

# NAVEED MERCHANT, PH.D

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**MODELING & ANALYSIS | DATA QUERYING | COMMUNICATIONS | BUSINESS ACUMEN**

## **QUALIFICATION SUMMARY**

I am a statistician whose research involved looking at efficient screening methods to help large data set applications run quickly and effectively. I have experience working in a wide variety of domains (agriculture, finance, manufacturing, epidemiology, and healthcare) and dealing with many different types of data and the infrastructure that supports them. My experience has led me to explore different statistical methodologies, as well as different ways in which people store data. I help people make decisions using data, quantify how noisy it is, and be transparent in their limitations. I enjoy collaborating with others, having served as a data scientist, data engineer, a university teacher, and auditor, which all value my perspective as a statistician.

## **KEY SKILLS**

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| <p>✓ Modeling and Analysis<br/>✓ R (parallel computing, Repp)<br/>✓ Python (PyMC)<br/>✓ SAS<br/>✓ C++ (for speed)</p> | <p>✓ Database Querying<br/>✓ SQL<br/>✓ Spark<br/>✓ AWS (Athena, Glue, Sagemaker)</p> | <p>✓ Technical Communications<br/>✓ LATEX<br/>✓ Rmarkdown<br/>✓ Microsoft Office, Excel VBA<br/>✓ GitHub</p> |
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## **RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Internal Audit Manager**

Schwab

**April 2025 - Present**

Westlake, TX

- Reviewed and audited the statistical methodology and technical infrastructure of financial models, ensuring they are conceptually sound and align with regulatory standards, such as SR 11-7 and SR 15-19.
- Delegated responsibilities and aided project management to ensure that audit deliverables are received in a timely fashion.
- Assisted in using model inventory data to ensure audits had good coverage across models in the company.
- Collaborated with internal stakeholders to ensure regulatory and issues raised in audits are understood and properly closed.

### **Data Analyst Specialist**

Vanguard

**June 2023 - Sep 2024**

Plano, TX

- Explored and modeled effectiveness of financial tools for clients using SQL and Python.
- Illustrated effectiveness found with models via Tableau.
- Automated scripting tasks and updates to dashboards with AWS Glue and GitHub actions.
- Verified caller intent of transcribed calls to determine why clients called the company.

**Senior Statistician** **Feb - March 2023**  
Core Clinical Sciences Houston, TX

- Perform, research, and develop simulation-guided trial design and advanced statistical analyses for adaptive trial designs and other innovative trial designs;
- Create internal R packages related to trial design, trial analyses, and reporting with easy-to-use documentations and users guide (vignettes) to allow other statisticians to implement;
- Develop internal templates using RMarkdown/Quarto to facilitate delivery of our client deliverables
- Monitor key emerging innovative statistical and data science methodologies and drive education and integration of emerging methods into internal road-maps

**Data Scientist, Climate Corporation** **Jan - Dec 2022**  
COLABERRY Houston, TX

- Explore, query, manipulate and model big data using statistical and Bayesian modeling with Python;
- Extract, transform and load (ETL) abstract data structures to model the effect of disease on crop systems;
- Select appropriate modeling techniques and data visualization for large datasets to conduct hypothesis testing on the efficacy of disease on crop systems;
- Evaluate data quality and discover data limitations and report to the team and senior management.

**Statistician** **Apr-Dec 2021**  
MAXIS-IT Edison, NJ

- Applied semi-supervised and unsupervised machine learning techniques to detect a person's stress given real-time biological information;
- Processed large biological datasets in support of machine learning applications for the above;
- Responsible for recruiting new team members, including: coordinated with HR, reviewed resumes, drafted technical interview questions and conducted/evaluated technical interviews.

**Consulting Center Research Assistant** **Aug 2020-Jun 2021**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY College Station, TX

- Using R, collaborated with A&M faculty in developing customized statistical models to analyze experimental data;
- Guided and adjusted experiment design of faculty's experiments to minimize cost and preserved power for inference with experiments; and
- Reviewed grant proposals by faculty to ensure funding budget supported sufficient data requirements to fulfill research goals in a variety of conditions.

**Covid-19 Modeling Research Assistant** **Jun-Dec 2020**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY College Station, TX

- Queried, filtered, loaded and modeled real time COVID-19 data to inform Texas A&M University COVID-19 policy decisions;

- Assessed, selected, and tested different statistical models to examine impact of certain COVID-19 events on the incidence rate;
- Extended statistical models to make reliable short-term predictions of the number of COVID-19 incidences in the future;
- Leveraged Rshiny to deploy and broadcast predictions to the public and for reporting results.

