## Nhat Pham Minh Ho

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Statistics and Data Sciences

University of Texas, Austin Phone: (734) 355-9907

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS Assistant Professor (tenure-track)

2020-present

- Department of Statistics and Data Sciences
- University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA

#### Post-doctoral Scholar in EECS

2017-2020

- University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Mentors: Professors Michael I. Jordan and Martin J. Wainwright

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan USA

Ph.D in Statistics, 2012 - 2017

- Advisors: Professors Long Nguyen and Ya'acov Ritov
- Thesis: Parameter estimation and multilevel clustering with mixture and hierarchical models

Master of Arts in Statistics, 2012-2013

Ho Chi Minh City University of Science, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

B.S in Mathematics and Computer Science, 2007-2011

- Major: Partial Differential Equations (PDE) and Numerical Analysis
- $\bullet$  Rank: 3/3200 Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

A central theme of my research focuses on four principles of statistics and data science: heterogeneity, interpretability, stability, and scalability:

- Heterogeneity (Bayesian nonparametrics, hierarchical and mixture models)
- Interpretability (model misspecification, deep generative model, convolutional neural networks)
- Stability (robust statistics, (non)-convex optimization in statistical settings)
- Scalability (statistical and computational optimal transport, approximate Bayesian inference, distributed computing)

Papers to be submitted (Preprints, complete manuscripts) (Authors of papers marked with \* are equally contributed. Authors of papers marked with \*\* are in alphabetical order)

Chiao-Yu Yang, Lihua Lei, **Nhat Ho**, Will Fithian. The bag-of-null-statistics procedure: An adaptive framework for selecting a better test statistics. To be submitted, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B.

Nhat Ho\*\*, Stephen Walker\*\*. On efficient estimation of cumulative distribution function and its application to sampling. To be submitted, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B.

Aritra Guha, **Nhat Ho**, Chiao-Yu Yang, Long Nguyen, Michael I. Jordan. Bayesian sieves for unbounded parameter space and excess mass contraction under misspecification. *To be submitted, Annals of Statistics*.

Dat Do\*, Nhat Ho\*, XuanLong Nguyen. Statistical efficiency of parameter estimation in generalized contaminated models. To be submitted, Annals of Statistics.

Wenlong Mou, **Nhat Ho**, Martin J. Wainwright, Peter Bartlett, Michael I. Jordan. A Poisson equation perspective on Berstein-Von Mises theorem. To be submitted, Annals of Statistics.

Jiacheng Zhu, Jeongyeol Kwon, Nhat Ho, Constantine Caramanis. On the computational and statistical complexity of over-parameterized matrix sensing. To be submitted, Annals of Statistics.

Tudor Manole, Nhat Ho, Sivaraman Balakrishnan, Larry Wasserman. Uniform convergence rates of parameter estimation under Gaussian identifiable mixtures. To be submitted, Annals of Statistics.

JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS Nhat Ho\*\*, Stephen Walker\*\*. Multivariate smoothing via the Fourier integral theorem and Fourier kernel. Under review, Journal of Machine Learning Research.

Nhat Ho\*, Raaz Dwivedi\*, Koulik Khamaru\*, Martin J. Wainwright, Michael I. Jordan, Bin Yu. Instability, computational efficiency, and statistical accuracy. *Under review, Annals of Statistics*.

Mingzhang Yin, **Nhat Ho**, Bowei Yan, Mingyuan Zhou. Probabilistic best subset selection by gradient-based optimization. *Under review, Journal of the American Statistical Association*.

Tan Nguyen\*, **Nhat Ho**\*, Ankit Patel, Anima Anankumar, Michael I. Jordan, Richard Baraniuk. A Bayesian perspective of convolutional neural networks through a deconvolutional generative model. *Under review, Journal of Machine Learning Research*.

Nhat Ho, Chiao-Yu Yang, Michael I. Jordan. Convergence rates for Gaussian mixtures of experts. Under review, Journal of Machine Learning Research.

Chiao-Yu Yang, Eric Xia, **Nhat Ho**, Michael I. Jordan. Posterior distribution for the number of clusters in Dirichlet process mixture models. *Under review, Annals of Statistics*.

Conference Submissions Trung Le, Khanh Nguyen, **Nhat Ho**, Hung Bui, Dinh Phung. LAMDA: label matching deep domain adaptation with theoretical guarantee. arXiv preprint arXiv:1811.06199, Under review, AISTATS.

Tam Le\*, Viet Huynh\*, **Nhat Ho\***, Makoto Yamada, Dinh Phung. On scalable variant of Wasserstein barycenter. *Under review*, AISTATS.

Trung Nguyen, Hieu Pham, Tam Le, **Nhat Ho**, Tung Pham, Son Hua. Point-set distances for learning representations of 3D point clouds. *Under review*, *CVPR*.

