

# Konstantin BURLACHENKO

Ph.D. candidacy in Computer Science program, CEMSE division at KAUST

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github.com/burlachenkok



Homepage: <https://burlachenkok.github.io>

I have co-created state-of-the-art systems for Machine Learning (ML), Graphics, Vision, and Computational Physics, exploiting hardware via DSL and using contemporary areas of Math and CS. My current focus is Federated Learning, a subfield of ML co-invented by my advisor in 2016<sup>1</sup>. It has become a key part of the "US National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Plan" in May 2023. My dissertation title is "Optimization Methods and Software for Federated Learning".

## EDUCATION

- 2020-Now KSA : Ph.D. program in [CEMSE/CS Program at KAUST](#). Member of Prof. [Peter Richtárik](#)'s Optimization and Machine Learning Lab in [KAUST AI initiative](#) led by [Jürgen Schmidhuber](#). *Transcript* : [Link-1](#). *GPA* : 3.81/4.0. *Awards* : (1) [Dean's Award 2020, KAUST](#); (2) [Grant from SDAIA 2022](#); (3) [Dean's List Award 2023, KAUST](#); (4) [AMD Radeon Instinct MI50 from AMD Inc.](#)
- 2015-2019 USA, Stanford : Graduate Non-Degree Program. *Transcript* : [Link-2](#). *GPA* : 3.96/4.3
- 2015-2018 USA, Stanford : Data, Models and Optimization Graduate Certificate [Link-3 \(Program\)](#)
- 2016 - 2019 USA, Stanford : Artificial Intelligence Graduate Certificate [Link-4 \(Program\)](#)
- 2003-2009 Russia, Bauman Moscow State Technical University : Master Degree ([Bologn process equivalent](#)) in Computer Science and Control Systems. *GPA* : *Not Applicable*. ([Original scans](#))
- Conferences and Summer Schools [ACM CoNEXT 2023](#); [Rising Stars in AI Symposium 2023](#), [EMNLP-2022](#); [ICML-2022](#); [ICML-2021](#); [NeurIPS-2021](#); [ACM CoNEXT 2021](#); [ACM SIGGRAPH 2012](#); [Regularization Methods for ML 2021](#); [The PRAIRIE/MIAI AI summer school 2021](#); [Oxford ML Summer School-2021](#); [The HSE/MIPT/Sirius Optimization without Border](#).

## EXPERIENCE

- August 2021 **Research Scientist Intern (AI), [FACEBOOK INC.](#), USA, Menlo Park**  
After passing competitive interviews I have read several papers that [Dr. Hao-Jun Michael Shi](#) has recommended. We had several discussions and we've selected the research topic that is important to the company and at the same time for my Ph.D. The internship has not happened due to the absence of a J1 VISA.  
[Distributed Math Optimization](#) [AI](#) [Federated Learning](#)
- Now September 2020 **CS Ph.D. candidacy and a member of [Prof. Peter Richtárik](#) OPTIMIZATION AND ML LAB<sup>2</sup>, KAUST, KSA**  
► *Narrow area of my research* : Federated Learning(FL), Stochastic Distributed Math Optimization for AI.  
► *Broad areas of my interests* : Math Optimization, AI/ML, Compute Optimization, Software Systems, GPGPU, Computer Vision, Computer Graphics, Networks, Cryptography, Control, Physical Simulation.  
► During Sep 2022 - Sep 2023 I was a Member of Center of Excellence in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence [SDAIA-KAUST AI \(invitation letter\)](#). During my affiliation I have co-initiated a joint project.  
[Distributed Math Optimization](#) [Federated Learning](#) [Applied Math](#) [Computer Vision](#) [Sytems](#) [Cryptography](#) [C/C++](#)  
[CUDA](#) [SSE2](#) [Python](#) [CMake](#) [Qt/PyQt](#) [PyTorch](#) [TF](#) [Latex](#) [Git](#) [Google Tests](#) [Bash](#)
- August 2020 **Principal Lead Engineer Level 18 | Foundation AI Lab, [HUAWEI](#), Moscow**  
March 2019  
► R&D in internal Machine Learning/Systems middleware for [HUAWEI HiSilicon](#).  
► Present HiSilicon solutions for engineers, scientists working with ML/AI. [OpenTalks.AI](#), [HUAWEI News](#).  
► R&D in internal projects in Machine Learning/Systems [HUAWEI Consumer Business Group](#).  
► Obtained high grade in the last review, before going back to academia to gain a [Ph.D. degree at KAUST](#).  
[Math Optimization](#) [AI](#) [Custome ISA](#) [C/C++](#) [Python](#) [TVM](#) [Java](#) [Google Protobuf](#) [CMake](#) [Qt](#) [TF](#) [SQL](#)
- March 2019 **Senior Developer Technology Engineer Level IC3, [NVIDIA](#), Moscow**  
July 2014  
► [Driveworks SDK](#) - SDK for self-driving cars adopted by automotive partners. Computer vision, machine learning, calibration, egomotion. Implementation and presentation of the modules internally.  
► [PhysX/Apex SDK](#) - An industry standard for game physics simulation, graphical special effects. Internal implementation and communication with extra customers (Blizzard).  
► [cuDNN/cuBLAS](#) libraries - GPU computation libraries used by more than 1M customers in machine learning and HPC. Implementation, Documentation, and collaboration with Mathworks.  
► [RAPIDS](#) - GPU based implementation of SkLearn, XgBoost, Pandas. I was resnsponsible for SkLearn.  
[CUDA](#) [GLSL](#) [C++](#) [AARCH64](#) [SSE2/ARM NEON](#) [Linux](#) [Windows](#) [PS4](#) [XBox](#) [OpenGL](#) [Google Tests](#) [GitLab](#)  
[Perl](#) [Python](#) [CMake](#) [Make](#) [Qt](#) [Git](#) [TensorFlow](#) [Computer Vision](#) [Graphics](#) [Deep Learning](#) [CppCheck](#)

