Tong Yang

Email: tongyang@andrew.cmu.edu Personal Site: https://pptmiao.github.io Research Interests:

Optimization, Machine Learning Theory

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Aug 2023-Current

Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Peking University

Sep 2022–June 2023

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 has been accepted by ICLR 2023 as spotlight paper. (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).
- Improved the previous work with Michael I. Jordan, Tatjana Chavdarova, and Matteo Pagliardini. We are going to submit this work to NeurIPS 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. This work has been accepted by *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: Design of Efficient Algorithms for Finding Points on High-dimensional Convex Polyhedra

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.