

Tim Hua

Neel Nanda's MATS Mentee. Formerly on John List's economics team at Walmart

Website: timhua.me

EDUCATION & SKILLS

Middlebury College

BA, *summa cum laude*, Economics (GPA 3.97/4.00)

Middlebury, VT

May 2023

D.K. Smith Economics Prize for best thesis (*Fox News's Effect on Social and Moral Preferences*).

- Thesis cited by Harvard economist Benjamin Enke in [Moral Boundaries](#)

Harvard College

Visiting Undergraduate Student (GPA: 4.0/4.0)

Cambridge, MA

2021 - 2022 School Year

- Coursework: Intermediate Microeconomics: Advanced, Great Theorems of Microeconomic Theory, Probability, Statistics. Taken at MIT: Real Analysis, Political Economy

General skills: Pytorch/Python, R, SQL, Stata.

AI SAFETY

Neel Nanda and Sam Marks's MATS Scholar

Scholar

Berkeley, CA

Apr 2025 – Current

- Working on alignment auditing techniques in Neel Nanda's MATS stream with [Andrew Qin](#). Sam Marks is co-advising our project.
- Training model organisms that act differently in evaluation v. deployment and eliciting the deployment behavior on obviously evaluation contexts through steering.
- Earlier work studied uncovering "semantic backdoors" in models.

Tyler Tracy's MARS Mentee in AI Control

Researcher

Berkeley, CA

Jan 2025 – June 2025

- Developed theory and ran experiments on optimally combining costly runtime monitors.
- See our alignment forum post [here](#) for results.

Alice Rigg's AI Safety Camp Mentee in Mechanistic Interpretability

Researcher

Remote

Jan 2025 – June 2025

- Studied the functional role of SAE error terms. See alignment forum post [here](#).

Miscellaneous

- BlueDot Economics of Transformative AI Course Facilitator (Feb 2025 Cohort)
- Wrote a critique of the bias in bios experiment in Sparse Feature Circuits on [alignment forum](#).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Walmart Economics Team

Manager, Economist

New York, NY

Intern in summer 2022, full time July 2023 – Aug 2024

Worked on monetary incentives for drivers on Walmart's last mile delivery platform.

- Designed and executed numerous experiments, some with multiple treatment arms.
 - Built ML models using causal random forests and other double ML methods, ran hyperparameter sweeps with out-of-sample off-policy validation following [Treatment Allocation Under Uncertain Costs](#)
 - Wrote R code that conducts synthetic difference in differences estimation and calculates conformal inference-based confidence in parallel. Code reused by others on my team.
 - Presented work to Walmart chief economist John List, [fifth ranked economist in the world](#)
 - Translated technical findings and frameworks for non-technical partner business teams
- As an intern, created pricing zones that minimized customers' cross-zone shopping by constructing a weighted graph of Walmart stores and partitioning the graph.
- Pricing zones are still used at Walmart today

Harvard Economics Department

Remote

Course Assistant for Professor Edward Glaeser

June 2022 – Dec 2022

- Wrote sections in the textbook of Econ 1011a: Intermedia Microeconomics: Advanced.

Harvard Kennedy School

Cambridge, MA

Research Assistant for Professor Desmond Ang

March 2022 – July 2022

- Scraped tvtropes.org for an exploratory project investigating stereotypes in films.

Brookings Institution

Remote

Research Assistant for Professor Carol Graham

June 2021 – May 2022

- Coauthor on [paper](#) examining mental and physical ill-being during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Middlebury Economics Department

Middlebury, VT

Research Assistant for Professor Marin Abel

September 2020 - March 2021

- Investigate how different compensation schemes could help close the behavior-intention gap.