Son Nguyen, Khai Nguyen, **Nhat Ho**, Tung Pham, Hung Bui. Structured posterior approximation in Bayesian neural networks. *To be submitted, ICML*.

Khai Nguyen, Dinh Quoc, **Nhat Ho**, Tung Pham, Dinh Phung, Trung Le. On batch of mini-batches optimal transport. *To be submitted, ICML*.

Huy Nguyen, Khang Le, Quang Nguyen, **Nhat Ho**, Tung Pham, Hung Bui. On robust optimal transport: computational complexity, low-rank approximation, and barycenter computation. *To be submitted, ICML*.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS Wenlong Mou\*, **Nhat Ho\***, Martin J. Wainwright, Peter Bartlett, Michael I. Jordan. A diffusion process perspective on posterior contraction rates for parameters. arXiv preprint arXiv: 1909.00966, Under revision.

Tianyi Lin, **Nhat Ho**, Michael I. Jordan. On the acceleration of the Sinkhorn and Greenkhorn algorithms for optimal transport. *Under revision*.

Wenlong Mou, **Nhat Ho**, Martin J. Wainwright, Peter Bartlett, Michael I. Jordan. Sampling for Bayesian mixture models: MCMC with polynomial-time mixing. *Under revision*.

Nhat Ho\*, Tianyi Lin\*, Michael I. Jordan. On structured filtering-clustering: global error bound and optimal first-order algorithms. *Under revision*.

Tianyi Lin, **Nhat Ho**, Marco Cuturi, Michael I. Jordan. On the complexity of approximating multi-marginal optimal transport. *Under revision*.

Avi Feller\*\*, Evan Greif\*\*, **Nhat Ho**\*\*, Luke W. Miratrix\*\*, Natesh S. Pillai\*\*. Weakly separation in mixture models and implications for principal stratification. *Under revision*.

Aritra Guha, Nhat Ho, XuanLong Nguyen. On posterior contraction of parameters and interpretability in Bayesian mixture modeling. To appear, Bernoulli.

Viet Huynh\*, **Nhat Ho\***, Nhan Dam, XuanLong Nguyen, Mikhail Yurochkin, Hung Bui, Dinh Phung. On efficient multilevel clustering via Wasserstein distances. *To appear, Journal of Machine Learning Research*.

Raaz Dwivedi\*, **Nhat Ho**\*, Koulik Khamaru\*, Martin J. Wainwright, Michael I. Jordan, Bin Yu. Singularity, misspecification, and the convergence rate of EM. *Annals of Statistics*, 48(6), 3161-3182, 2020.

Nhat Ho, XuanLong Nguyen, Ya'acov Ritov. Robust estimation of mixing measures in finite mixture models. Bernoulli, 26(2), 828-857, 2020.

Nhat Ho and XuanLong Nguyen. Singularity structures and impacts on parameter estimation in finite mixtures of distributions. SIAM Journal on Mathematics of Data Science, 1(4), 730-758, 2019.

Nhat Ho and XuanLong Nguyen. Convergence rates of parameter estimation for some weakly identifiable finite mixtures. *Annals of Statistics*, 44(6), 2726-2755, 2016.

Nhat Ho and XuanLong Nguyen. On strong identifiability and convergence rates of parameter estimation in finite mixtures. *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, 10(1), 271-307, 2016.

## Conference Publications

Jeong Y. Kwon, **Nhat Ho**, Constantine Caramanis. On the minimax optimality of the EM algorithm for learning two-component mixed linear regression. *Under review*, AISTATS.

Khai Nguyen, **Nhat Ho**, Tung Pham, Hung Bui. Distributional sliced-Wasserstein and applications to generative modeling. *Under review*, *ICLR*.

Khai Nguyen, Son Nguyen, **Nhat Ho**, Tung Pham, Hung Bui. Improving relational regularized autoencoders with spherical sliced fused Gromov-Wasserstein. *Under review, ICLR*.

Tam Le\*, **Nhat Ho\***, Makoto Yamada. Flow-based alignment approaches for probability measures in different spaces. *Under review*, *AISTATS*.

Tianyi Lin\*, Chenyou Fan\*, **Nhat Ho**, Marco Cuturi, Michael I. Jordan. Projection robust Wasserstein distance and Riemannian optimization. Advances in NeurIPS, 2020 (Spotlight).

Tianyi Lin, Nhat Ho, Xi Chen, Marco Cuturi, Michael I. Jordan. Revisiting fixed support Wasserstein barycenter: Computational hardness and efficient algorithms. Advances in NeurIPS, 2020.

