Brendon G. Anderson

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Education University of California, Berkeley

Aug. 2018 – Present

Ph.D. in Control Theory Advisor: Somayeh Sojoudi

Research Areas: Optimization, Machine Learning, Control Theory

Minors: Optimization, Statistics

University of California, Berkeley

Aug. 2018 – May 2020

M.S. in Control Theory

Thesis: Towards Optimality and Robustness Guarantees for Data-Driven Learning and Decision Making

University of California, Los Angeles

Sep. 2015 – Mar. 2018

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (summa cum laude)

Technical Breadth Area: Mathematics

Experience

Graduate Student Researcher — UC Berkeley

Aug. 2018 - Present

Advisor: Somayeh Sojoudi

 Conducted various research projects on robustness and optimality guarantees for convex and nonconvex optimization problems in machine learning.

Jr. Development Engineer — UCLA Engineering Jan. 2018 – Jun. 2018 Advisor: Robert M'Closkey

• Designed, fabricated, and tested low-frequency folded pendulum accelerometer for use in UCLA's dynamic systems and control laboratories.

Research Assistant — UCLA Mathematics

Jun. 2017 – Aug. 2017

Advisors: Matt Haberland, Olga Turanova, and Andrea L. Bertozzi

• Formulated performance quantification methods for swarm coverage control algorithms.

- Publications [1] B. G. Anderson and S. Sojoudi, "Certifying neural network robustness to random input noise from samples," arXiv preprint arXiv:2010.07532, 2020.
 - [2] B. G. Anderson and S. Sojoudi, "Data-driven assessment of deep neural networks with random input uncertainty," arXiv preprint arXiv:2010.01171, 2020.
 - [3] B. G. Anderson, Z. Ma, J. Li, and S. Sojoudi, "Tightened convex relaxations for neural network robustness certification," in Proceedings of the 59th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, 2020.
 - [4] B. G. Anderson and S. Sojoudi, "Global optimality guarantees for nonconvex unsupervised video segmentation," in Proceedings of the 57th Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing, pp. 965–972, 2019.

- [5] B. G. Anderson, E. Loeser, M. Gee, F. Ren, S. Biswas, O. Turanova, M. Haberland, and A. L. Bertozzi, "Quantifying robotic swarm coverage," in Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics: 15th International Conference, ICINCO 2018, Porto, Portugal, July 29-31, 2018, Revised Selected Papers, vol. 613 of Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering, pp. 276–301, Springer, 2019.
- [6] B. G. Anderson, E. Loeser, M. Gee, F. Ren, S. Biswas, O. Turanova, M. Haberland, and A. L. Bertozzi, "Quantitative assessment of robotic swarm coverage," in Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics (ICINCO)—Volume 2, pp. 91–101, 2018.

- Invited Talks 1. INFORMS Annual Meeting, National Harbor, MD Nov. 2020 "Partition-based convex relaxations for robustness certification of ReLU neural networks"
 - 2. Conference on Control Technology and Applications, Montréal Aug. 2020 "Robustness analysis of neural networks"
 - 3. Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics, Los Angeles, CA Aug. 2017 "Robotic swarm analysis"

Awards

- 1. John and Janet McMurtry Fellowship, UC Berkeley Dec. 2020 Departmental award for academic excellence, sole recipient.
- 2. Travel Support Award, Conference on Decision and Control Dec. 2020
- 3. Graduate Assembly Professional Development Award, UC Berkeley Aug. 2020
- 4. Graduate Division Block Grant Award, UC Berkeley Apr. 2019
- 5. Harry M. Showman Prize, UCLA Jun. 2018 Schoolwide research award, sole undergraduate recipient.
- 6. Jonathan David Wolfe Memorial Scholarship, UCLA Apr. 2018 Departmental award for academic excellence, one of two recipients.

Teaching

Graduate Student Instructor — UC Berkeley

1. Nonlinear and Discrete Optimization (IEOR 160)

Fall 2020

Supplemental Instructor — Palomar College

1. Electromagnetism (PHYS 231)

Spring 2015

2. General Chemistry (CHEM 115)

Fall 2014, Spring 2015

Professional Activities

- 1. Reviewer for Artificial Intelligence and Statistics Conference (AISTATS), 2020.
- 2. Reviewer for American Control Conference (ACC), 2020.
- 3. Peer Advisor for the Bay Area Graduate Pathways to Stem (GPS) program, hosted by UC Berkeley Engineering and Stanford Engineering, 2020.
- 4. Grant proposal contributor; assisted with writing DARPA funding proposal, 2019.

5. Chair of the session "Data Analytics", 57th Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing, 2019.

Relevant Optimization

Coursework

- 1. Nonlinear Programming, Professor Javad Lavaei
- 2. Convex Optimization, Professors Somayeh Sojoudi and Laurent El Ghaoui
- 3. Optimization Models, Professors Laurent El Ghaoui and Alex Bayen

Machine Learning

- 1. Statistical Learning Theory (audit), Professors Ben Recht and Moritz Hardt
- 2. Learning and Optimization, Professor Anil Aswani
- 3. Deep Learning (online), Professor Andrew Ng
- 4. Machine Learning (online), Professor Andrew Ng

Control Theory

- 1. Nonlinear Systems: Analysis, Stability, and Control, Professor Claire Tomlin
- 2. Advanced Control Theory II (LQ control, stochastic estimation and control, tracking and adaptive control), Professor Masayoshi Tomizuka
- 3. Advanced Control Theory I (linear systems, Lyapunov stability, state observer feedback, LQR), Professor Roberto Horowitz
- 4. Linear Dynamical Systems, Professor Robert M'Closkey
- 5. Digital Control, Professor Tsu-Chin Tsao

Mathematics

- 1. Topology and Analysis II (functional analysis), Professor Michael Christ
- 2. Topology and Analysis I (measure theory), Professor Alan Hammond
- 3. Engineering Mathematics (single course: linear algebra, optimization, and probability), Professors Andrew Packard, Somayeh Sojoudi, and Kameshwar Poolla
- 4. Analysis (Real; Complex; Numerical)
- 5. Differential Equations (Ordinary; Partial)

Statistics

- 1. Theoretical Statistics (high-dimensional), Professor Yan Shuo Tan
- 2. Theoretical Statistics (classical), Professor Will Fithian