Haozhe Zhang

Data & Applied Scientist, Ph.D. Candidate

3219 Snedecor Hall
2438 Osborn Dr.
Ames, IA 50011, U.S.A.
Cell: +1–(515) 708–2685
Email: haozhe.stat@gmail.com
Webpage : haozhestat.github.io
Github : github.com/haozhestat

Research Interests

Functional Data Analysis, Statistical Machine Learning, Nonparametric and Semi-parametric Methods, Predictive Analytics, Spatial Statistics, and Interdisciplinary Quantitative Research.

Education

Iowa State University, Ames, IA *8/2014 - 5/2019*
Doctor of Philosophy, Statistics
Advisors: Prof. Dan Nettleton and Prof. Yehua Li

Iowa State University, Ames, IA *8/2014 - 5/2016*
Master of Science, Statistics
Advisor: Prof. Zhengyuan Zhu

University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China *8/2010 - 6/2014*
School of the Gifted Young (Honors Program)
Bachelor of Science, Statistics

National Taiwan University, Taipei *Fall 2012*
Department of Mathematics
Exchange Student

Industry Experience

eBay Inc., San Jose, CA *Summer 2018*
Data Scientist Intern

- Develop large-scale graph-based semisupervised learning algorithm utilizing label propagation for look-alike system of eBay ads business.
- Design and perform back test and online A/B test for the proposed graph-based recommendation system and classic SVD-based collaborative filtering.

Liberty Mutual, Boston, MA *Summer 2017*
Data Scientist Intern

- Develop and test deep neural networks (CNN, LSTM, ResNet, U-net etc.) for telematics data (i.e., vehicle GPS data) using MXNet and Tensorflow.
- Compare the performance of deep learning with state-of-art machine learning methods such as gradient boosting and explore ensemble opportunities.
- Test and improve Amazon Website Service (AWS) based deep learning platform.

Academic Experience

Laurence H. Baker Center for Bioinformatics and Biological Statistics, Ames, IA
Research Assistant *5/2015 - 05/2019*

- Build predictive models using machine learning algorithms to forecast crop yields in US Midwest.
- Develop methodologies that quantify the uncertainty of predictions from bagging methods (e.g. Random Forests), and develop regression-enhanced random forest to improve forecasting accuracy.
- Analyze genomic, phenotypic, and environmental data from agricultural and biological sciences.

Department of Statistics, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Teaching Assistant *8/2017 - 5/2018*

- Lab Instructor of STAT 101 (Principle of Statistics) in the fall semester.
- Lab Instructor of STAT 326 (Introductory Business Statistics II) in the spring semester.

Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology, Ames, IA
Research Assistant *8/2014 - 6/2016*

- Work on interdisciplinary survey sampling projects, including National Resources Inventory (NRI) and Conservation Effects Assessment (CEA) projects.
- Use image-to-image neural network to predict landuse categories on remote sensing data.

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Okinawa, Japan
Research Intern *Summer 2013, Winter 2012*

- Analyze satellite image data and 3D neuron data using Python (scipy, numpy), and Investigate the spatial-temporal pattern of fairy circle point processes.
- Build a probabilistic model for geometric patterns of neuron bifurcations.

Manuscript Submitted

- **Zhang, H.**, and Li, Y. (2019+). "Spatially Dependent Functional Data: Covariance Estimation, Principal Component Analysis, and Prediction". Under review by *The Annals of Statistics*.

Refereed Journal Publication

- **Zhang, H.**, Zimmerman, J., Nettleton, D., and Nordman, D.J. (2019+). "Random Forest Prediction Intervals". Tentatively accepted by *The American Statistician*.
- Guo, T., Yu, X., Li, X., **Zhang, H.**, Zhu, C., Flint-Garcia, S., McMullen, M., Szalma, S., Holland J., Wisser, R., and Yu, J. (2019). "Optimal Designs for Genomic Selection in Hybrid Crops". Accepted by *Molecular Plant*.
- He, Z., Zhang, M., and **Zhang, H.** (2016). "Data-driven Research on Chemical Features of Jingdezhen and Longquan Celadon by Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence". *Ceramics International*, 42(4):5123–5129. DOI: 10.1016/j.ceramint.2015.12.030.
- Liang, X., Zou, T., Guo, B., Li, S., **Zhang, H.**, Zhang, S., Huang, H., and Chen, S.X. (2015). "Assessing Beijing's $PM_{2.5}$ Pollution: Severity, Impacts of Weather, APEC and Winter Heating". *Proceedings of the Royal Society A*, 471(2182). DOI: 10.1098/rspa.2015.0257.
- **Zhang, H.**, and Sinclair, R. (2015)."Namibian Fairy Circles and Epithelial Cells Share Emergent Geometric Order". *Ecological Complexity*, 22:32-35. DOI:10.1016/j.ecocom.2015.02.001.

Refereed proceeding

- **Zhang, H.**, Zhu, Z., and Yin, S. (2016). "Identifying Precipitation Regimes in China Using Model-based Clustering of Spatial Functional data". *Proceedings of the Sixth International Workshop on Climate Informatics*, pages 117–120. DOI:10.5065/d6k072n6.

