

# Xiaopeng Li

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## Education

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### Columbia University

*Ph.D. in Operations Research.*

*M.S. in Operations Research.*

Advisor: Cédric Jozs

New York, U.S.

Sept 2020 – present

Sept 2020 – May 2021

### The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (CUHK(SZ))

*B.S. in Applied Mathematics.*

Shenzhen, China

Sept 2016 – May 2020

## Research Interests

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- Nonconvex and nonsmooth optimization.
- Stochastic optimization for machine learning.
- Applied semialgebraic geometry.
- Dynamical systems.

## Preprints & Publications

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- Fougereux T., Jozs, C., & Li, X. (2024). *Global convergence of gradient descent for phase retrieval with optimal sample complexity*. Submitted to ICLR 2025.
- Jozs, C., Lai, L., & Li, X. (2024). Proximal random reshuffling under local Lipschitz continuity. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2408.07182*. Submitted to Mathematics of Operations Research.
- Jozs, C., & Li, X. (2024). Singular perturbation in heavy ball dynamics. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.15044*. Major revision in Journal of Dynamics and Differential Equations.
- Jozs, C., Lai, L., & Li, X. (2023). Convergence of the Momentum Method for Semialgebraic Functions with Locally Lipschitz Gradients. *SIAM Journal on Optimization*, 33(4), 3012–3037.
- Jozs, C., & Li, X. (2023). Certifying the Absence of Spurious Local Minima at Infinity. *SIAM Journal on Optimization*, 33(3), 1416–1439.

## Teaching Experience

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### Teaching Assistant

Columbia University

- IEOR E 4007 Optimization Methods & Models for Financial Engineering, Fall 2024
- EEOR E 6616 Convex Optimization, Spring 2024.
- IEOR E 3404 Simulation, Spring 2021.

### Undergraduate Student Teaching Fellows

CUHK(SZ)

- Ordinary Differential Equations, Spring 2019 & Spring 2020.
- Elementary Real Analysis, Fall 2019.
- Mathematical Analysis I & II, Fall 2017 & Spring 2018.

## Presentations

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- Young Researcher Workshop, Cornell University Ithaca, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, *Proximal random reshuffling under local Lipschitz continuity*.
- NYC Operations Day, New York, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, *Convergence of the momentum method for semi-algebraic functions with locally Lipschitz gradients*.
- INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, *Convergence of the momentum method for semi-*

*algebraic functions with locally Lipschitz gradients.*

- Young Researcher Workshop, Cornell University Ithaca, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, *Convergence of the momentum method for semi-algebraic functions with locally Lipschitz gradients.*
- SIAM Conference on Optimization, Seattle, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, *Certifying the absence of spurious local minima at infinity.*
- NYC Operations Day, New York, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, *Certifying the absence of spurious local minima at infinity.*
- INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, *Certifying the absence of spurious local minima at infinity.*
- International Conference on Continuous Optimization, Lehigh University, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, *Certifying the absence of spurious local minima at infinity.*

## Honors & Awards

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- Academic Performance Scholarship (CUHK(SZ), 2017, 2018 & 2019)
- Dean's List (CUHK(SZ), 2017, 2018 & 2019)
- Undergraduate Research Award (CUHK(SZ), 2018 & 2019)
- Second Prize in China Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling (China, 2018)
- Second Prize in National College Students Mathematical Competition (China, 2018)

## Professional Service

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### Session Chair

- International Conference on Continuous Optimization, Lehigh University, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### Reviewer

- SIAM Journal on Optimization
- US Office of Naval Research

## Mentoring

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### Undergraduates

- Théodore Fougereux (École Polytechnique). Project: *Bounded flows in phase retrieval*. Summer Internship at Columbia University. May 1 – Sept 31, 2024.
- Cristian Pena (Florida Atlantic University). Project: *Moving Object Detection*. Columbia University Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program. May 29 – July 31, 2024.

## Internship

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### National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Graduate PhD Intern

Golden, CO, USA

June 2024 – Aug 2024

- Smoothed progressive hedging algorithm for multi-stage stochastic MILP (available in mpi-sppy).
- L1-penalized ADMM algorithm for solving transmission expansion problems.