Tong Yang

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Research Interests:

Optimization, Machine Learning Theory

EDUCATION

Peking University

Sep 2022-Current

M.S. in Data Science

University of California, Berkeley

Jan 2022–May 2022

Exchange Program, GPA: 4.0/4.0

Xi'an Jiaotong University

Sep 2018–July 2022

B.S. in Mathematics (Honors Program), GPA: 4.01/4.3, Major rank:1/50

Research & Project Experience

Research Topic: Algorithm Design for Solving Variational Inequalities

Jan 2022–Current, University of California, Berkeley

Collaborators: Michael I. Jordan, Tatjana Chavdarova, Matteo Pagliardini

- Worked on the project solving variational inequalities via a first-order interior point-based method with Tatjana Chavdarova and Michael I. Jordan. This paper has been accepted by NeurIPS 2022 Workshop OPT. The full version was submitted to ICLR 2023. (https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.10575)
 - 1. Designed a new algorithm whose convergence rate could match the theoretical lower bound of this algorithm under mild conditions.
 - 2. Verified the theoretical results on several experiments (e.g. GANs).
 - 3. Current scores on ICLR 2023 are 8, 6, 6, 6. (All towards acceptance.)
- Improved the previous work with Michael I. Jordan, Tatjana Chavdarova, and Matteo Pagliardini. This work was submitted to AISTATS 2023. (https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.15659)
 - 1. Derived a way to relax the assumptions in the previous work while maintaining the same convergence rate.
 - 2. Gave the *first* analytically derived last-iterate convergence rate for general monotone variational inequalities.
 - 3. Managed to finish the book-long proofs (about 40 pages) within a week.

Research Topic: Cascade Optimization for Inverse Problems with Entropy-Preserving Hyperparameter Tuning

July 2022-Current, New York University

Collaborators: Qi Lei, Quan Zhang, Tianci Liu

- Proposed an automated and principled framework to solve inverse problems with deep generative models. We are going to submit this work to ICML 2023. (https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.13983)
 - 1. Designed a cascade optimization algorithm that has a global convergence guarantee to efficiently reconstruct images in inverse problems.

2. Developed a method to solve a bilevel optimization problem for automated hyperparameter tuning.

Research Topic: Efficient Algorithms for Finding Points on High-dimensional Convex Polyhedron

Sep 2021–Jan 2022, Peking University

Advisor: Zhouchen Lin

- My first project on optimization and machine learning theory.
 - 1. Studied convex analysis with a focus on interior point methods and common first-order methods.
 - 2. Designed a new interior-point point algorithm to find a point on a high-dimensional convex polyhedron efficiently.

Research Topic: Multi-task Self-supervised Object Detection and Other Tasks in Machine Learning

June 2020–Jan 2022, Xi'an Jiaotong University

Adviser: Junmin Liu

- This is my first deep learning project.
 - 1. Reproduced classical backbones in Computer Vision, such as ResNet, the Transformer, and Vision Transformer (ViT) using Pytorch.
 - 2. Reproduced two-stage object detection networks using Pytorch, including R-CNN, Fast R-CNN, and Faster R-CNN, etc.
 - 3. Studied different self-supervised object detection models.
 - 4. Designed new auxiliary tasks for two-stage multi-task self-supervised object detection models.

Competition Experience

- The first prize of China Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling in Shaanxi division, 2019.
- The first prize of China Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling in Shaanxi division, 2020.
- Honorable Mention of Mathematical Contest In Modeling, 2020.
- The second prize of The Chinese Mathematics Competitions (Mathematics Group), 2019.
- The first prize of Campus Mathematical Contest in Modeling, 2019.
- The second prize of Campus Collegiate Programming Contest, 2021.

Scholarships & Awards

- Outstanding Student of Xi'an Jiaotong University (2%), 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021.
- National Encouragement Scholarship (3%), 2018-2019.
- HIWIN Scholarship (1%), 2019-2020.
- ZhuFeng Scholarship (1%), 2018-2019,2019-2020.
- National Scholarship (1%), 2020-2021.