1. [Federated Learning : Strategies for Improving Communication Efficiency \[J.Konečný, H.B.McMahan, F.X.Yu, P.Richtarik, A.T.Suresh, D.Bacon, NIPS 2016\]](#)

2. To avoid academic disputes over authorship order and focus on work, the Lab mostly adopts the concept of "Every Author as First Author" [arXiv:2304.01393](#)

July 2014 May 2013	<b>Senior Developer Engineer   Yandex Video Team, <a href="#">YANDEX</a>, Moscow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Text and statistical machine learning features for <a href="#">Yandex Video Search</a>.</li> <li>▶ Infrastructure for storage and analysis of all web documents with embedded video on the WWW</li> <li>▶ Infrastructure to show plots for internal team's processes</li> </ul> <span>C++</span> <span>Google Protobuf</span> <span>JavaScript</span> <span>Bash</span> <span>Python</span> <span>Computer Science</span> <span>HTML/JS/CSS</span> <span>SVN</span> <span>MapReduce</span> <span>ML</span>
April 2013 March 2012	<b>Lead Physics Engine Developer, FITTING REALITY, Moscow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Develop library for clothing simulation in <a href="#">CUDA</a> and in <a href="#">OpenCL</a> with facade interface to C++/C#.</li> <li>▶ Custom render engine for clothing visualization compatible with OpenGL 1.2. <a href="#">Demo</a>.</li> <li>▶ Prepare elements of the demo to investors. Carry internal MATH/CS/PHYS trainings.</li> </ul> <span>C++</span> <span>C</span> <span>OpenGL</span> <span>GLSL</span> <span>Qt</span> <span>Posix</span> <span>WinAPI</span> <span>QMake</span> <span>CUDA</span> <span>OpenCL</span> <span>Physics</span> <span>Graphics</span> <span>gDebugger</span> <span>C#</span>
March 2012 September 2010	<b>Software Developer Engineer, <a href="#">ACRONIS</a>, Moscow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Key member of GUI team for <a href="#">Acronis Backup and Recovery 2011 Enterprise</a></li> <li>▶ Profiling and optimization of the codebase working in user/kernel space for Windows OS.</li> </ul> <span>C++</span> <span>C</span> <span>WinAPI</span> <span>WinDbg</span> <span>VmWare</span> <span>Specialized GUI library</span> <span>SVN</span> <span>SysInternals</span> <span>CppCheck</span> <span>ASM x86</span> <span>AqTime</span>
September 2010 March 2009	<b>Senior Software Developer Engineer, CAPITAL RESEARCH, Moscow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developed Firefox plugin to create the three-dimensional HTML view for basics HTML elements.</li> <li>▶ The startup terminated. CEO <a href="#">Kirill Garanzha</a> can provide information about my work.</li> </ul> <span>Firefox</span> <span>C++</span> <span>WinAPI</span> <span>HTML/JS/CSS</span> <span>Windows</span> <span>OpenGL</span> <span>GLSL</span> <span>SVN</span>
June 2009 December 2006	<b>C++ Programming Engineer, FLINT AND CO, Moscow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Created several computer games with computer vision and graphics part, hardware drivers.</li> <li>▶ Spent time on factory floors to test and analyze the quality of my solutions. Carry trips to customers.</li> </ul> <span>C++</span> <span>SDL</span> <span>Posix</span> <span>WinApi</span> <span>Development Image Library</span> <span>Low level programming</span> <span>Computer Vision</span> <span>OpenGL</span> <span>SVN</span>
November 2006 March 2006	<b>C++ Programming Engineer (Part time work), ASTRASOFT TECHNOLOGY, Moscow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Developed visual elements of management system based on Qt and OpenGL.</li> </ul> <span>C++</span> <span>Qt</span> <span>Windows</span> <span>OpenGL</span> <span>SVN</span>

