



Shengjun(Daniel) Zhang

RESEARCH ASSISTANT · CONTROL · OPTIMIZATION · STATISTICAL LEARNING

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| 🎓 Shengjun(Daniel) Zhang

"There is nothing more practical than a good theory."

Education

UNT (University of North Texas)

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

PH.D. MAJOR IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Jan. 2018 - present

- Minor in Business Management

NYU (New York University)

New York, New York, U.S.A

M.S. IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Jan. 2015 - Jan. 2017

- Robotic Control

CAU (China Agricultural University)

Beijing, China

B.S. IN AUTOMATION OF HONORS PROGRAM WITH *Cum Laude*

Sep. 2010 - Jul. 2014

- Control Theory

Research Interests

Learning

Statistical Learning, Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning

Control & Optimization

Control System, Convex Optimization, Non-convex Optimization, Distributed Optimization

Power System

DERs with Transactive Approaches

Skills

Programming

Julia, Python, MATLAB

Languages

Mandarin, English

Work Experience

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Remote

RESEARCH SCIENTIST INTERN

Jun. 2021 - Aug. 2021

- Optimization and Control Group
- Supervisor: Dr. Ke Ma

Professional Experience

University of North Texas

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

RESEARCH/TEACHING ASSISTANT

Jan. 2018 - present

- Cyber-Physical Energy System Laboratory, Department of Electrical Engineering
- Supervisor: Dr. Colleen Bailey & Dr. Tao Yang

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Wuhan, China

VISITING RESEARCHER

May 2018 - Jul. 2018

- Key Laboratory of Image Processing and Intelligent Control of Education Ministry, School of Artificial Intelligence and Automation
- Supervisor: Dr. Ye Yuan

Zhejiang University

VISITING RESEARCHER

- Group of Networked Sensing and Control, College of Control Science and Engineering
- Supervisor: Dr. Junfeng Wu

Hangzhou, China

Jul. 2018 - Jul. 2018

New York University

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Control/Robotics Research Laboratory, Tandon School of Engineering
- Supervisor: Dr. Farshad Khorrarni

New York, New York, U.S.A

Jan. 2016 - Jul. 2016

Publications


JOURNAL ARTICLES [8]

A Primal-Dual SGD Algorithm for Distributed Nonconvex Optimization

Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Tianyou Chai, Karl H Johansson
SIAM Journal on Optimization (Under Review). 

Under Review

Zeroth-order Algorithms for Distributed Stochastic Nonconvex Optimization

Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Karl H Johansson
IFAC Automatica (Under Review). 

Under Review

Distributed Zeroth-order Stochastic Coordinate Methods

Shengjun Zhang, Yunlong Dong, Dong Xie, Lisha Yao, Colleen P. Bailey, Shengli Fu
IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing (In Submission)


. In Submission

Sublinear and Linear Convergence of ADMM for Distributed Nonconvex Optimization

Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Tianyou Chai, Karl H Johansson
IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems (Conditionally Accepted)


. Conditionally Accepted

Variance aware reward smoothing for deep reinforcement learning

Yunlong Dong, Shengjun Zhang, Xing Liu, Yu Zhang, Tan Shen
Neurocomputing 458 (2021) pp. 327–335. Elsevier. 
DOI: 10.1016/j.neucom.2021.06.014


2021

Event-triggered Distributed Optimization Algorithms (in Chinese)

Tao Yang, Lei Xu, Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Ruijuan Chen, Yuzhe Li
ACTA AUTOMATICA SINICA 47.x (2021) pp. 1–11. Science Press. 
DOI: 10.16383/j.aas.c200838


2021

Linear Convergence of First- and Zeroth-Order Primal-Dual Algorithms for Distributed Nonconvex Optimization

Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Tianyou Chai, Karl H. Johansson
IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (2021) pp. 1–8. 
DOI: 10.1109/TAC.2021.3108501

2021

A Magnetic Nanoparticle Based Nucleic Acid Isolation And Purification Instrument for DNA Extraction of Escherichia coli O157: H7

Yahui Chen, Jianhan Lin, Qin Jiang, Qi Chen, Shengjun Zhang, Li Li
Journal of nanoscience and nanotechnology 16.3 (2016) pp. 2296–2300. American Scientific Publishers. 
DOI: 10.1166/jnn.2016.10933

2016

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS [11]

Accelerated Zeroth-order Algorithm for Stochastic Distributed Nonconvex Optimization

Shengjun Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey
2022 American Control Conference (ACC) 