Khiem Pham\*, Khang Le\*, Nhat Ho, Tung Pham, Hung Bui. On unbalanced optimal transport: an analysis of Sinkhorn algorithm. Proceedings of the ICML, 2020.

Raaz Dwivedi\*, Nhat Ho\*, Koulik Khamaru\*, Martin J. Wainwright, Michael I. Jordan, Bin Yu. Sharp analysis of Expectation-Maximization for weakly identifiable models. AISTATS, 2020.

Wenshuo Guo, Nhat Ho, Michael I. Jordan. Fast algorithms for computational optimal transport and Wasserstein barycenters. AISTATS, 2020.

Tianvi Lin\*, Nhat Ho\*, Michael I. Jordan. On efficient optimal transport: an analysis of greedy and accelerated mirror descent algorithms. Proceedings of the ICML, 2019.

Nhat Ho\*, Viet Huynh\*, Dinh Phung, Michael I. Jordan. A probabilistic approach to multilevel clustering via composite transportation distance. AISTATS, 2019.

Raaz Dwivedi\*, Nhat Ho\*, Koulik Khamaru\*, Martin J. Wainwright, Michael I. Jordan. Theoretical guarantees for EM under misspecified Gaussian mixture models. Advances in NeurIPS, 2018.

Nhat Ho, XuanLong Nguyen, Mikhail Yurochkin, Hung Bui, Viet Huynh, Dinh Phung. Multi-level clustering via Wasserstein means. Proceedings of the ICML, 2017.

# Refereed

Yujia Huang\*, Sihua Dai\*, Tan Nguyen\*, Nhat Ho\*, Ankit Patel, Anima Anankumar, Michael WORKSHOP PAPERS Jordan, Richard Baraniuk. Neural rendering model: rethinking neural networks from the joint generation and prediction perspective. Conference on Mathematical Theory of Deep Neural Networks, 2019.

> Nhat Ho\*, Tan Nguyen\*, Ankit Patel, Anima Anankumar, Michael Jordan, Richard Baraniuk. Neural rendering model: Joint generation and prediction for semi-supervised learning. NIPS workshop on Integration of Deep Learning Theories, 2018.

> Nhat Ho\*, Tan Nguyen\*, Ankit Patel, Anima Anankumar, Michael Jordan, Richard Baraniuk. Latent-dependent deep rendering model. ICML workshop on Theoretical Foundations and Applications of Deep Generative Models, 2018.

## Workshop ORGANIZATION

Integration of Deep Learning Theories at NeurIPS 2018, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Canada.

Co-organize with Professors Richard Baraniuk, Stephane Mallat, Anima Anandkumar, and Ankit Patel

# INVITED SEMINAR Presentations

On optimal transport in machine learning and data sciences: computational, modeling, and theoretical perspective. BLISS Seminar, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, January, 2021, UC Berkeley. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Department of Decision Sciences at Bocconi University, Italy, November 2020. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Young Data Science Researcher Seminar, ETH Zurich, July 2020. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Depart-

ment of Biostatistics, March 2020. University of California, Berkeley. (Invited talk - Canceled)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics and Data Science, February 2020, CMU. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, February 2020, University of California, Los Angeles. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics and Data Science, February 2020, Cornell University. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, February 2020, Rutgers University. (Invited talk - Canceled)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, February 2020, Purdue University. (Invited talk - Canceled)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Data Science, February 2020, University of California, San Diego. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Data Science, February 2020, John Hopskins University. (Invited talk - Canceled)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, February 2020, University of Wisconsin, Madison. (Invited talk - Canceled)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, March 2020, University of Toronto. (Invited talk - Canceled)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, February 2020, Duke University. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics and Data Sciences, January 2020, University of Texas, Austin. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, January 2020, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Booth School of Management, January 2020, University of Chicago. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Data Science and Operation Research, January 2020, University of Southern California. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, January 2020, North Carolina State University. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, January 2020, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Krannert School of Management, January 2020, Purdue University. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspectives on latent variable models. Statistics Seminar, Department of Statistics, January 2020, Pennsylvania State University. (Invited talk)

On multi-layer latent variable models: computational and statistical perspective. *Mathematics of Data and Decisions Seminar, Department of Mathematics, December, 2019, UC Davis.* (Invited talk)

On optimal transport in machine learning and data science: computational, modeling, and theoretical perspective. Research Seminar, VinAI Research, October, 2019, Ha Noi, Viet Nam. (Invited talk)

Statistical and computational perspective of mixture and hierarchical models. *BLISS Seminar*, *Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences*, *October*, *2019*, *UC Berkeley*. (Invited talk-Canceled)

Singularity structures of mixture models: Statistical and computational perspective. Department Seminar, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, Rice, November, 2018, Houston, Texas. (Invited talk)