## PRESENTATIONS

DEC-2023	<a href="#">ACM DistributedML2023, France</a> : Federated Learning is Better with Non-Homomorphic Encryption.
JUNE-2023	<a href="#">SIAM : Conference on Optimization (OP23), USA</a> : FL_PyTorch : Optimization Research Simulator for Federated Learning ( <a href="#">link</a> ).
MARCH-2023	<a href="#">VCC OPEN HOUSE 2023 event, KSA</a> : FedNL. Making Newton-Type Methods Applicable to FL. ( <a href="#">link</a> ).
DEC-2022	<a href="#">EMNLP 2022, Abu Dhabi, UAE</a> : Presenter in KAUST AI Initiative Booth.
OCT-2022	<a href="#">CS Ph.D. Proposal Defense, KSA</a> : Dissertation Title : <i>Optimization Methods and Software for Federated Learning</i> . Committee members : <i>Eric Feron, Marco Canini, Peter Richtarik</i> .
JULY-2022	<a href="#">Workshop at ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing, Italy</a> : MARINA : Faster non-convex distributed learning with compression.
MAR-2022	<a href="#">Rising Stars in AI Symposium KAUST, KSA</a> : FL_PyTorch : Optimization Research Simulator for Federated Learning
DEC-2021	<a href="#">ACM DistributedML2021, Rome</a> : FL_PyTorch : Optimization Research Simulator for Federated Learning.
JULY-2021	<a href="#">Poster and spotlight for in ICML-2021, Virtual</a> : MARINA Faster Non-Convex Distributed Learning with Compression.
APR-2021	<a href="#">Poster at Communication Efficient Distributed Optimization at NSF-TRIPODS Workshop, Virtual</a> : MARINA : Faster Non-Convex Distributed Learning with Compression.
FEB-2020	<a href="#">OpenTalks.AI conference, Russia</a> : <a href="#">Huawei technologies for AI developers</a> .
JULY-2019	<a href="#">Educational center Sirius, Russia</a> . Deep Learning Course with <a href="#">D.Kamzolov</a> and <a href="#">A.V. Gasnikov</a> .
DEC-2018	<a href="#">Moscow Institute of Physics and Technologies</a> , Russia. Guest lectures about subtle things around CART, Gradient Boosting and Random Forest : Slides : <a href="#">Link</a> . Presentations : <a href="#">Session-#1</a> , <a href="#">Session-#2</a> .
APR-2016	<a href="#">GTC 2016, USA</a> : Presenter in <a href="#">Driveworks NVIDIA</a> booth.
AUG-2012	<a href="#">ACM SIGGRAPH 2012, USA</a> : Presenter in <a href="#">CentiLeo</a> booth. And a visitor from Fitting Reality.

