

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 in economics and math.

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

AI SAFETY

Neel Nanda and Samuel 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 runtime monitors with different costs (e.g., probes v. black box monitors).
- See our alignment forum post [here](#) or our arXiv paper [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 causal ML models using causal random forests and other double ML methods
- 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