

Justin Ko

Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science — University of Waterloo
justin.ko@uwaterloo.ca

Research	High-dimensional probability, spin glasses, random matrices.	
Employment	University of Waterloo	2023 -
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postdoctoral Researcher• Supervisor: Aukosh Jagannath	
	École Normale Supérieure de Lyon	2020 - 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postdoctoral Researcher• Supervisors: Alice Guionnet, Florent Krzakala, and Lenka Zdeborová	
Education	University of Toronto	2015 - 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD Mathematics• Thesis: The Free Energy of Spherical Vector Spin Glasses• Advisor: Dmitry Panchenko	
	University of Toronto	2014 - 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MSc Mathematics• Research Project: Diluted spin glass models	
	University of British Columbia	2009 - 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Co-op, Minor Mathematics	
Papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On the phase diagram of extensive-rank symmetric matrix denoising beyond rotational invariance (with Jean Barbier, Francesco Camilli, Koki Okajima) arXiv:2403.07189 (2024) <i>Submitted</i>2. A multiscale cavity method for sublinear-rank symmetric matrix factorization. (with Jean Barbier and Anas Rahman) <i>International Zurich Seminar on Information and Communication (IZS 2024)</i>3. Fundamental limits of Non-Linear Low-Rank Matrix Estimation. (with Florent Krzakala, Pierre Mergny and Lenka Zdeborová) <i>Proceedings of Thirty Seventh Conference on Learning Theory (COLT 2024)</i>, PMLR 247:3873-38734. Spectral Phase Transition and Optimal PCA in Block-Structured Spiked models. (with Florent Krzakala and Pierre Mergny) <i>Proceedings of the 41st International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2024)</i>, PMLR 235:35470-354915. Spectral Phase Transitions in Non-Linear Wigner Spiked Models. (with Alice Guionnet, Florent Krzakala, Pierre Mergny and Lenka Zdeborová) arXiv:2310.14055 (2023) <i>Submitted</i>.6. Estimating rank-one matrices with mismatched prior and noise: universality and large deviations. (with Alice Guionnet, Florent Krzakala and Lenka Zdeborová) arXiv:2306.09283 (2023) <i>Accepted for publication at Communications in Mathematical Physics</i>7. TAP variational principle for the constrained multiple spherical SK model. (with David Belius and Leon Fröber) arXiv:2304.04031 (2023) <i>Submitted. Major Revisions at the Annals of Applied Probability</i>	

8. Optimal Algorithms for the Inhomogeneous Spiked Wigner Model (with Florent Krzakala and Aleksandr Pak) *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 36 (NeurIPS 2023)*
9. Low-rank Matrix Estimation with Inhomogeneous Noise (with Alice Guionnet, Florent Krzakala and Lenka Zdeborová) arXiv:2208.05918 (2022) *Submitted. Major Revisions at Information and Inference*
10. Spherical Integrals of Sublinear Rank (with Jonathan Husson) arXiv:2208.03642 (2022) *Submitted.*
11. The Crisanti–Sommers Formula for Spherical Spin Glasses with Vector Spins, arXiv:1911.04355 (2019) *Under Revision.*
12. Free Energy of Multiple Systems of Spherical Spin Glasses with Constrained Overlaps, Electron. J. Probab. 2020, Vol. 25, No. 28, 1-34
13. MAX κ -CUT and the inhomogeneous Potts spin glass (with Aukosh Jagannath and Subhabrata Sen), Ann. Appl. Probab. 2018, Vol. 28, No. 3, 1536-1572

Invited Talks

1. University of Toronto Probability Seminar	Nov 2024
2. Georgia Tech Stochastic Seminar	Sep 2024
3. Rockin' AI Conference in Roccella	Sep 2024
4. Conference on Learning Theory (COLT) 2024	Jun 2024
5. CMS Winter Session on Random Matrix Theory	Dec 2023
6. Northwestern University Probability Seminar	Oct 2023
7. University of Waterloo Probability Seminar	Oct 2023
8. Cargese Summer School: Statistical physics and machine learning	Aug 2023
9. ICTP Learning and Inference from Structured Data	Jul 2023
10. LN-UMN Joint Probability Seminar	Feb 2023
11. LPSM Probability Seminar	Feb 2023
12. Grenoble-Lyon-Geneva Probability Meeting	Nov 2022
13. Les Diablerets Spin Glass Workshop	Oct 2022
14. St Flour Probability School	Jul 2022
15. ICTP Youth In High Dimensions	Jun 2022
16. University of Toulouse III Probability Seminar	Jun 2021
17. University of Waterloo Probability Seminar	Mar 2021
18. University of Basel Probability Seminar	Mar 2020

Teaching

Course Instructor Positions

• ACTSC 624 - Stochastic Processes for Actuarial Science	2025
• STAT 230 - Probability	2023 - 2024
• MAT186 - Calculus I, APM346 - Partial Differential Equations	2019 - 2020
• MAT186 - Calculus I, MAT136 - Calculus I(B)	2018 - 2019

Teaching Assistant Positions

• MAT377, MAT1600, APM346	2019 - 2020
• MAT377, APM346	2018 - 2019
• MAT1600, MAT1601, MAT133, MAT223, APM346	2017 - 2018
• MAT457, MAT236, MAT267, MAT244, MAT232, APM346	2016 - 2017
• MAT133, MAT237, MATA35, STAB52, STA256	2015 - 2016
• MAT135, MAT136, MAT133	2014 - 2015

Awards	1. Ida Bulat Teaching Award for Graduate Students, UofT	2020
	2. Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship, UofT	2019 - 2020
	3. Scotiabank Scholarship, UBC	2009 - 2013
	4. Sauder School of Business Dean's Scholarship, UBC	2010
Conferences & Seminars Organized	1. Waterloo Probability Seminar (Co-organizer)	2023 -
	• Waterloo, Canada	
	2. High Dimensional Statistics and Random Matrices (Co-organizer)	2023
	• Porquerolles, France	
	3. Large Deviations and Random Matrices Working Group	2022 - 2023
	• Lyon, France	
Industry Experience	Economist (SmartWay Program)	2013 - 2014
	• Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa, On	