**Instructor**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**Aug-Dec 2019**  
College Station, TX

- Developed and delivered STAT 201 introductory statistics course designed to introduce the concept of sampling to a class of 71 undergraduate students. Overall student rating: 4.22 out of 5;
- Increased engagement by leveraging online learning platforms

**General Motors Research Assistant**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**Jan-Jun 2019, Jan-Jun 2020**  
College Station, TX

- Optimized algorithms to enable calculations on huge volumes of data regarding car operations and its correlation to future mechanical flaws;
- Developed and delivered a tool with R and Python to query weather data from 3rd party sources and merge it within the General Motors database.
- Engineered informative features to use in large time series analysis to explain malfunctions in conveyor belts; and
- Collaborated with the Statistics and Computer Science departments to evaluate Matrix Profile's performance in unsupervised learning of anomalies in the conveyor belts.

## **PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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**Screening Methods for Classification Based on Non-parametric Bayesian Tests | Aug 2022**  
Collaborator: Dr. Jeffery Hart, Texas A&M University

- A new screening method for choosing variables under classification is proposed and explored.
- The usefulness of the screening method (and others) are established by examining the improvement of common classification models after screening is applied.
- We use our method to detect important pixels for recognizing handwritten digits and detecting useful genes for discriminating between types of lung cancer.
- A pre-print is available upon request.

**A Bayesian Motivated Two-sample Test Based on Kernel Density Estimates | Aug 2022**  
Collaborator: Dr. Jeffery Hart, Texas A&M University

- A Bayesian two-sample test that extends the framework in "Use of Cross-validation Bayes Factors to Test Equality of Two Densities".
- This test loses some interpretability of the Bayes factor in exchange for obtaining an exact frequentist type p-value, losing some hyper parameters, and an overall increase in computation speed.
- This [paper](#) has been accepted and published by Entropy.

**COVID-19: Short Term Prediction Model Using Daily Incidence Data | Apr 2021**

Main Collaborator: Dr. Hongwei Zhao, Texas A&M University

- A new method is proposed and used for forecasting the number of daily incidences of COVID-19, given the  $R_0$  rate is roughly constant over short periods of time. We apply the method to estimate the number of future incidences in the Texas state and Brazos Valley county.
- Developed [a dashboard](#) that produces real-time predictions.
- This [paper](#) has been accepted and published by PLOS-ONE.

#### **Effects of Gene Expression and LSO on Potato and Tobacco |**

**Dec 2021**

Collaborators: Julien G. Levy, Texas A&M University; Azucena Mendoza-Herrera, Texas A&M University; Cecilia Tamborindeguy, Texas A&M University; Zhiqian Pang, University of Florida; and Nian Wang, University of Florida

- This is a multiple department collaboration project – my primary role was consulting and guiding analysis of the data in a context where it was not clear how variables interacted.
- We characterize symptoms of different types of "LSO" (a plant pathogen) on tobacco, as well as explore the effect of a gene's expression in LSO infection, psyllid (insect) infestation and different plant responses.
- The full name of the paper is: "A salicylic acid hydroxylase gene from 'Candidatus Liberibacter' manipulates plant responses and affects resistance to potato psyllid and 'Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum'". Currently in the process of being accepted and published.

#### **Use of Cross-validation Bayes Factors to Test Equality of Two Densities |**

**Mar 2020**

Collaborators: Dr. Jeffery Hart, Texas A&M University and Dr. Taeryon Choi from Korea University

- Developed a non-parametric Bayesian test for testing equality of two distributions. Research has been implemented on increasing computation speed, and applying our method to feature selection for classification and fraud detection.
- A [GitHub Repository](#) with an R package that implements this research is available. A [paper](#) that details the procedure was published by [Statistics in early 2025](#).
- An invited presentation regarding this work was given at the *2021 World Meeting of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis*.

#### **Experimental Rankings of Soybean Plants |**

**Apr 2020**

Collaborators: Myeongjong Kang, Zhao Tang Luo and Dr. Loren Vega, Texas A&M University

- We developed a new method to assign holistic ranks to the treatments, based on how they impacted several different factors of growth on soybean plants in collaboration with the AgriLife department.

#### **Analysis of Taxi-Cab Trends Over Time |**

**Apr 2018**

Collaborators: Zhao Tang Luo, Dongbang Yuan, Anupam Kundu and Dr. Jianhua Huang, Texas A&M University

- Identify how taxi cab companies have evolved from 2013-2019, and how they have been impacted by Uber and Lyft's emergence in the city of Chicago.

- We analyzed four years of data (over 20 GB), and extracted information on which taxi cab companies survived Uber and Lyft and their successful techniques.
- Analysis is mostly exploratory, but was on a very large scale.

## EDUCATION

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, Statistics**  
Texas A&M University

*May 2022*  
College Station, TX

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, Applied Mathematics**  
Texas A&M University

*May 2017*  
College Station, TX