Refereed abstract

- **Zhang, H.**, Qu, Y., and Kirmani, S. "Constructing a Graph from User Implicit Feedback ". Accepted by *2019 SIAM Conference on Computational Science and Engineering (CSE19)*.

Non-refereed proceeding

- **Zhang, H.**, Nettleton, and D., Zhu, Z. (2017). "Regression-Enhanced Random Forests" In JSM Proceedings, Section on Statistical Learning and Data Science, pages 636 – 647.

Working Papers

- "A Spatial Functional Mixture Model for China $PM_{2.5}$". Joint work with Decai Liang, Hui Huang, and Xiaohui Chang. Ready for submission.
- "Functional Modeling of Plant Growth Data from Crowdsourcing Image Analysis". Joint work with Dan Nettleton, Stefan Hey, and Zaki Jubery.

- "Optimal Penalized Scalar-on-Function Regression and Efficient Dimensional Reduction for Discretely Sampled Data". Joint work with Yehua Li.
- "Neonate Garter Snakes *Thamnophis Elegans* Exhibit Consistent Among-individual Variation in Behavior and Habituation at Multiple Time Scales". Joint work with Eric J. Gangloff, Vianey Leos, and Anne Bronikowski.

Talks & Posters

∗ Denotes presenter.

- **Zhang, H.***, and Li, Y. "On the Covariance Estimation and Principal Component Analysis for Spatially Dependent Functional Data". In: Joint Statistical Meetings, Vancouver, Canada, August 2018.
- **Zhang, H.***, Nettleton, D., and Nordman, D.J. "Random Forest Prediction Intervals". In: Symposium on Data Science and Statistics, Reston, Virgina, May 2018.
- **Zhang, H.***, and Li, Y. "On the Covariance Estimation and Principal Component Analysis for Spatially Dependent Functional Data". In: ENAR Spring Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2018.
- **Zhang, H.***, Nettleton, D., and Zhu, Z. (2017). "Regression-Enhanced Random Forests". In: Joint Statistical Meetings, Baltimore, Maryland, August 2017.
- **Zhang, H.***, and Nettleton, D. "Prediction-Guided Statistical Ranking of Maize Seed Brands". In: Symposium on Predictive Crop Design: Genome-to-Phenome, Lincoln, Nebraska, April 2017.
- **Zhang, H.***, and Zhu, Z. "Clustering Multiscale Spatial Functional Data with Application to Precipitation Regimes Identification". In: the 6th International Workshop on Climate Informatics, Boulder, Colorado, September 2016.
- **Zhang, H.***, and Zhu, Z. "Clustering Multiscale Spatial Functional Data with Application to Precipitation Regimes Identification". In: Workshop on Bayesian environmetrics, Columbus, Ohio, March 2016.

Selected Awards & Honors

- **SAMSI Travel Award**, 2018. Travel fund for presenting a paper in the Symposium on Data Science and Statistics in Reston, Virginia.
- Travel support from ASA Section for Statistical Programmers and Analysts, 2017-18.
- **The George W. Snedecor Award**, Department of Statistics, Iowa State University, 2016. This award is for the most outstanding Ph.D. candidate in the department.
- Climate Informatics Travel Fellowship Award, 2016. Travel fund for giving a spotlight oral presentation in the 6th International Workshop on Climate Informatics, Boulder, CO.
- **The Holly C. and E. Beth Fryer Award**, Department of Statistics, Iowa State University, 2015. This award is for a top second-year Ph.D. student in the department.
- **2nd Place** and 5th Place at Data Mining Cup 2016, Prudsys AG, Berlin, Germany.
- **Presidential Scholars Fellowship**, Iowa State University, 2014.
- **National Scholarship of China**, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, 2013. This award is for outstanding undergraduate students in China.
- Outstanding Student Scholarship, School of the Gifted Young, University of Science and Technology of China, 2012.
- National Encouragement Scholarship, School of the Gifted Young, University of Science and Technology of China, 2011.

Programming Skills

- **Projects in**: Python, R, SQL, C/C++, Hive, Hadoop, Matlab, LATEX.
- **Familiar with**: Unix shell, SAS, HTML.
- **IDEs**: vi/vim,Visual Studio, PyCharm, Jupiter.

Service and Leadership

- Reviewer for *Statistica Sinicia*.
- International Student Advisory Board, Iowa State University, 2018.
- Computation Advisory Committe, Department of Statistics, Iowa State University, 2017.
- **President** of the Iowa STAT-ers, 2017–18.
- Treasurer of the Iowa STAT-ers, 2016–17.
- **Graduate and Professional Student Senate**, Iowa State University, 2015–16.
- Student Assistant, Office of International Affairs, University of Science and Technology of China, 2013–14.

Professional Affiliation

- American Statistical Association, Member, 2014 - Present
- Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Member, 2014 - Present
- International Chinese Statistical Association, Member, 2015 - Present
- Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Member, 2017 - Present

Reference

Dan Nettleton, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
Phone: +1–(515)–294–7754
Email: dnett@iastate.edu

Yehua Li, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Statistics
University of California at Riverside
Phone: +1–(951)–827–3327
Email: yehuali@ucr.edu

Song Xi Chen, Ph.D.
University Chair Professor
Guanghua School of Management
Peking University
Phone: +86–10–62750427
Email: csx@gsm.pku.edu.cn

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