Atlanta, GA, United States

Under Review

Event-Triggered Proportional-Integral Algorithms for Distributed Optimization (Invited Session Extended Abstract)

Tao Yang, Lei Xu, Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Yuzhe Li
40th Chinese Control Conference (CCC)

Shanghai, China

2021

A Primal-Dual Algorithm for Distributed Sparse Principal Component Analysis

Shengjun Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey
2021 IEEE International Conference on Data Science and Computer Application

Dalian, China


2021

Accelerated Primal-Dual Algorithm for Distributed Nonconvex Optimization

Shengjun Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey

Convergence Analysis of Nonconvex Distributed Stochastic Zeroth-order Coordinate Method

Shengjun Zhang, Yunlong Dong, Dong Xie, Lisha Yao, Colleen P. Bailey, Shengli Fu

60th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) Austin, TX, United States
2021**Exponential Convergence for Distributed Smooth Optimization Under the Restricted Secant Inequality Condition**

Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Tianyou Chai, Karl H Johansson

21st IFAC World Congress 

DOI: 10.1016/j.ifacol.2020.12.383

Berlin, Germany
2020**Linear Convergence for Distributed Optimization Without Strong Convexity**

Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Tianyou Chai, Karl H Johansson

59th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) 

DOI: 10.1109/CDC42340.2020.9304381

Jeju Island, Republic of Korea
2020**Obstacle Avoidance and Navigation Utilizing Reinforcement Learning with Reward Shaping**

Shengjun Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey

SPIE Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Multi-Domain Operations Applications II 

DOI: 10.1117/12.2558212

California, United States
2020**Optimal Control Under Communication Constraints for Multi-agent Unmanned Vehicles**


Shengjun Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey

SPIE Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Defense Applications II 

DOI: 10.1117/12.2574176

Edinburgh, United Kingdom
2020**Event-Triggered Control for Consensus of Multi-Agent Systems with Nonlinear Output and Directed Topologies**

Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Junfeng Wu, Karl Henrik Johansson

38th Chinese Control Conference (CCC) 

DOI: 10.23919/ChiCC.2019.8865399

Guangzhou, China
2019**Computational Convergence Analysis of Distributed Optimization Algorithms for Directed Graphs**

Shengjun Zhang, Xinlei Yi, Jemin George, Tao Yang

15th IEEE International Conference on Control and Automation (ICCA)  (**Best Student Paper Shorten List**)

DOI: 10.1109/ICCA.2019.8899565

Edinburgh, Scotland
2019

Honors & Awards

2021 **Student Travel Award**, The 60th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)

Austin, Texas, U.S.A

2020 **Third Place Graduate Student Poster Competition**, IEEE North Tech SAS

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

2019 **IEEE Outstanding Graduate Student**, IEEE local event

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

2019 **College of Engineering Dean Tuition Scholarship**, UNT

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

2019 **Toulouse Graduate School Scholarship**, UNT

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

2018 **College of Engineering Dean Tuition Scholarship**, UNT

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

2018 **Toulouse Graduate School Scholarship**, UNT

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

2012 **2nd prize**, National Physics Experiment Competition of Colleges

Beijing, China

Certifications

2016 **Machine Learning**, Instructor: Andrew Ng, license: NNBCAXYFA2HK.Stanford University
on Coursera

Teaching Experiences

Fall '21 **EENG 3510 Electronics I**, Teaching Assistant

UNT

Fall '21 **EENG 3520 Electronics II**, Teaching Assistant

UNT

Fall '21 **EENG 3920 Modern Communication System Design Project**, Teaching Assistant

UNT

Fall '20 **EENG 5940 Optimization Theory**, Teaching Assistant

UNT

Spring '19 **EENG 2620 Signals and Systems**, Teaching Assistant

UNT

Fall '18 **EENG 2620 Signals and Systems**, Teaching Assistant

UNT

Fall '18 **EENG 5940 Control and Optimization for Power Systems**, Teaching Assistant

UNT

Professional Activities

Member	IEEE HKN, IEEE Studnet Member, IEEE Young Professionals
Journal Reviewer	IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics IET Control Theory and Applications Neurocomputing Automatica International Journal of Robust and Nonlinear Control
Conference Reviewer	Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) American Control Conference (ACC) IEEE International Conference on Control and Automation (ICCA) Chinese Control Conference (CCC)

Mentoring

Kelvin Darden

M.S. STUDENT

- Project on load shedding in Smart Grid.
- First placement: engineer, Oncor Electric Delivery.

UNT

2018