# Khai Nguyen

Email: khainb@utexas.edu Website: khainb.com

Contact: (+1) 7733976698

## **OVERVIEW**

I am a second-year Ph.D. student in Statistics at The University of Texas at Austin. My research focus has primarily been on probabilistic models and optimal transport.

## EDUCATION

## The University of Texas at Austin

Texas, USA

Ph.D. in Statistics at Department of Statistics and Data Sciences

2021-Present

- Expected graduation date: June, 2026.
- GPA: 3.97/4.0.
- Advisors: Professor Nhat Ho.

## Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST)

Hanoi, Vietnam

2015-2020

B.Sc in Computer Science (5 years program)

- GPA: 3.61/4.00, Major GPA: 3.71/4.00, Top: 1%, graduated with Excellent Degree.
- Thesis: "Distributional Sliced-Wasserstein and Applications to Generative Modeling".

## EMPLOYMENT

## The University of Texas at Austin

Texas, USA

Graduate Research Assistant

September, 2022 - Present

 Research topics: Random projections for probability measures, Large-scale optimal transport in Machine Learning.

AT&T Labs
Texas, USA

Research Intern

June, 2022 – August, 2022

- Research topics: User Browsing Behavior Analysis, Co-clustering.
- Proposed and implemented co-clustering algorithms to analyze user browsing behavior in PySpark on DataBricks.

VinAI Research Hanoi, Vietnam

AI Research Resident

2019 –2021

- Research topics: Deep Generative Models, Optimal Transport.
- Advisor: Dr. Hung Bui (Director of VinAI Research).
- Did research on Deep Generative Models (VAEs, GANs, score matching, diffusion models) and improved them
  with Optimal Transport (sliced Wasserstein distance, Sinkhorn divergence).

#### Data Science Laboratory (HUST)

Hanoi, Vietnam

 $Under graduate\ Research\ Student$ 

2018-2020

- Research topics: Probabilistic Graphical Model, Continual Learning.
- Applied continual learning (online learning) techniques to variational inference, maximum likelihood estimators, and so on.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- (\*) denotes equal contribution
  - 1. **K. Nguyen**, T. Ren, H. Nguyen, L. Rout, T. Nguyen, and N. Ho, "Hierarchical sliced Wasserstein distance", *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2023.
  - 2. **K. Nguyen** and N. Ho, "Revisiting sliced Wasserstein on images: From vectorization to convolution", *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2022.
  - 3. **K. Nguyen** and N. Ho, "Amortized projection optimization for sliced Wasserstein generative models", *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2022.
  - 4. T. Nguyen, M. Pham, T. Nguyen, K. Nguyen, S. J. Osher, and N. Ho, "Transformer with Fourier integral attentions", Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2022.
  - T. Nguyen, T. Nguyen, H. Do, K. Nguyen, V. Saragadam, M. Pham, K. Nguyen, N. Ho, and S. J. Osher, "Improving transformer with an admixture of attention heads", Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2022.
  - 6. **K.** Nguyen\*, D. Nguyen\*, T. Pham, and N. Ho, "Improving mini-batch optimal transport via partial transportation", in *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2022.
  - 7. **K. Nguyen**, D. Nguyen, Q. Nguyen, T. Pham, H. Bui, D. Phung, T. Le, and N. Ho, "On transportation of mini-batches: A hierarchical approach", in *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2022.
  - 8. K. Le, H. Nguyen, **K. Nguyen**, T. Pham, and N. Ho, "On multimarginal partial optimal transport: Equivalent forms and computational complexity", in *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, PMLR, 2022, pp. 4397–4413.
  - 9. S. Nguyen, D. Nguyen, **K. Nguyen**, K. Than, H. Bui, and N. Ho, "Structured dropout variational inference for bayesian neural networks", *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, vol. 34, pp. 15188–15202, 2021.
  - 10. **K. Nguyen**, N. Ho, T. Pham, and H. Bui, "Distributional sliced-Wasserstein and applications to generative modeling", in *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2021.
  - 11. **K. Nguyen**, S. Nguyen, N. Ho, T. Pham, and H. Bui, "Improving relational regularized autoencoders with spherical sliced fused Gromov-Wasserstein", in *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2021.

## SUBMISSIONS

- (\*) denotes equal contribution
  - 1. **K. Nguyen**, T. Ren, and N. Ho, "Markovian sliced Wasserstein distances: Beyond independent projections", arXiv preprint arXiv:2301.03749, 2023.
  - 2. **K.** Nguyen\*, D. Nguyen\*, and N. Ho, "Self-attention amortized distributional projection optimization for sliced Wasserstein point-clouds reconstruction", arXiv preprint arXiv:2301.04791, 2023.
  - 3. D. Le\*, H. Nguyen\*, **K. Nguyen**\*, T. Nguyen, and N. Ho, "Fast approximation of the generalized sliced-Wasserstein distance", arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.10268, 2022.

- 4. X. Han, T. Ren, T. M. Nguyen, **K. Nguyen**, J. Ghosh, and N. Ho, "Robustify Transformers with robust kernel density estimation", arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.05794, 2022.
- 5. D. Nguyen, **K. Nguyen**, D. Phung, H. Bui, and N. Ho, "Model fusion of heterogeneous neural networks via cross-layer alignment", arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.15538, 2021.
- 6. N. Ho, D. Do, H. Nguyen, and **K. Nguyen**, "Optimal rate for parameter estimation in matrix-variate deviated models", arXiv preprint arXiv:2301.11808, 2023.
- 7. H. Nguyen, **K. Nguyen**, and N. Ho, "On parameter estimation in deviated gaussian mixture of experts", *Under Review*, 2023.

## Professional services

- Reviewer at Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR).
- Reviewer at Machine Learning Journal.
- Reviewer at International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) 2021, 2022, 2023.
- Reviewer at Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2021, 2022 (top reviewer).
- Reviewer at Workshop on Deep Generative Models (NeurIPS) 2021.
- Reviewer at International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2022, 2023.
- Reviewer at International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS) 2022, 2023.
- Reviewer at AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) 2023.
- Reviewer at IEEE / CVF Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference (CVPR) 2023.
- Reviewer at International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV) 2023.

# AWARDS

• NeurIPS 2022 Scholar Award (about 2,000\$).	2022
• ICML Participation Grants (about 2,000\$).	2022
• Doctoral Fellowship of The University of Texas at Austin (about 30,000\$).	2021
• Third Prize of Scientific Research Student Award of Hanoi University of Science and Technology.	2019

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

• Python: Proficient.

Libraries: Pytorch (proficient), Tensorflow (basic), Scikit-Learn (proficient), Numpy (proficient), Pandas (basic), Matplotlib (proficient), Pyspark (basic), and so on.

- Java: Basic.
- C/C++: Basic.
- Developer Tools: Git.
- Systems: Linux.