Nelvin Tan

Resume

PERSONAL DETAILS

Phone: +65 9363 8261
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Nationality: Singaporean
Websites: Github, personal, google scholar

EDUCATION

Ph.D. – Engineering   October 2021 – October 2024
University of Cambridge

Topic:	Machine Learning and Information Theory
Division:	Information Engineering
Thesis Title:	*Approximate Message Passing for Matrix Regression*

B. Comp. (Honours) – Turing Programme (4.68/5.0)   August 2017 – May 2021
National University of Singapore

Classification:	Highest Distinction (First Class Honours)
Majors:	Computer Science and Statistics
Specialization:	Algorithms and Theory
Thesis Title:	*Fast Splitting Algorithms for Noisy and Sparsity-Constrained Group Testing*

EXPERIENCE

American Express   October 2024 – Present
Data Scientist – Manager

· Conducted experiments and implemented systems for the following applications: Document analysis.
· Conducted research in the following topics: Concept drift detection, natural language processing, large language models.

University of Cambridge   October 2021 – October 2024
Doctoral Researcher

· Topic: Mixed Regression, Pooled Data, Group Testing
· Designed and mathematically analyzed algorithms for high-dimensional statistical problems.
· Developed numerical simulations to justify the state of the art performance of the developed algorithms.

National University of Singapore   June 2019 – June 2021
Undergraduate Researcher

· Topic: Group Testing
· Designed state of the art algorithms for group testing under practical constraints.
· Mathematically analyzed the developed algorithms to show that they use near-optimal number of tests and are time efficient to run.

National University of Singapore   January 2018 – April 2018
Teaching Assistant

· Module: CS2030 Programming Methodology II
· Planned, managed, and conducted weekly lab sessions for a class of 40 students.

Singapore Armed Forces, 41 Singapore Armoured Regiment   February 2015 – December 2016
Reconnaissance Commander

· Led my tango in battalion-level missions.
· Conducted and assisted in basic military training and specialized reconnaissance training.

SOFTWARE

Programming Languages (Computer Science):	Python (main), SQL, Java, C
Programming Languages (Statistics):	R (main), SAS, SPSS
Others:	LaTeX, Jupyter Notebook, Google Colab

AWARDS

· Honorary Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholarship Programme Research Grant	2023
· Cambridge Department of Engineering Scholarship	2021
(from Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars Programme)	
· Cambridge Trust Scholarship	2021
· National University of Singapore Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Prize	2021
(certificate) (news article)	
· GCE A-Level Academic Excellence Award	2014

SERVICE (REVIEWER)

· IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory	2026, 2023
· IEEE Transactions on Information Theory	2025
· Symposium on the Theory of Computation	2024
· IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing	2023
· International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics	2022

PUBLICATIONS

Publications are listed in reverse chronological order.

Journal Papers:

[6] **Nelvin Tan**, Pablo Pascual Cobo, and Ramji Venkataramanan, "Quantitative Group Testing and Pooled Data in the Linear Regime with Sublinear Tests," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2025.

[5] **Nelvin Tan**, Pablo Pascual Cobo, Jonathan Scarlett, and Ramji Venkataramanan, "Approximate Message Passing with Rigorous Guarantees for Pooled Data and Quantitative Group Testing," *SIAM Journal on Mathematics of Data Science (SIMODS)*, 2024.

[4] **Nelvin Tan** and Ramji Venkataramanan, "Mixed Regression via Approximate Message Passing," *Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR)*, 2023.

[3] Eric Price, Jonathan Scarlett, and **Nelvin Tan**, "Fast Splitting Algorithms for Noisy and Sparsity-Constrained Group Testing," *Information and Inference: A Journal of the IMA*, 2023.

[2] **Nelvin Tan**, Way Tan, and Jonathan Scarlett, "Performance Bounds for Group Testing With Doubly-Regular Designs," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2023.

[1] Oliver Gebhard, Max Hahn-Klimroth, Olaf Parczyk, Manuel Penschuck, Maurice Rolvien, Jonathan Scarlett, and **Nelvin Tan**, "Near Optimal Sparsity-Constrained Group Testing: Improved Bounds and Algorithms," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2022.

Conference Papers:

[8] **Nelvin Tan**, Yaowen Zhang, James Asikin Cheung, Fusheng Liu, Yu-Ching Shih, and Dong Yang, "Improved Evidence Extraction for Document Inconsistency Detection with LLMs" *In Submission*, 2026.

[7] **Nelvin Tan**, James Asikin Cheung, Yu-Ching Shih, Dong Yang, and Amol Salunkhe, "Does Using Counterfactual Help LLMs Explain Textual Importance in Classification?", 2025.

[6] **Nelvin Tan**, Zian Seng, Liang Zhang, Yu-Ching Shih, Dong Yang, and Amol Salunkhe, "Improved LLM Agents for Financial Document Question Answering," *In Submission*, 2025.

[5] **Nelvin Tan**, Yu-Ching Shih, Dong Yang, and Amol Salunkhe, "Flexible and Efficient Drift Detection without Labels," *IEEE International Conference on Data Mining Workshops (ICDMW)*, 2025.

[4] **Nelvin Tan**, Pablo Pascual Cobo, and Ramji Venkataramanan, "Quantitative Group Testing and Pooled Data with Sublinear Number of Tests," *International Zurich Seminar on Information and Communication (IZS)*, 2024.

[3] **Nelvin Tan** and Ramji Venkataramanan, "Mixed Linear Regression via Approximate Message Passing," *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, 2023.

[2] **Nelvin Tan** and Jonathan Scarlett, "An Analysis of the DD Algorithm for Group Testing with Size-Constrained Tests," *IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, 2021.

[1] **Nelvin Tan** and Jonathan Scarlett, "Near-Optimal Sparse Adaptive Group Testing," *IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)*, 2020.

Dissertations:

[3] **Nelvin Tan**, "Approximate Message Passing for Matrix Regression," *Ph.D. Thesis (University of Cambridge)*, 2024.

[2] **Nelvin Tan**, "Fast Splitting Algorithms for Noisy and Sparsity-Constrained Group Testing," *Final Year Project (National University of Singapore)*, 2021.

[1] **Nelvin Tan**, "Sparse Group Testing: Bounds and Algorithms," *Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (National University of Singapore)*, 2020.