

# Shijun ZHANG

Assistant Professor

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or shijun.zhang@polyu.edu.hk	<b>Google Scholar:</b> <a href="#">URL</a>
<b>ORCID:</b> <a href="#">URL</a>	<b>Address:</b> Department of Applied Mathematics
<b>Articles on arXiv:</b> <a href="#">URL</a>	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

## Appointments

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**Assistant Professor** (Tenure-Track),  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), Hong Kong SAR, China Jul 2024 ~ Present

**Phillip Griffiths Assistant Research Professor**,  
Duke University, United States Aug 2022 ~ Jun 2024  
Mentors: **Jianfeng Lu** and **Hongkai Zhao**

**Research Fellow**, National University of Singapore, Singapore Jan 2021 ~ Jul 2022  
Mentor: **Zuowei Shen**

## Education

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**Ph.D. in Mathematics**, National University of Singapore, Singapore Aug 2016 ~ Jan 2021  
Thesis: *Deep neural network approximation via function compositions* [URL]  
Supervisors: **Zuowei Shen** and **Haizhao Yang**

**B.S. in Mathematics**, Wuhan University, China Sep 2012 ~ Jun 2016  
Thesis supervisor: **Xiliang Lv**

## Awards

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Scholar Award, NeurIPS 2022 Financial Assistance Program, URL.

The EASIAM (East Asia section of SIAM) Student Paper Prize, 2020 ~ 2021, first prize, URL.

## Publications

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[number] (Position & Institution, Date of first submission) Author(s). *Paper title*. Journal or conference reference. [ Links ]

\* Corresponding author

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RF = Research Fellow    NUS = National University of Singapore    ARP = Assistant Research Professor    Duke = Duke University

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## Preprint(s)

- [13] (ARP at Duke, 30 Jun 2024) **Shijun Zhang**, Hongkai Zhao, Yimin Zhong, Haomin Zhou. *Structured and Balanced Multi-component and Multi-layer Neural Networks*. Submitted. [ arXiv ]
- [12] (ARP at Duke, 29 Jun 2023) **Shijun Zhang**, Hongkai Zhao, Yimin Zhong, Haomin Zhou. *Why shallow networks struggle with approximating and learning high frequency: A numerical study*. Submitted. [ arXiv ]

## Published (Accepted)

- [11] (ARP at Duke, 13 Jul 2023) **Shijun Zhang\***, Jianfeng Lu, Hongkai Zhao. *Deep network approximation: Beyond ReLU to diverse activation functions*. **Journal of Machine Learning Research**, 25(35):1–39, 2024. [ arXiv, Journal ]
- [10] (ARP at Duke, 29 Jan 2023) **Shijun Zhang\***, Jianfeng Lu, Hongkai Zhao. *On enhancing expressive power via compositions of single fixed-size ReLU network*. Proceedings of the 40th International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML 2023**), PMLR 202:41452–41487, 2023. [ arXiv, Poster, Conference ]
- [9] (RF at NUS, 19 May 2022) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang\***. *Neural network architecture beyond width and depth*. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (**NeurIPS 2022**), 35:5669–5681, 2022. [ arXiv, Poster, Conference ]
- [8] (RF at NUS, 15 Nov 2021) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang\***. *Deep network approximation in terms of intrinsic parameters*. Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning (**ICML 2022**), PMLR 162:19909–19934, 2022. [ arXiv, Spotlight, Conference ]
- [7] (RF at NUS, 6 Jul 2021) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang\***. *Deep network approximation: achieving arbitrary accuracy with fixed number of neurons*. **Journal of Machine Learning Research**, Volume 23, Issue 276, September 2022, Pages 1–60. [ arXiv, Journal ]
- [6] (RF at NUS, 28 Feb 2021) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang\***. *Optimal approximation rate of ReLU networks in terms of width and depth*. **Journal de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées**, Volume 157, January 2022, Pages 101–135. [ arXiv, Journal ]
- [5] (PhD at NUS, 25 Oct 2020) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang**. *Neural network approximation: Three hidden layers are enough*. **Neural Networks**, Volume 141, September 2021, Pages 160–173. [ arXiv, Journal ]
- [4] (PhD at NUS, 22 Jun 2020) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang**. *Deep network with approximation error being reciprocal of width to power of square root of depth*. **Neural Computation**, Volume 33, Issue 4, April 2021, Pages 1005–1036. [ arXiv, Journal ]
- [3] (PhD at NUS, 9 Jan 2020) Jianfeng Lu, Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang**. *Deep network approximation for smooth functions*. **SIAM Journal on Mathematical Analysis**, Volume 53, Issue 5, September 2021, Pages 5465–5506. [ arXiv, Journal ]
- [2] (PhD at NUS, 13 Jun 2019) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang**. *Deep network approximation characterized by number of neurons*. **Communications in Computational Physics**, Volume 28, Issue 5, November 2020, Pages 1768–1811. [ arXiv, Journal ]
- [1] (PhD at NUS, 26 Feb 2019) Zuowei Shen, Haizhao Yang, **Shijun Zhang**. *Nonlinear approximation via compositions*. **Neural Networks**, Volume 119, November 2019, Pages 74–84. [ arXiv, Journal ]



# Shijun Zhang 张仕俊

Assistant Research Professor,  
Duke University  
Neural network  
Approximation theory

	All	Since 2019
Citations	783	780
h-index	9	9
i10-index	9	9
0 articles		7 articles
not available		available
Based on funding mandates		

TITLE	CITED BY	YEAR
<a href="#">Deep network approximation for smooth functions</a> J Lu, Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang SIAM Journal on Mathematical Analysis 53 (5), 5465–5506	220	2020
<a href="#">Deep network approximation characterized by number of neurons</a> Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang Communications in Computational Physics 28 (5), 1768-1811	177	2020
<a href="#">Neural network approximation: Three hidden layers are enough</a> Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang Neural Networks 141, 160-173	91	2021
<a href="#">Optimal approximation rate of ReLU networks in terms of width and depth</a> Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang Journal de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées 157, 101-135	85	2022
<a href="#">Nonlinear approximation via compositions</a> Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang Neural Networks 119, 74-84	85	2019
<a href="#">Deep network with approximation error being reciprocal of width to power of square root of depth</a> Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang Neural Computation 33 (4), 1005-1036	56	2021
<a href="#">Deep network approximation: Achieving arbitrary accuracy with fixed number of neurons</a> Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang The Journal of Machine Learning Research 23 (276), 1-60	22	2022
<a href="#">Deep network approximation for smooth functions. arXiv e-prints</a> J Lu, Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang arXiv preprint arXiv:2001.03040	18	2020
<a href="#">Deep neural network approximation via function compositions</a> S Zhang PhD thesis, National University of Singapore	10	2020
<a href="#">Neural network architecture beyond width and depth</a> S Zhang, Z Shen, H Yang Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 35, 5669-5681	9	2022
<a href="#">Deep network approximation in terms of intrinsic parameters</a> Z Shen, H Yang, S Zhang International Conference on Machine Learning 162, 19909-19934	4	2022
<a href="#">On enhancing expressive power via compositions of single fixed-size ReLU network</a> S Zhang, J Lu, H Zhao International Conference on Machine Learning, 41452-41487	3	2023
<a href="#">Deep Network Approximation: Beyond ReLU to Diverse Activation Functions</a> S Zhang, J Lu, H Zhao Journal of Machine Learning Research 25	2	2024
<a href="#">Why Shallow Networks Struggle with Approximating and Learning High Frequency: A Numerical Study</a> S Zhang, H Zhao, Y Zhong, H Zhou arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.17301	1	2023