

Hao Wang

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Education

Harvard University

Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics

Advisor: Flavio P. Calmon • Committee: Demba Ba, Na Li, Salil Vadhan

Thesis: Information Theory for Trustworthy Machine Learning

Cambridge, MA

Sept. 2016 – May 2022

Harvard University

M.S. in Applied Mathematics

Cambridge, MA

Sept. 2016 – May 2019

University of Science and Technology of China (USTC)

B.Sc. in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

Hefei, China

Sept. 2012 – Jun. 2016

Professional Experience

IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center

Research Intern in the Computational Creativity Group

Yorktown Heights, NY

May 2019 – Aug. 2019

Research Interests

Areas: Information Theory, Statistical Learning Theory, Optimization

Topics: Generalization in Machine Learning, Algorithmic Fairness, Privacy

Awards, Honors, and Scholarships

NeurIPS Outstanding Reviewer Award (top 8% of reviewers)

2021

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching

2021

Winning Outreach Video at the ISIT Student Video Exposition ([Video](#))

2020

ICML Travel Award

2019

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching

2018

The 35th Guo Moruo Scholarship (highest honor for USTC students)

2015

China National Scholarship

2014

Teaching Experience

ES 201: Decision Theory – Graduate Level Course

Spring 2021

Engineering and Applied Sciences | Harvard University

Rating: 4.9/5.0

Section Leader

Improved section (recitation) notes to include advanced topics. Led weekly sections that extended the lectures. Held weekly office hours to address individual questions and guided 20+ students through their final projects.

ES 156: Signals and Systems – Undergraduate Level Course

Spring 2018

Engineering and Applied Sciences | Harvard University

Rating: 4.8/5.0

Section Leader

Created new section notes that complemented the lectures. Led weekly sections and office hours. Contributed to the design and grading of the midterm and final exams. Prepared new assignments, graded, and gave feedback to 20+ undergraduate students.

Publications

Journal Papers.....

H. Wang, H. Hsu, M. Diaz, and F. P. Calmon, "To Split or Not to Split: The Impact of Disparate Treatment in Classification," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2021.

H. Wang, L. Vo, F. P. Calmon, M. Médard, K. R. Duffy, and M. Varia, "Privacy with Estimation Guarantees," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2019.

M. Diaz*, **H. Wang***, F. P. Calmon, and L. Sankar, "On the Robustness of Information-Theoretic Privacy Measures and Mechanisms," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2019. ***Equal contribution**.

H. Wang, R. Gao, and F. P. Calmon, "Generalization Bounds for Noisy Iterative Algorithms Using Properties of Additive Noise Channels," *submitted to Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 2021.

Conference Papers.....

H. Jeong, **H. Wang**, and F. P. Calmon, "Fairness without Imputation: A Decision Tree Approach for Fair Prediction with Missing Values," in *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, 2022. **Oral presentation**.

H. Wang, Y. Huang, R. Gao, and F. P. Calmon, "Analyzing the Generalization Capability of SGLD Using Properties of Gaussian Channels," in *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2021.

H. Wang, H. Hsu, M. Diaz, and F. P. Calmon, "The Impact of Split Classifiers on Group Fairness," in *IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, 2021.

W. Alghamdi, S. Asoodeh, **H. Wang**, F. P. Calmon, D. Wei, and K. N. Ramamurthy, "Model Projection: Theory and Applications to Fair Machine Learning," in *IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, 2020.

H. Wang, B. Ustun, and F. P. Calmon, "Repairing without Retraining: Avoiding Disparate Impact with Counterfactual Distributions," in *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2019.

H. Wang, M. Diaz, J. C. S. Santos Filho, and F. P. Calmon, "An Information-Theoretic View of Generalization via Wasserstein Distance," in *IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, 2019.

H. Wang, M. Diaz, F. P. Calmon, and L. Sankar, "The Utility Cost of Robust Privacy Guarantees," in *IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, 2018.

H. Wang, B. Ustun, and F. P. Calmon, "On the Direction of Discrimination: An Information-Theoretic Analysis of Disparate Impact in Machine Learning," in *IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, 2018.

H. Wang and F. P. Calmon, "An Estimation-Theoretic View of Privacy," in *Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing*, 2017.

Workshop Papers.....

H. Wang, B. Ustun, and F. P. Calmon, "Avoiding Disparate Impact with Counterfactual Distributions," in *NeurIPS Workshop on Ethical, Social and Governance Issues in AI*, 2018.

News on My Research.....

My research on "An information-theoretic analysis of disparate impact in ML" has been featured in an article entitled "[Just data: How algorithms go bad – and how they can be saved](#)" at the Harvard GSAS alumni magazine.

Selected Presentations

Yale Institute for Network Science (YINS)	2022
MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS)	2022
Neural Information Processing Systems (virtual)	2021
IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (virtual)	2021
Symposium on Foundations of Responsible Computing (virtual)	2020
IBM AI Systems Day	2019
IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center	2019
International Conference on Machine Learning	2019
IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory	2019
North American School of Information Theory (poster)	2019
Annual New England Machine Learning Day (poster)	2018
Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing	2017

Mentorship

- Lisa Vo (Harvard College), 2017 – 2019
Project: Privacy with estimation guarantees (a paper published in IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory)
- Winston Michalak (Harvard College), 2019 – 2020
Project: Using ADMM for solving model projection

Professional Service

Conference Reviewer

- IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), 2019 – 2022
- Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020 – 2022
- International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2022
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2022
- International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2022
- IEEE Information Theory Workshop (ITW), 2021 – 2022
- The Web Conference (TheWebConf), 2021 – 2022
- ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), 2020, 2022

Journal Reviewer

- IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (T-IT)
- IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics & Security (T-IFS)
- IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (TAC)
- IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Information Theory (JSAIT)
- IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing (JSTSP)

Program Committee

- NeurIPS 2020 Workshop on Fair AI in Finance (FAIF)

Personal

Computer Skills: Python, C, C++, MATLAB, Mathematica

Language: Fluent in English and Chinese

Interests: Basketball, Foosball, Traveling, Gaming, Movie, Music