## Conference, Workshop Presentations

Statistical efficiency of parameter estimation in generalized contaminated models. *International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), Xi'an University, Xi'an, China, 2021.* (Invited talk)

Convergence rates for Gaussian mixtures of experts. International Conference on Econometrics and Statistics (EcoSta), Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea, 2021. (Invited talk)

Convergence rates for Gaussian mixtures of experts. International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2020. (Invited talk - Canceled)

On efficient optimal transport: an analysis of greedy and accelerated mirror descent algorithms. International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Long Beach, CA, 2019. (Oral presentation)

Singularity structures of mixture models: Statistical and computational perspective. *Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)*, August, 2019, Denver, Colorado. (Invited talk)

Singularity structures of parameter estimation in finite mixtures of distributions. *Joint Stan-ford/Berkeley Applied Math Event, November 2018, University of California, Berkeley.* (Invited talk)

Singularity structure of parameter space and posterior contraction in finite mixture models. *Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), August, 2017, Baltimore, Maryland.* (Invited talk)

Singularity structures and parameter estimation behavior in finite mixtures of distributions. Non-parametric Statistics Workshop: Integration of Theory, Methods, and Applications, October, 2016, Ann Arbor, Michigan. (Poster)

Singularity structures and impacts on parameter estimation in finite mixtures of distributions. Shannon Centennial Symposium, September, 2016, Ann Arbor, Michigan. (Poster)

Singularity structures and parameter estimation behavior in finite mixtures of distributions. *Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)*, August, 2016, Chicago, Illinois. (Contributed talk)

Singularity structures and parameter estimation behavior in finite mixtures of distributions. Conference on Statistical Learning and Data Science, June, 2016, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (Poster)

Singularity structures and parameter estimation behavior in finite mixtures of distributions. Statistical Machine Learning Student Workshop, June, 2016, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (Contributed talk)

Singularity structures and parameter estimation in mixtures of skew normal distributions. *Michigan Student Symposium for Interdisciplinary Statistical Sciences (MSSISS)*, March, 2016, Ann Arbor, MI. (Poster)

Weak Identifiability and convergence rates of parameter estimation in over-fitted Gaussian mixture models. Student Seminar, January, 2016, Department of Statistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (Invited talk)

Intrinsic difficulties for the inference of mixing measures in finite mixtures of univariate skew normal distributions. From Industrial Statistics to Data Science, October, 2015, Ann Arbor, Michigan. (Poster)

Posterior concentration of mixing parameters in some weakly identifiable finite mixture models. 10th Conference on Bayesian Nonparametrics, June, 2015, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Poster)

Weak identifiability and optimal rate of convergence of mixing measures in over-fitted Gaussian mixture model. NSF Conference - Statistics for Complex Systems, June, 2015, Madison, Wisconsin. (Poster)

Weak identifiability and optimal rate of convergence of mixing measures in over-fitted Gaussian mixture model. Statistical Machine Learning Student Workshop, June, 2015, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (Contributed talk)

Optimal convergence rate of parameter estimation in over-fitted finite Gaussian mixture model. Michigan Student Symposium for Interdisciplinary Statistical Sciences (MSSISS), 2015, Ann Arbor, MI. (Poster)

Identifiability and convergence rate of parameter estimators in exact-fitted finite mixture models. Statistical Machine Learning Student Workshop, June, 2014, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (Contributed talk)

## Professional Services

## Journal reviewing:

- Annals of Statistics (5 papers)
- Journal of the American Statistical Association (1 paper)
- Bernoulli (1 paper)
- Electronic Journal of Statistics (2 papers)
- Journal of Machine Learning Research (5 papers)
- SIAM Journal on Mathematics of Data Science (1 paper)
- Statistical Science (1 paper)
- Mathematical Statistics and Learning (1 paper)
- Mathematical Programming (1 paper)
- Annals of Applied Probability (1 paper)
- IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (1 paper)
- IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (1 paper)
- IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing (1 paper)

- Journal of Combinatorial Optimization (1 paper)
- IEEE Letters to Control System Society (1 paper)
- Pattern Recognition (1 paper)
- Entropy (1 paper)
- Stat (1 paper)

#### Conference reviewing:

- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
- Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS), 2015, 2017, 2020
- International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2021
- International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), 2021
- Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), 2021
- Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI), 2021

#### **Professional Committees Member:**

• ASA SLDS Student Paper Award Committee, 2021

#### Other services:

- Nonparametric Statistics Workshop: Integration of Theory, Methods, and Applications, October 2016, Ann Arbor, Michigan, *Student Assistant*
- Extreme Value Analsyis (EVA) conference, June 2015, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Student Assistant

#### Membership America

American Statistical Association

International Society for Bayesian Analysis