

Pooja Algikar

703-389-5912 | apooja19@vt.edu | linkedin.com/in/pooja | github.com/apooja1

EDUCATION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering

Washington D.C.

Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2024

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Master of Engineering in Electrical Engineering

Washington D.C.

Aug. 2019 – Dec. 2020

College of Engineering, Pune

Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering

Pune, India

Aug. 2013 – July. 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Transformers, uncertainty quantification, robust estimation, Koopman operator, and Gaussian processes

RESEARCH PROJECTS

RPM [1] quantifies the uncertainty propagated from intermittent renewable energy sources in the states of a power system. Specifically, it predicts hour-ahead uncertainty bounds on the steady-state estimations of a power system: voltage phasors which are the outputs of the AC power flow model. The stochastic AC power flow model is formulated in a robust Gaussian process framework, the hyperparameters of which are estimated based on the generalized Shweppe-type maximum likelihood estimator. RPM is trained on real-world data: time series measurements of power injections and voltage phasors. The effect of bad data in predictions is bounded by downweighting them with scores calculated using projection statistics, a robust version of Mahalanobis distances.

GP-Huber [5] is a robust process regression model in the Gaussian process framework with the likelihood of observed data expressed as the Huber probability density function. The resulting unimodal predictive posterior distribution is approximated using Gibbs sampling and Laplace approximation methods. High statistical efficiencies at the Gaussian and thick-tailed noise distributions such as Students t, Laplace, and Cauchy distribution with a good amount of outlying data are demonstrated with a numerical example. Finally, the proposed inference methods are applied to estimate the planet-to-star radius ratio of the HD-189733 planetary system.

HOBİ [2] addresses non-linear dynamics in blind source separation method for identifying low oscillating modes. Non-linear dependencies are modeled using copula statistics, a b-variate index for measuring higher-order dependence among random variables. The algorithm combined with Hilbert transform (HOBİ-HT) and iteration procedure (HOBİMI) can identify all the oscillation modes and the model order from the observation signals obtained from the number of channels as low as one.

MUQ-Central [4] quantifies the impact of measurement uncertainties in numerical methods that employ the Koopman operator to identify nonlinear dynamics based on recorded data normalized to have zero means. In particular, the confidence interval of each element in the push-forward matrix is quantified from which a subset of the Koopman operator's discrete spectrum is estimated. A detailed numerical analysis applied to numerical simulations and field data collected from experiments conducted in a megawatt-scale facility at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory is performed.

MUQ-nonCentral [3] propagates the moments of the normal density function specified for measurements' uncertainty through the dynamic mode decomposition. The proposed numerical method to propagate the uncertainty is agnostic of specific dynamic mode decomposition formulations. The estimated second moments provide confidence bounds that may be used as a metric of trustworthiness, that is, how much one can rely on a finite-dimensional linear operator to represent an underlying dynamical system.

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Algikar, P., Xu, Y., Yarahmadi, S., & Mili, L. (2023). A robust data-driven process modeling applied to time-series stochastic power flow. *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*.
- [2] Algikar, P., et. al. (2023). Identification of power system oscillation modes using blind source separation based on copula statistic. 2023 IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting (PESGM). **Best Paper Finalist**
- [3] Algikar, P., Sharma P., Netto M., and Mili L. (2024). Statistical analysis and method to quantify the impact of measurement uncertainty on dynamic mode decomposition. *CDC 2024*.
- [4] Algikar, P., Sharma P., Netto M., and Mili L. (2023). Measurement uncertainty impact on Koopman operator estimation of power system dynamics. *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems* (under review).
- [5] Algikar, P., & Mili, L. (2023). Robust Gaussian process regression with Huber likelihood. *ECML 2025*.
- [6] Algikar, P., Xu, Y., & Mili, L. (2022, July). A measurement-based robust non-Gaussian process emulator applied to data-driven stochastic power flow. In *2022 IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting (PESGM)* (pp. 01-05).
- [7] Algikar, P., & Mili, L. (2022). Robust hyperparameter estimation in Gaussian process regression model. *Statistics and Computing* (under review).

EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher

Oct 2024 - Present

Argonne National Lab

Lemont, IL

- Researching data fusion using Time Series Transformers for real-time situational awareness

Graduate Intern II, Sensing and Predictive Analytics

June 2023 - Feb 2024

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Golden, CO

- Derived analytical expressions for the first and second moments of constituent elements of the dynamic mode decomposition operator
- Developed statistical method to quantify aleatoric uncertainties in data-driven Koopman operator using principles from random matrix theory

Summer Intern (PhD), Product Development

May 2021 – July 2021

Ford Motor Company

Dearborn, MI

- Formulated a cost function to comprehensively assess the benefits and risks associated with the aggregator's engagement in the electricity market.
- Worked on a mathematical model to optimize total credit linked with household aggregation strategy.

Algorithm Engineer, Product Development

Aug 2017 – July 2019

Renault Nissan Technology and Business Center

Chennai, India

INVITED TALKS

Stochastic Time-Series Power Flow

25th Oct 2023

Prof. Hao Zhu's lab

UT Austin

Data-driven Uncertainty Quantification Methods

28th June 2024

Prof. Anil Kulkarni's lab in EE department

IIT Bombay

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, Matlab, R

Libraries: TensorFlow, scikit-learn, Keras, NumPy, Matplotlib

Tools: PSCAD, Gurobi, DIgSILENT, OpenDss