

Appointment

2024 – present **University of Texas at Austin, Department of Statistics and Data Sciences**
Postdoctoral Fellow working with Prof. Roger Peng

Education

2020 – 2023 **PhD in Statistics, Monash University**
Thesis: *New tools for visualising and explaining multivariate spatio-temporal data*, supervised by Prof. Dianne Cook, Dr. Patricia Menéndez, Dr. Nicolas Langrené, and Dr. Ursula Laa

2016 – 2019 **BComm(Hons.), Monash University**
Bachelor of Commerce with Honours, First Class Honours (H1)
Thesis: *Exploration of judicial facial expression in videos of legal proceedings*, supervised by Prof. Dianne Cook and Prof. Russell Smyth

Awards

2025 KODAQs Guest Researcher Program: 3-week at LMU Munich Germany: **2,500 EUR**.

2025 Winner of the JSM Annual Data Challenge Expo: **1,000 USD**.

2024 John M. Chambers Statistical Software Award (ASA section of statistical computing), awarded for the R package cubble, which introduces a new data structure for spatio-temporal data and provides a ggplot2 extension for creating glyph maps: **2,000 USD**.

2023 Opportunity scholar, Posit::conf(2023). **All expenses covered**.

2022 People's Choice Award, ECSS Miniconference, Statistical Society of Australia

2020 - 2023 Postgraduate (PhD) Research Scholarship, CSIRO Data61

2020 - 2023 Co-Funded Graduate Research Scholarship, Monash Business School

2020 Dean's Honours List, Monash Business School

2019 Summer Vacation Research Scholarship, Monash University

Publications

1. **Zhang, H. S.**, Peng, R. D.(2025). Inside Out: Externalizing Assumptions in Data Analysis as Validation Checks. *Journal of Data Science (to appear)*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2501.04296>
2. **Zhang, H. S.**, Cook, D., Laa, U., Langrené, N., & Menéndez, P. (2025). A Tidy Framework and Infrastructure to Systematically Assemble Spatio-temporal Indexes from Multivariate Data. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10618600.2024.2374960>
3. **Zhang, H. S.**, Cook, D., Laa, U., Langrené, N., & Menéndez, P. (2024). cubble: An R package for organizing and wrangling multivariate spatio-temporal data. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 110, 1-27. <https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v110.i07>
4. Lee, S., Cook, D., Silva, N. da, Laa, U., Spyrisson, N., Wang, E., & **Zhang, H. S.** (2022). The state-of-the-art on tours for dynamic visualization of high-dimensional data. *WIREs Computational Statistics*, 14(4), e1573. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wics.1573>
5. **Zhang, H. S.**, Cook, D., Laa, U., Langrené, N., & Menéndez, P. (2021). Visual Diagnostics for Constrained Optimisation with Application to Guided Tours. *The R Journal*, 13(2), 624–641. <https://doi.org/10.32614/RJ-2021-105>

Under revision:

6. **Zhang, H. S.**, Cook, D., Langrené, N., & Leung, J. W. Y. (2025). Squintability and Other Metrics for Assessing Projection Pursuit Indexes, and Guiding Optimization Choices. *Tentatively accepted (minor revision) to the Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.13663>
7. **Zhang, H. S.**, Peng, R. D.(2025). An LLM-based Pipeline for Understanding Decision Choices in Data Analysis from Published Literature. *Submitted to The ACM CHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2026)*. <https://github.com/huizezhang-sherry/paper-decisions>

Software Activities

Package maintainer (primary author):

tidyindex A general data pipeline for computing indexes
cubble A data structure for organizing and wrangling spatio-temporal data, 52 stars on GitHub
ferrn Visual diagnostics plots for projection pursuit guided tour optimisation

Package contributor:

rj Tools to help the associate editors with the reviewing process of the R journal
rjtools Tools for authors to write, check, and submit articles to the R Journal, 30 stars on GitHub
tourr Tour methods for multivariate data visualisation, 62 stars on GitHub

