

Jiacheng Zou

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Education

Stanford University	Stanford, CA
PhD in Management Science & Engineering, with PhD Minor in Statistics.	2024 (Exp.)
MS in Management Science & Engineering.	2018
Tianjin University of Finance and Economics	Tianjin, China
BS Economics in Financial Engineering.	2016

Research Interests

Econometrics, Applied Statistics, Causal Inference, Healthcare, FinTech, Human-AI Interaction.

Research

- Inferences of Large Panels with Many Variables** *Job Market Paper*
Coauthor: Markus Pelger
We formulate and provide a solution for a new class of *multiple testing* problems, which arise after using machine learning on different individuals. Regularized machine learning methods can use different variables for different individuals, which complicates the statistical variable selection problem. We formalize this problem as a two-dimensional hypotheses test, and combine post-selection inference with a novel multiple testing method to control for false discoveries. Empirically, we select sparse risk factors from a factor zoo of 114 variables, to explain 243 doubly sorted U.S. stock portfolio returns.
- Learning Relationship Graph with Application in Organ Allocation Policy Evaluations**
Coauthors: Johan Ugander, Itai Ashlagi
Does exchange occur due to supply-demand relationship, beyond consideration of quality on *two-sided platforms*? We use the potential outcome framework from causal inference to define dyadic relationships. Leveraging repeated observations of interactions in the platform to construct supplier fixed effects, we propose a multiple testing method to adjust for platform size and control for false discoveries. We study the US deceased donor kidney allocation system by analyzing > 500,000 deceased donor acceptance decisions from 90 transplant centers. The learned relationship graph between Transplant Centers and Organ Procurers provides new information that can help explain the acceptance rate differences across the country, even after we use machine learning to control for medical, logistical, and patient priority contexts.
- AI Assistance in US Deceased Donor Kidney Allocation: an Information Nudge Experiment**
Coauthors: Itai Ashlagi, Paulo Somaini, Nikhil Agarwal, Grace Guan
We use medical, geographical and temporal information to identify at-risk cadaveric kidneys, through an AI-generated donor risk score. We design a retrospective *Randomized-Control Trial* to analyze how this AI generated information influences the decisions of practitioners in an IRB/HRSA-approved study.

4. Large Dimensional Change Point Detection

Coauthors: Yang Fan, Markus Pelger

We study *change point detection* with hundreds of time series and unknown number of change points. We propose using multiple testing after LASSO screening to exactly recover change point positions, providing trade-off of power versus false discovery. We provide FWER control theory. In the simulations, we showed a 20% increase in F1 scores against the benchmarks of the Dynamic Programming search.

5. Risk Premia Analysis in Post-Dodd-Frank MBS

Coauthor: Kay Giesecke

We study the different risk premia of To-Be-Announced (TBA) and Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS). We price both classes of assets with detailed mortgage characteristics and deep neural networks. Our comparative studies capture the credit sharing distribution among different types of investors, and inform regulators of the MBS markets.

Conference presentations

Inferences of Large Panels with Many Variables

- INFORMS Annual Meeting 2023
- North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society 2023
- Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society 2023
- Western Conference on Math Finance 2023
- NBER-NSF Seminar on Bayesian Inference in Econometrics and Statistics 2022
- California Econometrics Conference 2022

AI Assistance in US Deceased Donor Kidney Allocation

- NeurIPS Workshop on Learning from Time Series for Health (co-author presented, spotlight) 2023
- INFORMS Annual Meeting 2022

Large Dimensional Change Point Detection

- ICML Workshop on Structured Probabilistic Inference & Generative Modeling 2023

Teaching experiences

Teaching Assistant, Stanford University (2=Master's level, 1=Undergraduate level)

1. **MS&E 245A: Investment Science** (Mortgages, Bonds, CAPM & FF3) 2020 (Twice), 2021
• Teach problem sessions; hold office hours; design and grade homework, course projects, and exams.
2. Saudi Industrial Development Fund Credit Analyst professional education program 2019, 2020, 2021
• Hold office hours; design and grade course projects.
3. **MS&E 121, Introduction to Stochastic Modeling** (Basic Markov Chains & CTMC) 2020
• Hold office hours; design and grade homework, course projects, and exams.
4. **MS&E 211X: Introduction to Optimization** (Linear Programs, Lagrange Multipliers) 2019
• Teach problem sessions; hold office hours; design and grade homework.
5. **MS&E 245B: Advanced Investment Science** (Black-Scholes Option Pricing) 2018
• Hold office hours; grade homework and exams.

Cumulatively served ~**400 students** and received overall teaching evaluations of **>4 out of 5**.

References

Markus Pelger (mpelger@stanford.edu), Assistant Professor in MS&E, Stanford University

Itai Ashlagi (iashlagi@stanford.edu), Professor in MS&E, Stanford University

Kay Giesecke (giesecke@stanford.edu), Professor in MS&E and ICME, Stanford University

Service

Referee - ICML, NeurIPS, Management Science.

Organizer - Stanford Advanced Financial Technology Lab Doctoral Seminar.

Member - First-generation Low-income Student Club of Stanford, Stanford MS&E Admission Committee.

Industry experiences

Meta (Formerly: Facebook)	Data Scientist Intern	2022	Menlo Park, CA
Siemens	Software Project Management Intern	2016	Beijing, China