## Tsinghua University

September 2013 - July 2017

Beijing, PRC

B.S. in Pure and Applied Mathematics, GPA: 92/100, with distinction

Papers

- 1. Cai, J., Chen, R., Wainwright, M., Zhao, L. (2023). "Doubly High-Dimensional Contextual Bandits: An Interpretable Model with Applications to Assortment/Pricing" Submitted to Management Science. Available here.
- 2. Cai, T.T., **Chen, R.**, Zhu, Y. (2021). "Estimation and Inference for Minimizer and Minimum of Convex Functions: Optimality, Adaptivity, and Uncertainty Principles." *Annals of Statistics (revision under review)*. Available here.
- Cai, T.T., Chen, R., Zhu, Y. (2021).
   "Supplement Paper to Estimation and Inference for Minimizer and Minimum of Convex Functions: Optimality, Adaptivity, and Uncertainty Principles." Annals of Statistics (revision under review). Available here.
- 4. Cai, J., Chen, R., Yang, D., Zhu, W., Shen, H., Zhao, L. (2023). "Network Regression and Supervised Centrality Estimation." *Journal of American Statistical Association (revision)*. Available here.

Preprints

1. Chen, R. (2022).

"Interplay Between Statistical Accuracy and Running Time Cost: a Framework and Three Cases." To be submitted to Operations Research. Available here.

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- 2. Chen, R. (2022).
  - "Optimal Estimation and Inference for Minimizer and Minimum of Multivariate Additive Convex Functions." To be submitted to Annals of Statistics. Available here.
- 3. Cai, J., Chen, R., Wainwright, M., Zhao, L. (2023). "Personalized Reinforcement Learning: with Applications to Business."
- 4. Cai, J., Chen, R., Huang Q., Wainwright, M., Zhao, L., Zhu W. (2023). "Optimal Assortment and Pricing with Novel Poisson Arrival MNL Models."
- 5. Chen, R., Liu, H. (2018). "Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation through Deep Learning." Available at https://arxiv.org/abs/1810.11010.

#### WORKING PAPER

- 1. Cai, T.T., Chen, R. "Crowdsourcing: Beyond Dawid-Skene Model." (2020).
- 2. Chen, R., Wainwright, M. (2023). "Tight Constrained Inequality."
- 3. Chen, R., Smetters, K., Zhang, X. (2023). "Estimation, Inference, and Ranking in Portfolio Choice Problems."
- 4. Chen, R., Pathak, R., Wainwright, M. (2023). "On Power of Interpolation."

(All papers are in alphabetical order)

### Talks

- Doubly High-Dimensional Contextual Bandits: An Interpretable Model for Joint Assortment and Pricing, INFORMS 2023, Phoenix.

  Oct. 2023
- Personalized Reinforcement Learning: with Applications to Business, Joint Statistical Meeting 2023, Toronto.

  Aug. 2023
- Dynamic joint assortment and pricing through doubly high-dimensional contextual bandits, MSOM 2023, Montreal.

  June 2023
- An Interpretable Machine Learning Model for Assortment/Pricing, Informs Business Analytics Conference 2023, Aurora.

  April 2023
- High-dimensional Continuum Armed and High-dimensional Contextual Bandit: with Applications to Assortment and Pricing, Wharton Customer Analytics with Master Kong Food Company.
   Nov. 2022
- Statistics, Optimization, and Machine Learning: with Applications in Economics and Business, Department of Business Economic and Public Policy, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

  Oct. 2022
- Crowdsourcing: Beyond Dawid Skene Model, Joint Statistical Meeting 2020, Philadelphia.

  Aug. 2020
- Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation through Deep Learning, Joint Statistical Meeting 2018, Vancouver.
   Aug. 2018

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Selected Awards	• Google Fellowship Nominee (Top 4 across all UPenn schools) Sept. 2020
	• Second Place, Wharton Hackathon: Covid and the Economy Sept. 2020
	• The George James Doctoral Fellowship, The Wharton School March 2017
	• XueTangBan Membership and Scholarship (Tsinghua Xuetang Mathematics Program), Tsinghua University Feb. 2014 - July 2017
	• Academic Excellence Honor, Tsinghua University 2014, 2015, 2016
	• Tsinghua University Distinguished Student Programme (4 out of 107) 2014
	• Second Prize, (National) Regional College Students' Physics Contest 2014
	• Silver Medal, China Mathematical Olympiad 2013 Jan. 2013
	• Gold Medal, China Girls' Mathematical Olympiad 2012 Aug. 2012
	• Second Prize, National High Schools Physics Competition Oct. 2012
SERVICE	• Member of Executive Board, Tsinghua Alumni Association of Greater Boston Nov. 2022 - present
	• Director of Public Relations & Propagation and Board Director, Tsinghua Alumni Association of Greater Philadelphia July 2021 - present
	<ul> <li>Board Member of the Wharton Society for the Advancement of Women in Business Academia</li> <li>Aug. 2019 - Aug. 2021</li> </ul>
	• Secondary Treasurer, Tsinghua Alumni Association of Greater Philadelphia Aug. 2019 - July 2021
	<ul> <li>Volunteer at the 8th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Beijing</li> <li>Aug. 2015</li> </ul>
	• Vice President of Student Association of Science and Technology, Tsinghua Math Department
	June 2015 - Dec. 2016
	• Head of Publicity, Planning, and Innovation Office of Student Association of Science and Technology, Tsinghua Math Department  June 2014 - June 2015
TEACHING	• Teaching Fellow, Wharton Data Science Academy 2022
	• TA, Introduction to Python for Data Science (OIDD 477/777/STAT 777) Spring 2022
	• TA, Forecasting Methods for Management (STAT 435/535/711) Fall 2021
	• TA, Introductory Statistics (STAT 111) Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 - Led recitation sessions

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  - Led recitation sessions
  - Head TA
- TA, Probability (STAT 430)

Fall 2019

- TA, Optimization Methods in Machine Learning (STAT 991, Ph.D.) Spring 2019
  - Oversaw and edited lecture notes for all 18 class sessions.
  - Graded homework and provided solutions
  - Organized group presentations
- TA, Introduction to Business Statistics (STAT 101)

Fall 2018

September, 2023 3 of 4 Software

• Developed a Matlab-based, fully functional algorithm for *Drosophila melanogaster* embryo detection and registration. Provided to Professor Bin Yu's group and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

SKILLS

- Programming: Proficient in R, Python, Matlab, LATEX; Experienced in C++
- Languages: Chinese (Native); English (Fluent)

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