

EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE

Cornell University

Assistant professor in the School of Operations Research and Information Engineering

Ithaca, NY

2025–current

University of Pennsylvania

Postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Statistics and Data Science, Wharton School

Philadelphia, PA

2023–2025

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Statistics, Advisor: Andrea Montanari

Stanford, CA

2018–2023

Ph.D. Minor in Management Science and Engineering

2020–2023

M.S. in Statistics

2021–2022

Tsinghua University

B.S. in Mathematics, GPA: 3.92/4.00, Rank: 2/96

Beijing, China

2014–2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Sampling in statistics and generative AI
- High-dimensional statistical inference
- Algorithm design under constraints
- Data-driven decision making
- Random matrix theory
- Mechanism design

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Andrea Montanari* and Yuchen Wu* (2024). Provably efficient posterior sampling for sparse linear regression via measure decomposition. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 2025+.
- [2] Andrea Montanari* and Yuchen Wu* (2024). Fundamental limits of low-rank matrix estimation with diverging aspect ratios. *Annals of Statistics* 52, no. 4: 1460 - 1484.
- [3] Andrea Montanari* and Yuchen Wu* (2024). Statistically optimal first order algorithms: a proof via orthogonalization. *Information and Inference: A Journal of the IMA* 13, no. 4: iaae027.
- [4] Yuchen Wu* and Kangjie Zhou* (2024). Sharp analysis of power iteration for tensor PCA. *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 25, no. 195: 1–42.
- [5] Zihan Wei, Sarfaraz Alam, Miki Verma, Margaret Hilderbran, Yuchen Wu, Brandon Anderson, Daniel E Ho, Jenny Suckale (2024). Integrating water quality data with a Bayesian network model to improve spatial and temporal phosphorus attribution: Application to the Maumee River Basin. *Journal of Environmental Management* volume 360: 121120.
- [6] Andrea Montanari* and Yuchen Wu* (2023). Adversarial examples in random neural networks with general activations. *Mathematical Statistics and Learning* 6, no. 1: 143-200.

- [7] Song Mei* and Yuchen Wu* (2023). Deep networks as denoising algorithms: sample-efficient learning of diffusion models in high-dimensional graphical models. *arXiv:2309.11420. IEEE Transactions on Information Theory 2025+*.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Yuchen Wu, Minshuo Chen, Zihao Li, Mengdi Wang, and Yuting Wei (2024). Theoretical insights for diffusion guidance: a case study for Gaussian mixture models. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*.
- [2] Pratik Patil*, Yuchen Wu*, and Ryan Tibshirani (2024). Failures and successes of cross-validation for early-stopped gradient descent. *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS)*, Oral, top 7.3% of accepted papers.
- [3] Yuchen Wu* and Kangjie Zhou* (2023). Lower bounds for the convergence of tensor power iteration on random overcomplete models. *Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)*.
- [4] Yuchen Wu, Jakab Tardos, Mohammad Hossein Bateni, André Linhares, Filipe Miguel Goncalves de Almeida, Andrea Montanari, Ashkan Norouzi-Fard (2021). Streaming belief propagation for community detection. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (Neurips)*.
- [5] Michael Celentano*, Andrea Montanari* and Yuchen Wu* (2020). The estimation error of general first order methods. *Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)*.

PREPRINTS

- [1] Yuchen Wu, Xinyi Zhong and Zhuoran Yang (2025). Learning to Lead: Incentivizing Strategic Agents in the Dark. *arXiv:2506.08438*.
- [2] Yuchen Wu, Yuxin Chen and Yuting Wei (2024). Stochastic Runge-Kutta methods: provable acceleration of diffusion models. *arXiv:2410.04760*.
- [3] Andrea Montanari* and Yuchen Wu* (2023). Posterior sampling in high dimension via diffusion processes. *arXiv:2304.11449*.

* alphabetical

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

• ICSA China Conference Travel Award	2023
• SIAM Student Travel Award	2022
• National Scholarship, Tsinghua University	2015–2017
• Chinese Mathematical Olympiad, Second prize	2014
• Chinese Girls' Mathematical Olympiad, 3rd place	2013

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. INFORMS Applied Probability Society Conference, Georgia Tech	June 2025
2. International India Statistical Association Conference, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	June 2025
3. Center for Optimization and Statistical Learning Seminar, Northwestern University	May 2025

