Kaizheng Wang

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ACADEMIC POSITION

Columbia University, New York, NY, USA Jul. 2020 -

Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research

Member, Data Science Institute

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA Sep. 2015 - Jun. 2020

Ph.D. in Operations Research and Financial Engineering, Department of ORFE

Peking University, Beijing, China Sep. 2011 - Jul. 2015

B.S. in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, School of Mathematical Sciences

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

(α-β: author names are sorted alphabetically; †: student/postdoc supervised.)

Preprints under review

- Uncertainty Quantification for LLM-Based Survey Simulations.
  Chengpiao Huang†, Yuhang Wu, Kaizheng Wang.
  arXiv:2502.17773, 2025.
- Transfer Learning of CATE with Kernel Ridge Regression.
  Seok-Jin Kim†, Hongjie Liu, Molei Liu, Kaizheng Wang.
  arXiv:2502.11331, 2025.
- A Particle Algorithm for Mean-Field Variational Inference.
  Qiang Du, Kaizheng Wang, Edith Zhang, Chenyang Zhong. (α-β)
  arXiv:2412.20385, 2024.
- Localized Exploration in Contextual Dynamic Pricing Achieves Dimension-Free Regret.
  Jinhang Chai, Yaqi Duan, Jianqing Fan, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  arXiv:2412.19252, 2024.

- Adaptive Transfer Clustering: A Unified Framework.
  Yuqi Gu, Zhongyuan Lyu†, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  arXiv:2410.21263, 2024.

- Distribution-Free Predictive Inference under Unknown Temporal Drift.
  Elise Han†, Chengpiao Huang†, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  arXiv:2406.06516, 2024.

- Pseudo-Labeling for Kernel Ridge Regression under Covariate Shift.
  Kaizheng Wang.
  arXiv:2302.10160, 2023.
  Junior Researcher Award, 2024 ICSA China Conference.

- Variable Clustering via Distributionally Robust Nodewise Regression.
  Kaizheng Wang, Xiao Xu, Xun Yu Zhou. (α-β)
  arXiv:2212.07944, 2022.

- Adaptive Data Fusion for Multi-Task Non-Smooth Optimization.
  Henry Lam, Kaizheng Wang, Yuhang Wu†, Yichen Zhang. (α-β)
  arXiv:2210.12334, 2022.

Journal publications

- A Stability Principle for Learning under Non-Stationarity.
  Chengpiao Huang†, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Operations Research (accepted), 2025+.

- Clustering a Mixture of Gaussians with Unknown Covariance.
  Damek Davis, Mateo Díaz, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Bernoulli 31 (3): 2105-2126, 2025.

- Learning Gaussian Mixtures Using the Wasserstein-Fisher-Rao Gradient Flow
  Yuling Yan*, Kaizheng Wang*, Philippe Rigollet. (* = equal contribution)
  Annals of Statistics 52 (4): 1774-1795, 2024.

- Adaptive and Robust Multi-Task Learning.
  Yaqi Duan, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Annals of Statistics 51 (5): 2015-2039, 2023.

- Communication-Efficient Accurate Statistical Estimation.
  Jianqing Fan, Yongyi Guo, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Journal of American Statistical Association 118 (542): 1000-1010, 2023.

- An ℓ_p Theory of PCA and Spectral Clustering.
  Emmanuel Abbe, Jianqing Fan, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Annals of Statistics 50 (4): 2359-2385, 2022.
  Frontiers of Science Award in Mathematics, 2024 International Congress of Basic Science.
  Presented by Jianqing Fan at the **IMS Le Cam Lecture** at the 2021 Joint Statistical Meetings.

- Modern Data Modeling: Cross-Fertilization of the Two Cultures.
  Jianqing Fan, Cong Ma, Kaizheng Wang, Ziwei Zhu. (α-β)
  Observational Studies 7 (1): 65-76, 2021.

- Robust High Dimensional Factor Models with Applications to Statistical Machine Learning.
  Jianqing Fan, Kaizheng Wang, Yiqiao Zhong, Ziwei Zhu. (α-β)
  Statistical Science 36 (2): 303-327, 2021.

- Entrywise Eigenvector Analysis of Random Matrices with Low Expected Rank.
  Emmanuel Abbe, Jianqing Fan, Kaizheng Wang, Yiqiao Zhong. (α-β)
  Annals of Statistics 48 (3): 1452-1474, 2020.

- Implicit Regularization in Nonconvex Statistical Estimation: Gradient Descent Converges Linearly for Phase Retrieval, Matrix Completion and Blind Deconvolution.
  Cong Ma, Kaizheng Wang, Yuejie Chi, Yuxin Chen.
  Foundations of Computational Mathematics 20: 451–632, 2020.
  Short version accepted by **International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)** 2018.
  SIAM Activity Group on Imaging Science Best Paper Prize, 2024.

- Factor-Adjusted Regularized Model Selection.
  Jianqing Fan, Yuan Ke, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Journal of Econometrics 216 (1): 71-85, 2020.

- Comment on "A Tuning-Free Robust and Efficient Approach to High-Dimensional Regression".
  Jianqing Fan, Cong Ma, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Journal of American Statistical Association 115 (532): 1720-1725, 2020.

