

Lexiao Lai

Mobile: +1 6462179070 | +86 18066288089 • Email: Lexiao.Lai@columbia.edu

Education

Columbia University in the City of New York

Doctor of Philosophy in Operations Research

Advisor: Cédric Jozs [[website](#)]

Master of Science in Operations Research

New York, U.S.

Sept. 2019 - May 2024 (expected)

Sept. 2019 - May 2020

The University of Hong Kong

Bachelor of Science Major in Mathematics, Minor in Finance

Hong Kong

Sept. 2015 - June 2019

Research Interests

Nonconvex optimization, applied semi-algebraic geometry, data science

Preprints & Publications

1. Cédric Jozs, Lexiao Lai, Xiaopeng Li, Convergence of the momentum method for semi-algebraic functions with locally Lipschitz gradients, SIAM Journal on Optimization (to appear), 2023 [[preprint](#)]
2. Cédric Jozs, Lexiao Lai, Sufficient conditions for instability of the subgradient method with constant step size, SIAM Journal on Optimization (to appear), 2023 [[preprint](#)]
3. Cédric Jozs, Lexiao Lai, Global stability of first-order methods for coercive tame functions, preprint, 2023 [[preprint](#)]
4. Cédric Jozs, Lexiao Lai, Lyapunov stability of the subgradient method with constant step size, Mathematical Programming, 2023 [[preprint](#)] [[journal doi](#)]
5. Cédric Jozs, Lexiao Lai, Nonsmooth rank-one matrix factorization landscape, Optimization Letters, 2022 [[preprint](#)] [[journal doi](#)]
6. Elliot Cartee, Lexiao Lai, Qianli Song, Alexander Vladimirovsky, Time-dependent surveillance-evasion games, 58th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, 2019 [[preprint](#)] [[conference doi](#)]

Talks

1. SIAM Conference on Optimization, Seattle, June 1st 2023, *Global stability of first-order methods with constant step size for coercive tame functions*
2. CUHK SEEM Department Seminar, Hong Kong, December 8th 2022, *Lyapunov stability of the subgradient method with constant step size*
3. HKU Optimization and Machine Learning Seminar, Hong Kong, December 6th 2022, *Lyapunov stability of the subgradient method with constant step size*
4. PGMODAYS 2022, Paris, November 29th 2022, *Lyapunov stability of the subgradient method with constant step size*
5. INFORMS, Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, October 17th 2022, *Lyapunov stability of the subgradient method with constant step size*

Awards & Honours

- Columbia IEOR Department Fellowship 2019
- Walter Brown Memorial Prizes in Mathematics, HKU 2019
- Doris Chen Undergraduate Project Prize, HKU 2018
- Liu Ming-Chit Prize in Mathematics, HKU 2018
- Outstanding Winner of *Mathematical Contest in Modelling* 2017
Organized by COMAP Inc.
- Ranked 134 out of 4638 in *78th William Putnam Mathematical Competition* 2017
Organized by *Mathematical Association of America*
- Alan John Allis Prize in Mathematics, HKU 2016, 2017
- Dean's Honours List, HKU 2016, 2017, 2019
- HKSAR Government Scholarship, HKU 2015-2019

Teaching Experience

As Teaching Assistant:

- **Columbia:** EEOR6616 Convex Optimization (TA evaluation: 4.42/5) Spring 2023
- **HKU:** MATH2101 Linear Algebra I Spring 2019

Service

Session chair:

- *Structured and tame optimization*, INFORMS, Annual Meeting, 2023

Reviewer:

- AISTATS
- Computational Optimization and Applications
- Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications

Internship

TCL Corporate Research (Hong Kong) Company Limited
Research Intern, AI Research Lab

Hong Kong
May-Sept. 2021

Computer Skills

Programming Languages: Python, MATLAB, \LaTeX