Yi Sun

Contact

Address: Department of Mathematics, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

INFORMATION Email: yisun@math.columbia.edu

Webpage: yisun.io

Research

Integrable probability, random matrix theory, machine learning, representation theory.

EMPLOYMENT

Columbia University

New York, NY

Joseph F. Ritt Assistant Professor (2019–present), Simons Fellow (2016–2019).

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

Ph.D., Mathematics (2011–2016), advised by Pavel Etingof.

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

M.A.St., Mathematics, with distinction (2010–2011).

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

A.M., Mathematics (2006–2010).

A.B., Mathematics, magna cum laude, with secondary field in Economics (2006–2010). Phi Beta Kappa (one of 24 juniors inducted)

GRANTS
FELLOWSHIPS
AND AWARDS

NSF Grant DMS-1701654, Alg. and NT, 2017–2020. (\$141,999, Highly Recommended)

Simons Junior Fellowship, 2016–2019. (\$364,214)

Open Philanthropy Project Grant, 2019. (\$10,000, co-PI)

NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, 2016–2019 (declined). Johnson Prize for best research paper by MIT graduate student in mathematics, 2016. NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2012–2015.

Churchill Scholarship, 2010–2011. / MIT Praecis Presidential Fellowship, 2011–2012. COMAP Math Contest in Modeling, Outstanding Winner, SIAM Prize, 2008 and 2009. Intel Science Talent Search, 2nd Place, 2006. / Putnam Competition, 10th Place, 2009. Int'l Math Olym., Silver Medal, 2006. / Asian Pacific Math Olym., Gold Medal, 2005. Int'l Physics Olympiad, Gold Medal, 2004. / USA Computing Olympiad, Finalist, 2005.

MATHEMATICS RESEARCH

- 17. Principal components in linear mixed models with general bulk (with Z. Fan and Z. Wang), submitted, 2019. arXiv:1903.09592
- 16. Gaussian fluctuations for products of random matrices (with V. Gorin), submitted, 2019. arXiv:1812.06532
- 15. Spiked covariances and principal components analysis in high-dimensional random effects models (with Z. Fan and I. Johnstone), preprint, 2018. arXiv:1806.09529
- 14. Affine Macdonald conjectures and special values of Felder-Varchenko functions (with E. Rains and A. Varchenko), Sel. Math. N. S. 24 (2018), 1549–1591. arXiv:1610.01917
- 13. Laguerre and Jacobi analogues of the Warren process (single author, with an appendix by A. Sarantsev), submitted, 2017. arXiv:1610.01635
- 12. Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine algebras and difference equations (after Etingof-Schiffmann-Varchenko) (single author), Transform. Groups 23 (2018), 1167–1215. arXiv:1609.09038
- 11. Matrix models for multilevel Heckman-Opdam and multivariate Bessel measures (single author), submitted, 2016. arXiv:1609.09096
- 10. Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine \mathfrak{sl}_2 and Felder-Varchenko functions (single author), Commun. Math. Phys. **347** (2016), 573-653. arXiv:1508.03918
- 9. The polynomial representation of the type A_{n-1} rational Cherednik algebra in characteristic $p \mid n$ (with S. Devadas), Commun. Algebra **45** (2016), 1926-1934. arXiv: 1505.07891
- 8. A representation-theoretic proof of the branching rule for Macdonald polynomials (single author), Math. Res. Lett. 23 (2016), 887–927. arXiv:1412.0714
- 7. A new integral formula for Heckman-Opdam hypergeometric functions (single author), Adv. Math. 289 (2016), 1157-1204. arXiv:1406.3772