Other activities:

2024 maintainer of CRAN task view: Dynamic Visualizations
2024 reviewer of ROpenSci software peer review
2024 reviewer of John M. Chambers Statistical Software Award 2025
2025 contributor to fix bug in base R on array max.print

Talks

2025 Jun	NYU-LMU-Workshop Making Data Work: Tools for Better Stats. Practice	Munich, Germany
2025 Aug	Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM)	Nashville, USA
2025 May	Symposium on Data Science and Statistics	Salt Lake City, USA
2024 Dec	University of Nebraska-Lincoln Graphic Group	virtual
2024 Oct	UT Austin SDS Department Seminar	Austin, USA
2024 Sep	Intl. Conf. on Trends & Perspectives in Linear Stats. Inference (Lin-Stat 2024)	Poprad, Slovakia
2024 Aug	Computational Statistics (COMPSTAT 2024)	Giessen, Germany
2024 Aug	Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM)	Portland, USA
2024 Aug	John M. Chambers Statistical Software Award Talk	Portland, USA
2024 Jan	Humboldt University of Berlin, Faculty of Economics	Germany
2023 Dec	Computational and Methodological Statistics (CMStatistics 2023)	Berlin, Germany
2023 Sep	Monash Research Tools Workshop	Melbourne, Australia
2023 May	University of Münster, Institute for Geoinformatics	Germany
2023 Feb	The Australian Spatial Econometrics and Statistics Workshop	Melbourne, Australia
2023 Apr	Maynooth University, Department of Mathematics and Statistics	Ireland
2022 Nov	CANSSI Ontario Statistical Software Conference <i>invite</i>	virtual
2022 Nov	Early Career and Student Statisticians Miniconference	virtual
2022 Jun	UseR! 2022	virtual
2021 Jul	UseR! 2021	virtual

Teaching and Supervision

Instructor for UT Austin undergraduate coursework:

2025 Fall SDS322E Elements of Data Sciences: <https://huizezhang-sherry.github.io/SDS322E/>

Research supervision:

2024 summer Co-supervisor undergraduate and master students on Google Summer of Code R Project: ribbon and segment glyph map
2024 summer Co-supervisor first year PhD student summer research at University of Texas at Austin

TA for Monash undergraduate and graduate coursework:

2021, 2022 ETC5512 Wild Caught Data
2020, 2021 ETC5521 Exploratory Data Analysis
2019, 2020 ETC1010/ETC5510 Introduction to Data Analysis

Instructor for workshops:

2023 Apr	Switching between space and time: Spatio-temporal analysis with cubble, R Ladies Vienna
2022 Dec	Wrangling spatio-temporal data with R, WOMBAT link
2022 Sep	Switching between space and time: Spatio-temporal analysis with cubble, R Ladies Melbourne

Service

2025	Program Chair-Elect ASA Section of Statistical Graphics
2024 onwards	Reviewer for the R Journal, The Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics, Journal of Data Science, and ROpenSci (for software package review)
2024	John M. Chambers Statistical Software Award review panel
2022	Seminar organiser: Monash NUMBATs

Media Coverage

2023	Monash Graduate research impact: Crunching the numbers: How new research has revealed the hidden truth behind indexes
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Referees

1. **Roger D. Peng**, Postdoc Supervisor, roger.peng@austin.utexas.edu, Professor of Statistics, Department of Statistics and Data Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA
2. **Dianne H. Cook**, PhD Thesis Advisor, dicook@monash.edu, Professor of Statistics, Department of Econometrics and Business Statistics at Monash University, Australia
3. **Nicolas Langrené**, PhD Thesis Advisor, nicolaslangrene@uic.edu.cn, Associate Professor in the UIC Financial Mathematics Programme at Beijing Normal-Hong Kong Baptist University, Zhuhai, Guangdong, China