4. Statistics Meets Tensors Workshop, Institute for Mathematical and Statistical Innovation	May 2025
5. Optimization and Statistical Learning Workshop, Columbia University	April, 2025
6. Online MCMC Seminar	April, 2025
7. Applied Probability Seminar, Columbia University	October, 2024
8. FDS Conference: Recent Advances and Future Directions for Sampling, Yale University	October, 2024
9. INFORMS Annual Meeting	October, 2024
10. Cornell Young Researchers Workshop	October, 2024
11. S. S. Wilks Memorial Seminar in Statistics, Princeton University	October, 2024
12. Joint Statistical Meetings	August, 2024
13. The 41st International Conference on Machine Learning (poster)	July, 2024
14. Youth in High Dimensions workshop at ICTP	May, 2024
15. Professor Weijie Su's group meeting, University of Pennsylvania	May, 2024
16. The 27th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (oral)	May, 2024
17. The 58th Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems	March, 2024
18. Measure transport, diffusion processes and sampling (poster), Flatiron Institute	December, 2023
19. Professor Tom Berrett and Professor Yi Yu's group meeting, University of Warwick	November, 2023
20. IMS Young Mathematical Scientists Forum, University of Singapore	November, 2023
21. Wharton lunch seminar	November, 2023
22. Penn/Temple Probability Seminar	October, 2023
23. INFORMS Annual Meeting	October, 2023
24. University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences	October, 2023
25. Mathematical and Scientific Foundations of Deep Learning Annual Meeting (poster)	September, 2023
26. Theory lunch, Stanford University	August, 2023
27. University of Science and Technology of China	July, 2023
28. Zhongnan University of Economics and Law	July, 2023
29. Conference on Learning Theory 2023	July, 2023
30. ICSA 2023 China Conference	July, 2023
31. Shenzhen Conference on Random Matrix Theory and Applications	June, 2023
32. Yuxin Chen's group meeting	May, 2023
33. Ryan Tibshirani's group meeting	April, 2023
34. MoDL meeting	March, 2023
35. Liza Levina and Ji Zhu's group meeting, University of Michigan	January 2023
36. Institute for the Foundations of Data Science, Yale University	December 2022
37. Information Systems Laboratory Colloquium at Stanford University	December 2022
38. Stanford Berkeley Joint Colloquium	November 2022
39. SIAM Conference on Mathematics of Data Science	September 2022
40. TBSI Workshop on Learning Theory, Young Researchers' Forum session	August 2022
41. 2022 ICSA China Conference	July 2022
42. AI TIME PhD, Tsinghua University	February 2022
43. Yuling Jiao's group meeting, Wuhan University	January 2022
44. Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems	December 2021
45. No-retreat day student seminar, Department of Statistics, Stanford University	November 2021
46. 2021 Joint Statistical Meetings, speed presentation	August 2021
47. Conference on Learning Theory	July 2020

TEACHING

As an instructor at University of Pennsylvania:

- STAT 1010 Introductory Business Statistics Summer 2024

As a teaching assistant at Stanford University:

- STATS 200 - Statistical Inference Autumn 2018-2019, 2020-2021
- STATS 216 - Introduction to Statistical Learning Winter 2018-2019
- STATS 60 - Introduction to Statistical Methods Summer 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2021-2022
- Math 230A / Stat 310A - Theory of Probability Autumn 2019-2020
- STATS 218 - Introduction to Stochastic Processes II Spring 2019-2020
- Math 230B / Stat 310B - Theory of Probability Winter 2020-2021
- Math 230C / Stat 310C - Theory of Probability Spring 2020-2021
- STATS 214 / CS 229M - Machine Learning Theory Autumn 2021-2022
- STATS 217 - Introduction to Stochastic Processes I Winter 2021-2022
- STATS 203 - Introduction to Regression Models and Analysis of Variance Spring 2021-2022
- STATS 305B - Applied Statistics II Winter 2022-2023

VISITING EXPERIENCE

- Visiting graduate student at Simons Institute
Program: Geometric Methods in Optimization and Sampling Fall 2021
- Visiting graduate student at the Institute for Advanced Study December 2022

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal reviewer:

Annals of Statistics, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Biometrika, Annals of Applied Probability, Journal of Machine Learning Research, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Journal of Statistical Physics, SIAM Journal on Mathematics of Data Science, Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics, IEEE Transactions on Big Data, Journal of Medical Internet Research, Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics

Conference reviewer:

Conference on Learning Theory (COLT), Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (Neurips), International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS), International Conference on Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT), IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS), IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT), International Colloquium on Automata, Languages and Programming (ICALP), Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)

Session organizer:

- Advances in the Theory of Modern Sampling Algorithms Joint Statistical Meetings 2024

SKILLS

- Languages: Mandarin (native), English (advanced)
 - 112 in Toefl IBT test, November 2016
 - 165 (verbal) + 170 (quantity) + 4 in GRE test, October 2016
- Programming: Python, R, Matlab, C++