- Distributed Estimation of Principal Eigenspaces.
  Jianqing Fan, Dong Wang, Kaizheng Wang, Ziwei Zhu. (α-β)

Annals of Statistics 47 (6): 3009-3031, 2019.

- Spectral Method and Regularized MLE are both Optimal for Top-K Ranking.
  Yuxin Chen, Jianqing Fan, Cong Ma, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  Annals of Statistics 47 (4): 2204-2235, 2019.
- Stochastic Representations for the Wave Equation on Graphs and Their Scaling Limits.
  Kaizheng Wang
  Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications 449 (1): 808-828, 2017.
- On the Neumann Problem for Harmonic Functions in the Upper Half Plane.
  Kaizheng Wang
  Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications 419 (2): 839-848, 2014.

Conference publications

- Model Assessment and Selection under Temporal Distribution Shift.
  Elise Han†, Chengpiao Huang†, Kaizheng Wang. (α-β)
  International Conference on Machine Learning, 2024.
- Efficient Clustering for Stretched Mixtures: Landscape and Optimality.
  Kaizheng Wang, Yuling Yan, Mateo Díaz.
  Neural Information Processing Systems, 2020.
- Implicit Regularization in Nonconvex Statistical Estimation: Gradient Descent Converges Linearly for Phase Retrieval and Matrix Completion.
  Cong Ma, Kaizheng Wang, Yuejie Chi, Yuxin Chen.
  International Conference on Machine Learning, 2018.

AWARDS

- ICBS Frontiers of Science Award in Mathematics 2024
- ICSA China Conference Junior Researcher Award 2024
- SIAM Activity Group on Imaging Science Best Paper Prize 2024
- Second Place Award - 2023 INFORMS Blue Summit Supplies Data Challenge 2023
- Harold W. Dodds Fellowship - Princeton University 2019 - 2020
- Gordon Y. S. Wu Fellowship - Princeton University 2015 - 2019
- SEAS Award for Excellence - Princeton University 2018

GRANTS

- NSF Grant DMS-2210907 ($179,999) 2022 – 2025
  Statistical and Computational Tools for Analyzing High-Dimensional Heterogeneous Data
  Role: PI
- Columbia University Data Science Institute Seed Fund ($75,000) 2024 – 2025
  Policy Evaluation with Transfer Learning: How to assess safety performance of self-driving cars in NYC?
  Role: Co-PI

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- Area chair/meta-reviewer: AAAI 2025, COLT 2024 - 2025, ICML 2023 - 2025, NeurIPS 2021 - 2022
- Session chair: INFORMS Annual Meeting 2020 - 2024
- Cluster chair, 2022 CORS-INFORMS International Conference Jun. 2022
- Co-organizer, Optimization and Statistical Learning Workshop, Columbia University Apr. 2025
- Reviewer for the following journals: Annals of Applied Probability, Annals of Statistics, Bernoulli, Biometrika, Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics, Foundations of Computational Mathematics, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Machine Learning Research, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B, Management Science, Mathematics of Operations Research, Operations Research, Random Structures & Algorithms, etc.
- Reviewer for the following conferences: Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA), etc.
- Outreach program: Mentor in the Data Science Research Program for high school students (run by The Coding School in collaboration with Columbia University and other institutes), Jun. - Aug. 2024.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- IEOR E8100 - High-Dimensional Probability with Applications (PhD): Spring 2021, 2023 & 2024;
- IEOR E4106 - Stochastic Models (Master): Spring 2024;
- IEOR E4102 - Stochastic Modeling for Management Science and Engineering (Master): Spring 2023;
- IEOR E4307 - Statistics and Data Analysis (Undergraduate): Fall 2020 & 2021;
- IEOR E3658 - Probability for Engineers (Undergraduate): Spring 2025 & Fall 2025;
- IEOR E3106 - Stochastic Systems and Applications (Undergraduate): Fall 2021 – 2023 & 2025.

RESEARCH GROUP

Postdoctoral Research Scientist

- Zhongyuan Lyu (Data Science Institute Postdoc co-mentored with Yuqi Gu).
  Incoming Lecturer (equivalent to US tenure-track Assistant Professor) of Business Analytics at the University of Sydney Business School.

Ph.D. students

- Chengpiao Huang
  Second Place Award in the 2023 INFORMS Blue Summit Supplies Data Challenge.
- Seok-Jin Kim
- Nathan Weill

Undergraduate students

- Elise Han
  INFORMS Scholarship, 2024.
  Bonomi Scholarship, 2024.
- Alan Ma
- Caden Lin

Alumni

- Eric Chen (Undergraduate)
- Naomi Toft (Undergraduate)
- Geraldine Nina Montano (Undergraduate): Bonomi Scholarship in 2023.
- Rain Wei (Undergraduate): Bonomi Scholarship in 2023.
- Yuhang Wu (Undergraduate)

Now a PhD student at the Decision, Risk, and Operations (DRO) division at Columbia Business School.
Second Place Award in the 2023 INFORMS Blue Summit Supplies Data Challenge.

- Alice Chen (Master)
- Sara Zhao (Undergraduate): Stephen D. Guarino Memorial Award in 2022.
- Ethan Turok (Undergraduate)