	6.	Finite dimensional representations of the rational Cherednik algebra author), J. Algebra 323 (2010), 2864–2887. arXiv:0910.5527	ra for G_4 (single	
COMPUTER SCIENCE	5.	D. Kang*, Y. Sun*, D. Hendrycks, T. Brown, and J. Steinhardt, Testing robustness against unforeseen adversaries, submitted, 2019. arXiv:1908.08016		
RESEARCH	4.	T. Hashimoto, Y. Sun, and T. Jaakkola, From random walks to distances on unweighted graphs, NIPS 2015. arXiv:1511.00573		
	3.	T. Hashimoto, Y. Sun, and T. Jaakkola, Metric recovery from directed unweighted graphs, NIPS 2014 workshop (Best Student Paper), AISTATS 2015. arXiv:1411.5720		
	2.	Y. Sun and M. Sundararajan, Axiomatic attribution for multilinear functions, ACM Conf. on Electronic Commerce 2011. arXiv:1102.0989		
OTHER RESEARCH	1.	R. G. Yang*, P. Y. Wang*, Y. Sun, A. Litwin-Kumar, R. Axel, and LF Abbott, <i>Evolving the olfactory system</i> , submitted, 2019. CCN 2019, NeurIPS 2019 Neuro+AI Workshop.		
RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS	46.	Google X Testing robustness against unforeseen adversaries	March 2020	
TILBERTHIONS	45.	UW Madison: Mathematics Colloquium Fluctuations for products of random matrices	February 2020	
	44.	UChicago: Statistics Colloquium Fluctuations for products of random matrices	January 2020	
	43.	AMS Fall Western Sectional Meeting Fluctuations for products of random matrices	November 2019	
	42.	ICML 2019 Workshop: Uncertainty and Robustness in DL (poster) Transfer of robustness against adversarial and stochastic distortions	June 2019	
	41.	OpenAI	June 2019	
	40.	Transfer of robustness against adversarial and stochastic distortions Virginia: Integrable Probability Summer School Fluctuations for products of random matrices	June 2019	
	39.	UCSD: Probability Seminar Fluctuations for products of random matrices	January 2019	
	38.	Yale: Geometry, Symmetry, and Physics Seminar Affine Macdonald conjectures and special values of Felder-Varchenko	April 2018 functions	
	37.	Simons Society of Fellows Retreat A probabilistic view on random covariance matrices	February 2018	
	36.	PCMI: Research Program on Random Matrices Algebraic structures for multilevel eigenvalue densities	July 2017	
	35.	Rochester: Probability Seminar Laguerre and Jacobi analogues of the Warren process	April 2017	
	34.	Perimeter Institute: Mathematical Physics Seminar Affine Macdonald conjectures and special values of Felder-Varchenko	April 2017 functions	
	33.	Rutgers: Lie Group / Quantum Mathematics Seminar Affine Macdonald conjectures and special values of Felder-Varchenko	April 2017	
	32.	Columbia-Princeton Probability Day Laguerre and Jacobi analogues of the Warren process	March 2017	
	31.	ESI: Workshop on Elliptic Hypergeometric Functions Affine Macdonald conjectures and special values of Felder-Varchenko	March 2017 functions	
	30.	Columbia: Probability Seminar Laguerre and Jacobi analogues of the Warren process	November 2016	
	29.	Columbia: Mathematical Physics Seminar	October 2016	

Affine Macdonald conjectures and special values of Felder-Varchenko functions

	28. IESC: QIS's, CFT's, and Stochastic Processes (poster) Laguerre and Jacobi analogues of the Warren process	September 2016
	27. MIT: Infinite-Dimensional Algebra Seminar Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine \mathfrak{sl}_2 and Felder-Varchenko f	March 2016 functions
	26. MIT: Integrable Probability Seminar Laguerre and Jacobi analogues of the Warren process	February 2016
	25. HCM: Asymptotic Analysis in Strongly Coupled Systems (poster) Laguerre and Jacobi analogues of the Warren process	January 2016
	24. NIPS 2015 (poster) From random walks to distances on unweighted graphs	December 2015
	23. ETH Zurich: ITS Talks in Theoretical Sciences 2015 Random matrices and representation theory	November 2015
	22. UC Berkeley: RTGC Seminar Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine \mathfrak{sl}_2 and Felder-Varchenko f	November 2015 unctions
	21. ETH Zurich: Mathematical Physics Seminar Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine \mathfrak{sl}_2 and Felder-Varchenko f	October 2015 functions
	20. NEU: Geometry, Physics and Representation Theory Seminar Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine \mathfrak{sl}_2 and Felder-Varchenko f	October 2015 functions
	19. Columbia: Mathematical Physics Seminar Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine \mathfrak{sl}_2 and Felder-Varchenko f	October 2015 unctions
	18. Yale: Geometry, Symmetry, and Physics Seminar Traces of intertwiners for quantum affine \mathfrak{sl}_2 and Felder-Varchenko f	
	17. FPSAC 2015 (poster) A representation-theoretic proof of the branching rule for Macdonale	
	16. Clay Math Inst.: Random Polymers and Algebraic Combinatorics A representation-theoretic proof of the branching rule for Macdonald	May 2015
	15. AISTATS 2015 (poster)	May 2015
	Metric recovery from directed unweighted graphs	3
	14. ICERM: Workshop on Limit Shapes (poster) A representation-theoretic proof of the branching rule for Macdonale	April 2015 d polynomials
	13. NIPS 2014: Workshop on Networks (poster) Metric recovery from directed unweighted graphs	December 2014
	12. UC Berkeley: GRASP Seminar A representation-theoretic proof of the branching rule for Macdonale	
	11. IHP: Workshop on Macdonald Processes and Hecke Algebras A new integral formula for Heckman-Opdam hypergeometric function	
	10. MIT: Integrable Probability Seminar A new integral formula for Heckman-Opdam hypergeometric function	April 2014 ons
OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS		June 2018
	8. MIT "Meta-Math" Meetup 2017 How to do a Literature Search	May 2017
	7. Summer Program in Applied Rationality and Cognition 2016 Problem Solving: Contests vs. Real Life	August 2016
	6. Math Olympiad Summer Program 2016 Distribution Testing: Is this die fair?	June 2016
	5. MIT Open House 2016 Universality: Mathematics in the real world	April 2016
	4. Math Olympiad Summer Program 2015 Fair coin flips from unfair coins	June 2015

