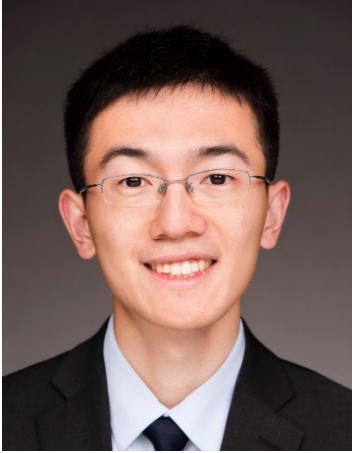


Linjun Zhang
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Facing the Elephant: When Statistics Meets Generative AI

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

11:50 AM

96 Frelinghuysen Road, CoRE Building, Room 431

Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 969 0606 4706

Password: 745339

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/96906064706?pwd=ZklvbExpRVBJQ3c5dUhhYTFuR2ZrZz09>

Light refreshments will be served in Hill 452, 11:15am

Abstract: The advent of generative AI technologies, particularly Large Language Models (LLMs), presents a pivotal challenge and opportunity within the statistical community. This "elephant in the room" has sparked a vital debate among statisticians regarding the discipline's trajectory in the era of genAI. In my presentation, I will delve into my insights on this pressing issue, examining its implications from both educational and research perspectives.

On the educational front, I will explore the transformative impact of LLMs on data science and statistics education. I argue that these advancements are redefining the role of data scientists, shifting their focus from traditional tasks such as coding, data manipulation, and routine analyses towards the evaluation and oversight of AI-driven analyses. This paradigm shift necessitates a reevaluation of our educational approaches to better prepare statisticians for their evolving roles. Furthermore, I will present my recent research endeavors that integrate the principles of conformal prediction with LLMs. This innovative approach not only showcases the potential of combining statistical methodologies with genAI but also sets the stage for future explorations in this interdisciplinary domain. By sharing these perspectives and findings, I aim to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on how the field of statistics can adapt and thrive amidst the rapid advancements in generative AI technologies.

Bio: Linjun Zhang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics, at Rutgers University. He obtained his Ph.D. in Statistics at the Wharton School, the University of Pennsylvania in 2019, and received J.Parker Bursk Memorial Prize and Donald S. Murray Prize for excellence in research and teaching, respectively upon graduation. He received the NSF CAREER Award in 2024. His current research interests include algorithmic fairness, privacy-preserving data analysis, deep learning theory, and high-dimensional statistics.

