



Shengjun(Daniel) Zhang

RESEARCH ASSISTANT · CONTROL · OPTIMIZATION · STATISTICAL LEARNING

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

Education

UNT (University of North Texas)

PH.D. MAJOR IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

- Minor in Business Management

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

Jan. 2018 - present

NYU (New York University)

M.S. IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

- Robotic Control

New York, New York, U.S.A

Jan. 2015 - Jan. 2017

CAU (China Agricultural University)

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

- Control Theory

Beijing, China

Sep. 2010 - Jul. 2014

Research Interests

Artificial Intelligence

Statistical Learning, Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning

Optimization

Convex Optimization, Non-convex Optimization, Distributed Optimization

Power System

DERs with Transactive Approaches

Professional Experience

University of North Texas.

RESEARCH/TEACHING ASSISTANT

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

Denton, Texas, U.S.A

Jan. 2018 - present

Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

VISITING RESEARCHER

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

Wuhan, China

May 2018 - Jul. 2018

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 Khorrami.

New York, New York, U.S.A

Jan. 2016 - Jul. 2016

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES [7]

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

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 (Under Review). 

Under Review

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 (Under Review)

. Under Review

Variance Aware Reward Smoothing for Deep Reinforcement Learning

Yunlong Dong, Shengjun Zhang, Xing Liu, Yu Zhang, Ye Yuan

IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (In Submission)

. In Submission

Distributed Zeroth-order Stochastic Coordinate Methods

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

IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing (In Submission)

. In Submission

Event-triggered Based Distributed Optimization Algorithms (in Chinese)

Tao Yang, Lei Xu, Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Ruijuan Chen, Yuzhe Li

ACTA AUTOMATICA SINICA (2021)

. 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. 

2016

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS [8]

Zeroth-order Algorithms for Distributed Stochastic Nonconvex Optimization

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

In 38th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)

Virtual

In Submission

Convergence Analysis of Distributed Zeroth-order Stochastic Coordinate Methods Under Polyak–Łojasiewicz Condition

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

60th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)

Austin, TX, United States

In Submission

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 

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) 

Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

2020

Obstacle Avoidance and Navigation Utilizing Proximal Policy Optimization

Daniel Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey

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

California, United States

2020

Optimal Control Under Communication Constraints for Multi-agent Unmanned Vehicles

Daniel Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey


SPIE Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Defense Applications II 

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) 

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** 

Edinburgh, Scotland

2019

PREPRINT [3]

A Primal-Dual Algorithm for Distributed Sparse Principal Component Analysis

Shengjun Zhang, Colleen P. Bailey

Distributed Proportional-Integral Optimization Algorithms with Event-triggered Communication
Wen Du, Xinlei Yi, Shengjun Zhang, Jemin George, Tao Yang

Distributed Economic Dispatch over Networks with Markovian Communication Losses
Junfeng Wu, Shengjun Zhang, Tao Yang, Ling Shi, Hong Wang

Honors & Awards

2020	Third Place Graduate Student Poster Competition , IEEE North Tech SAS	<i>Denton, Texas, U.S.A</i>
2019	IEEE Outstanding Graduate Student , IEEE local event	<i>Denton, Texas, U.S.A</i>
2019	College of Engineering Dean Tuition Scholarship , UNT	<i>Denton, Texas, U.S.A</i>
2019	Toulouse Graduate School Scholarship , UNT	<i>Denton, Texas, U.S.A</i>
2018	College of Engineering Dean Tuition Scholarship , UNT	<i>Denton, Texas, U.S.A</i>
2018	Toulouse Graduate School Scholarship , UNT	<i>Denton, Texas, U.S.A</i>
2012	2nd prize , Physics Experiment Competition of colleges	<i>Beijing, China</i>

Certifications

2016	Machine Learning , Instructor: Andrew Ng, license: NNBCAXYFA2HK.	<i>Stanford University on Coursera</i>
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Mentoring

Kelvin Darden	<i>UNT</i>
M.S. STUDENT	<i>2018</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project on load shedding in Smart Grid. First placement: engineer, Oncor Electric Delivery. 	

Teaching Experiences

Spring '19	EENG 2620 Signals and Systems , Teaching Assistant	<i>UNT</i>
Fall '18	EENG 2620 Signals and Systems , Teaching Assistant	<i>UNT</i>
Fall '18	EENG 5940 Control and Optimization for Power Systems , Teaching Assistant	<i>UNT</i>

Professional Activities

Member	IEEE HKN, IEEE Studnet Member, IEEE Young Professionals
Journal Reviewer	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)