

## EDUCATION

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- **Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD Dec. 2022  
• **Master of Science in Engineering in Applied Mathematics and Statistics**; GPA: 4.0/4.0  
Thesis: First-Order Methods for Nonsmooth Nonconvex Functional Constrained Optimization with or without Slater Points  
Advisor: Benjamin Grimmer  
Courses: Nonlinear Optimization, Stochastic Optimization, Large-Scale Optimization, Control Theory, Statistical Theory
- **Sun Yat-Sen University**, Guangzhou, China Jun. 2021  
• **Bachelor of Science in Information and Computing Science**; GPA: 3.7/4.0  
Thesis: On an FFHE-Inspired Method for Effectively Solving Differential Riccati Equations  
Advisor: Tao Wang  
Courses: Real Analysis, Linear Algebra, Numerical Methods, Statistics, Optimization Methods, Machine Learning, Data Mining

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND PUBLICATIONS

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- **First-Order Methods for Nonconvex Nonsmooth Constrained Optimization** Oct. 2021 - present  
Advisor: Assistant Professor Benjamin Grimmer Johns Hopkins University, MD
  - **Algorithm Design and Theoretical Analysis**: Present a modified inexact proximal guided switching subgradient method solving nonconvex nonsmooth constrained optimization problems based on newly proposed Slater point-type assumptions and measurements of stationarity; provide theoretical results on its convergence rates and feasibility guarantees without domain compactness assumption; conduct numerical experiments on sparse phase retrieval problems.“First-Order Methods for Nonsmooth Nonconvex Functional Constrained Optimization with or without Slater Points” by **Z. Jia**, B. Grimmer, in preparation for *SIAM Journal on Optimization* submission [arXiv].
- **The SPSA method for Constrained Stochastic Optimization** May 2022 - present  
Advisor: Professor James Spall Johns Hopkins University, MD
  - **SPSA-based Constrained Algorithms**: Propose an SPSA-based switch updating method and an SPSA-based random-search projection method built on the simultaneous perturbation stochastic approximation (SPSA) solving (noisily) constrained stochastic problems under specific assumptions; show convergence results and numerical performances of them.
  - **Distributions of SPSA Sampling**: Generate computational and experimental results on the advantages of non-Bernoulli distributions compared to using Bernoulli distribution in SPSA sampling for specific constrained cases.“SPSA-Based Switch Updating Algorithm for Constrained Stochastic Optimization” by **Z. Jia**, Z. Wei, submitted to *Conference on Information Science and Systems 2023*.  
“SPSA-Based Switch Updating Algorithm for Stochastic Optimization with Noisy Constraints” by **Z. Jia**, Z. Wei, J. Spall, in preparation for Journal submission [arXiv].
- **Stochastic Gradient Descent Methods with Stochastic Polyak Stepsizes (SPS)** Jun. 2022 - present  
Advisor: Assistant Professor Nicolas Loizou Johns Hopkins University, MD
  - **SPS in Different Problem Settings**: Apply two variants of SPS to the stochastic gradient descent method to solve weakly convex and sharp (finite-sum) stochastic optimization problems and present their convergence results.
  - **SPS in Constrained Algorithms**: Apply one variant of SPS to the stochastic switching subgradient method to solve constrained (finite-sum) stochastic optimization problems and present its convergence result.
- **The Augmented Lagrangian Method for Nonconvex Problems** May 2020 - Jul. 2020  
Advisor: Assistant Professor Jovan Ilic Carnegie Mellon University, PA (Online)
  - **Algorithm Realization and Experimental Analysis**: Implemented the augmented Lagrangian method solving nonconvex optimization problems with equality constraints; compared its performance under different choices of related hyper-parameters and with other classic constrained methods.“Implementation and Analyzing of Augmented Lagrangian Method” Abstract by **Z. Jia**, Z. Hu, J. Ma, accepted by *International Conference on Applied Physics and Mathematics 2021* (for presentation only).
- **Applications of the FFHE Method in Time-Varying Control Systems** Jan. 2020 - May 2021  
Advisor: Associate Professor Tao Wang Sun Yat-Sen University, China
  - **Applied to CTECQP**: Implemented a tailored novel fast and flexible holomorphic embedding (FFHE) method for solving continuous-time equality constrained quadratic programming (CTECQP) problems.
  - **Applied to MDRE**: Extended the FFHE method to dealing with matrix differential Riccati equations (MDRE).

- **Promotion on FFHE:** Carried out certain strategies to optimize the series expansion, rational approximation, adaptive segmentation and automatic correction for the FFHE method and achieved better performance.

“On a Tailored Fast and Flexible Holomorphic Embedding Method for Time-Varying Control Systems” by Y. Ding, **Z. Jia**, Z. Fang, T. Wang, Y. Zhang, submitted to *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- Reviewer for *American Control Conference 2023*
- Grader for *EN.625.714.82: Introductory Stochastic Differential Equations with Applications* at JHU in Summer 2022

## TALKS

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- **Invited Presentation on “Estimation and Learning in Stochastic Systems”**  
for the 57th Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems at JHU Mar. 2023
- **Extensions of Stochastic Polyak Stepsizes on Weakly Convex and Sharp Functions**  
at JHU Optimization and Machine Learning Group Seminar Sept. 2022
- **Inexact Proximal Point Method for Nonconvex Nonsmooth Constrained Optimization**  
at JHU AMS Optimization Group Seminar Aug. 2022

## AWARDS

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- Third Prize in China Undergraduate Mathematical Contest in Modeling (top 40%) in Sept. 2019
- Ranked 6th in Datathon@LISH in Feb. 2022

## SKILLS

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- **Programming Languages:** C, C++, Python, Matlab, SQL, R