UNLOCKING FEDNL : SELF-CONTAINED COMPUTE-OPTIMIZED IMPLEMENTATION	2024
<a href="https://burlachenko.github.io/Unlocking-FedNL-at-KAUST-AI-Symposium/">https://burlachenko.github.io/Unlocking-FedNL-at-KAUST-AI-Symposium/</a> N/A in arXiv yet	
ERROR FEEDBACK RELOADED : FROM QUADRATIC TO ARITHMETIC MEAN OF SMOOTHNESS CONSTANTS	2024
<a href="https://openreview.net/forum?id=Ch7WqGcGmb">https://openreview.net/forum?id=Ch7WqGcGmb</a> N/A in arXiv yet Accepted to presentation and proceedings to <i>Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR-2024</i> .	
FEDERATED LEARNING IS BETTER WITH NON-HOMOMORPHIC ENCRYPTION	2023
<a href="https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3630048.3630182">https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3630048.3630182</a> <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.02074">https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.02074</a> Accepted to presentation and proceedings to <i>4th ACM International Workshop on Distributed Machine Learning</i> .	
ERROR FEEDBACK SHINES WHEN FEATURES ARE RARE	2023
<a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.15264">https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.15264</a>	
FEDERATED LEARNING WITH REGULARIZED CLIENT PARTICIPATION	2023
<a href="https://icml.cc/virtual/2023/27049">https://icml.cc/virtual/2023/27049</a> <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.03662">https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.03662</a> Accepted to <i>Federated Learning and Analytics in Practice. Workshop at ICML 2023</i> .	
SHARPER RATES AND FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR NONCONVEX SGD WITH CLIENT AND DATA SAMPLING	2022
<a href="https://openreview.net/forum?id=zKgJ6TWAFE">https://openreview.net/forum?id=zKgJ6TWAFE</a> <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.02275">https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.02275</a> Accepted to <i>Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)</i> .	
FEDERATED OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHMS WITH RANDOM RESHUFFLING AND GRADIENT COMPRESSION	2022
<a href="https://icml.cc/virtual/2023/27050">https://icml.cc/virtual/2023/27050</a> <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.07021">https://arxiv.org/abs/2206.07021</a> Accepted to <i>Federated Learning and Analytics in Practice. Workshop at ICML 2023</i> .	
FASTER RATES FOR COMPRESSED FEDERATED LEARNING WITH CLIENT-VARIANCE REDUCTION	2021
<a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.13097">https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.13097</a> Accepted to <i>SIAM Journal on Mathematics of Data Science (SIMODS)</i> .	
FL_PYTORCH : OPTIMIZATION RESEARCH SIMULATOR FOR FEDERATED LEARNING	2021
<a href="https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3488659.3493775/">https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3488659.3493775/</a> <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.03099">https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.03099</a> Accepted to presentation and proceedings to <i>2nd ACM International Workshop on Distributed Machine Learning</i> .	
MARINA : FASTER NON-CONVEX DISTRIBUTED LEARNING WITH COMPRESSION	2021
<a href="https://proceedings.mlr.press/v139/gorbunov21a.html">https://proceedings.mlr.press/v139/gorbunov21a.html</a> <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.07845">https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.07845</a> Accepted to presentation and proceedings to <i>Thirty-eighth International Conference on Machine Learning, ICML 2021</i> .	
PERSONALIZED FEDERATED LEARNING WITH COMMUNICATION COMPRESSION	2021 – 2022
<a href="https://openreview.net/pdf?id=dZugyhbNfY">https://openreview.net/pdf?id=dZugyhbNfY</a> <a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.05148">https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.05148</a> Accepted to <i>Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)</i> .	

## ENGINEERING COMPETENCIES

Programming Languages that I have used	C89/C99, C++20/11/03, C#, Cython, Java ,x86/AArch64, NDA ASM
Scripting Languages that I have used	Python, Bash, Perl, and Cython which is between scripting and compile languages.
DSL Languages that I have used	GL SL, TVM, Google Protobuf, CUDA, OpenCL, Matlab, R, SQL
Frameworks	Qt, CUDA, WinApi, Posix, OpenGL, OpenCL, PyTorch, TensorFlow, CvxPy
Operating Systems	Windows, Linux based, Orbis, Xbox, Android, NDA OS-es
Development Environments	QtCreator, Visual Studio, Eclipse, WinDbg, Android Studio, TexStudio, Nsight
General purpose development tools	SysInternals, AqTime, Cmake, GNU Toolchain, CppCheck, Valgrind, Git, QMake
Typing DSL Languages	Latex, HTML, XML, Markdown
Areas in which I worked	Federated Learning, Stochastic Distributed Math Optimization, AI, Computer Vision, Statistical/Machine Learning, System Programming, GPU Programming, Convex/Non Convex Math Optimization, Differential Privacy, Computer Graphics, Computational Physics, Datamining, Distributed Systems.
Sport achievements	The Candidate Master in chess by FIDE. (My <a href="#">FIDE profile</a> ). <a href="#">Second Place in the KAUST Chess Tournament in Oct, 2022</a> .