3. Math Olympiad Summer Program 2014
 The Ising model
 2. Math Olympiad Summer Program 2013
 Random matrices
 June 2013
 June 2013

 June 2012

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 54th International Mathematical Olympiad (with J. Berman and Z. Feng), Mathematics Magazine 86 (2013), 309–313.
- 5. 53nd International Mathematical Olympiad (with Z. Feng), Mathematics Magazine **85** (2012), 312–317.
- 4. 52^{nd} International Mathematical Olympiad (with Z. Feng), Mathematics Magazine 84 (2011), 316–319.
- 3. 51^{st} International Mathematical Olympial (with Z. Feng and P. Loh), Mathematics Magazine 83 (2010), 320–323.
- 2. A simulation based model of traffic circles (with C. Chang and Z. Fan), The UMAP Journal **30** (2009), 225–244.
- 1. hsolve: A difficulty metric and puzzle generator for Sudoku (with C. Chang and Z. Fan), The UMAP Journal 29 (2008), 303–324.

Teaching

Columbia University

Random partitions and Fock space

Fall 2017-2020

Instructor. Fall 2017: Calculus II, eval 3.9 (5.0). Spring 2019: Graduate reading course on representation theory. Fall 2019: Calculus II, eval 3.7 (5.0). Spring 2020: Calculus II.

US National Math Olympiad Summer Program Summers 2007–2018 Instructor (2010, 2012–2018); Assistant (2007–2009). Design curriculum, give lectures, and personally coach US team to International Mathematical Olympiad.

MIT MathROOTS

Summers 2015–2016

Academic Coordinator. Design curriculum, give lectures, and manage academic team, guest lectures, and website for first two years of outreach program in problem solving for underrepresented minority students. Covered on MIT homepage and Notices of the AMS.

MIT Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Fall 2012–2015 Mentor two undergraduate research projects, leading to published research paper.

- Sheela Devadas (rational Cherednik algebras in char p < n), 2014–2015.
- Ryan Yoo (characters of rational Cherednik algebras in char p > n), 2012–2014.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Spring 2015

Teaching Assistant for Differential Equations. Evaluations: 6.2 (7.0)

MIT Directed Reading Program

January 2011

Mentor reading project on representation theory of the symmetric group.

Harvard University

Spring 2009

Course Assistant for Probability Theory. Evaluations: 4.3(5.0)

Professional Activities

Columbia Probability Seminar

Fall 2016–Present

Co-organize weekly probability seminar.

Summer School in Probability

Summer 2017

Co-organize graduate summer school "Dyson-Schwinger equations, topological expansions, and random matrices" at Columbia.

MIT Interacting Particle Systems Learning Seminar

2012-2013

Organize learning seminar on recent developments in interacting particle systems.

Google Research

Summer 2010

Research intern. Research attribution and cost-sharing methods, leading to paper published in EC 2010. Mentor: Mukund Sundararajan

SERVICE

Reviewer: Probability Theory and Related Fields, Selecta Mathematica (N.S.), SIGMA, Journal of Theoretical Probability, Europhysics Letters, Information and Inference.

Qualifying Exam Committee: Ivan Danilenko (Columbia), Maithreya Sitaraman (Columbia)

Languages

Python, PyTorch, C++, $\mbox{\sc IAT}_{\mbox{\sc E}}\mbox{X},$ Magma, Mathematica / Mandarin (native), French