## TECHNICAL NOTES

TECHNICAL NOTE : FROM C++1998 TO C++2020

2022

[github.com/burlachenkoc/CPP\\_from\\_1998\\_to\\_2020/blob/main/Cpp-Technical-Note.md](https://github.com/burlachenkoc/CPP_from_1998_to_2020/blob/main/Cpp-Technical-Note.md) [Short Information](#)

The technical note is dedicated for all primary C++ programming language standards : C++03/98/11/14/17/20. The note has been adopted to [AMD Inc.](#) internal education web portal. Also it has been highly assessed by : (i) Marco Foco, Head of the Delegation for Italy ISO C++ JTC1/SC22/WG21; (ii) [Prof. David Keyes](#), Director of [Extreme Compute Research Center at KAUST](#).

TECHNICAL NOTE : EXPLORING PYTHON3 LANGUAGE FROM A COMPUTING PERSPECTIVE

2023

[github.com/burlachenkoc/exploring-python3/blob/main/python3-note.md](https://github.com/burlachenkoc/exploring-python3/blob/main/python3-note.md) [Short Information](#)

The note contains a language tutorial, a description of several libraries, and a description of several low-level profiling tools for Linux/Posix OS and Windows OS Family. It has been adopted to [Introduction to Data Science workshop series at KAUST](#).

## SELECTED PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC PROJECTS

MATH OPTIMIZATION RESEARCH STUDIO

2020

[Project report - Math Optimizaiton Research Studio](#) [Description](#) [Bitbucket repo](#)

CS380 : Math Optimization Research Studio. Self-developed command line interpreter with custom script language with self-developed backend computation in C++/CUDA.

C++ Linux Windows CUDA CMake Dot Google Test Python Bash

EXPERIMENTAL NEURAL NET FRAMEWORK

2019

[Report.CS230 - 2019](#) [Poster CS230 - 2019](#) [bitbucket repo](#) [Presentation](#)

CS230 : Experimental Neural Net Framework. Mentor : Steven Z. Chen([stevenzc@stanford.edu](mailto:stevenzc@stanford.edu))

C++ Linux Windows CUDA Python CMake

CONVEX OPTIMIZATION SOLVERS WITH LEVERAGING INTO GPU/CPU POWER FOR AI/ML

2018

[Poster CS221 - 2018](#) [Bitbucket repo](#)

CS221 : Convex optimization solvers with leveraging into GPU/CPU power for AI/ML. Mentor : [Steven Diamond](#)

C++ Linux Windows CUDA Python CMake Convex Optimization

CONVEX OPTIMIZATION FOR MACHINE LEARNING

2017

[Poster CS229 - 2017](#) [Presentation](#)

Stanford, CS229 : Convex Optimization for Machine Learning

C++ Visual Studio Numerical Linear Algebra Convex Optimization Python CMake

PLOTTER++. STANDALONE TOOL FOR PLOT IMAGES, GRAPHS, POINT CLOUDS, TEXT LOGS VIA OBTAINING DATA FROM TCP/IP

2017

[github.com/burlachenkoc/plotter\\_plusplus](https://github.com/burlachenkoc/plotter_plusplus) [Presentation](#)

An advanced scientific plotter tool suitable to use in connection with embedded systems.

C++ Linux Windows Embedded Systems Qt Python

LANE DETECTION USING FOURIER BASED LINE DETECTOR

2016

[Report](#) [Presentation](#)

Lane detection using Fourier based line detector

Matlab

HTML REPORT GENERATOR FOR GOOGLE TESTS

2016

[GitHub](#)

Project goal is to generate and compare different [Google Test](#) reports from several launches. Project is used by [Hyundai AutoEver](#), and [Hapsoft Consulting](#).

Python HTML XML

## REFERENCES

**Andrew Ng**

Assistant Professor, STANFORD, [LETTER](#)

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AMD and Core faculty, NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, [LETTER](#)

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**Jerome H. Friedman**

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