

Nikita Doikov

Email: nikita.doikov@epfl.ch

Homepage: doikov.com

Residence: Ithaca, New York, US

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Optimization, Computational Mathematics, Statistics, Machine Learning, Algorithmic Foundations of AI

EDUCATION

PhD, [UCLouvain](#), Belgium 2021

Thesis: “[New second-order and tensor methods in Convex Optimization](#)”

Supervisor: [Yurii Nesterov](#)

MSc, [Higher School of Economics](#), Russia, GPA – 9.3/10.0 2017
Faculty of Computer Science

BSc, [Lomonosov Moscow State University](#), Russia, GPA – 4.9/5.0 2015
Faculty of Computational Mathematics and Cybernetics

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor at [Cornell University](#), US 01.2026 – now
School of Operations Research and Information Engineering (ORIE)

Postdoctoral Researcher at [EPFL](#), Switzerland 09.2022 – 12.2025
[Machine Learning and Optimization Laboratory](#), hosted by [Martin Jaggi](#)

Postdoctoral Researcher at [UCLouvain](#), Belgium 09.2021 – 08.2022
[ICTEAM / CORE](#), hosted by [Yurii Nesterov](#)

Intern at [Google](#), Switzerland Summer 2018

Seminar Teacher at [HSE](#), Russia Spring 2016, 2017

Intern at [Google](#), Switzerland Summer 2016

Software Engineer at [Yandex](#), Russia 2015

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Overall, I have taught over 350 students in the following courses:

- Optimization Methods at [Faculty of CS, HSE](#) (seminar sessions) 2017, 2018
- Bayesian Methods in Machine Learning at [HSE](#) (teacher assistant) 2017, 2018, 2019
- Optimization models and methods II at [UCLouvain](#) (seminar sessions) 2021

Led more than 15 intern, MSc and PhD student research projects

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Advanced: Algorithms and Data Structures, Optimization and Numerical Methods, Machine Learning

Technologies: C++, Python, Matlab, R, SQL, Intel Assembler, UNIX OS architecture, MapReduce, Flume, TensorFlow, PyTorch, JAX

Languages: English (fluent), French (basic), Russian (native)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Conference reviews: ICML, NeurIPS, COLT, SODA

Journal reviews: Mathematical Programming, SIAM Journal on Optimization, SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing, Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications, Journal of Global Optimization, IMA Journal of Numerical Analysis, Computational Optimization and Applications, Optimization Methods and Software, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory

Symposium organization: *Optimization Methods with Worst-Case Complexity Guarantees* at FGS-2024 conference in Spain with [Geovani Nunes Grapiglia](#)

PUBLICATIONS

More than 20 papers published in the leading peer-reviewed journals and conferences on Mathematical Optimization, Statistics, Machine Learning, and AI

Selected Refereed Publications:

<i>Minimizing Quasi-Self-Concordant Functions by Gradient Regularization of Newton Method,</i> N. Doikov , Mathematical Programming Journal	2025
<i>Lower Complexity Bounds for Minimizing Regularized Functions</i> N. Doikov , Optimization Letters Journal	2025
<i>Spectral Preconditioning for Gradient Methods on Graded Non-convex Functions,</i> N. Doikov , S.U. Stich, and M. Jaggi, ICML	2024
<i>Second-order optimization with lazy Hessians,</i> N. Doikov , E.M. Chayti, and M. Jaggi, ICML (Oral Presentation)	2023
<i>Convex optimization based on global lower second-order models,</i> N. Doikov and Yu. Nesterov, NeurIPS (Oral Presentation)	2020
<i>Contracting Proximal Methods for Smooth Convex Optimization,</i> N. Doikov and Yu. Nesterov, SIAM Journal on Optimization	2020

All papers are available on: [doikov.com](#) or [Google Scholar](#)

INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCES, AND SCHOOLS

- International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics ([AISTATS](#)), Phuket, 2025
- Weierstrass Institute ([WIAS](#)), research seminar, Berlin, 2024
- [CISPA Helmholtz Center](#), research seminar, Saarbrücken, 2024
- [ETH AI Center](#), research seminar of [Optimization & Decision Intelligence Group](#), Zurich, 2024
- Research seminar of [Optimization of Machine Learning Systems Group](#), University of Basel, 2024
- Research seminar of [Inria centre](#) at the University Grenoble Alpes, 2024
- Workshop on [Algorithmic Optimization](#), Louvain, 2024
- International Conference on Machine Learning ([ICML](#)), Vienna, 2024
- European Conference on Operational Research ([EURO](#)), Copenhagen, 2024
- 21st Conference on Advances in Continuous Optimization ([EUROPT](#)), Lund, 2024
- French-German-Spanish conference on Optimization ([FGS](#)), Gijón, 2024
- Workshop on Nonsmooth Optimization and Applications ([NOPTA](#)), Antwerp, 2024
- 20th Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization ([EUROPT](#)), Budapest, 2023
- International Conference on Machine Learning ([ICML](#)), Hawaii, 2023
- SIAM Conference on Optimization ([OP23](#)), Seattle, 2023
- Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization ([EUROPT](#)), Lisbon, 2022
- French-German-Portuguese conference on Optimization ([FGP](#)), Porto, 2022
- Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization ([EUROPT](#)), online, 2021
- [Symposium on Numerical Analysis and Optimization](#), UFPR, online, 2021
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems ([NeurIPS](#)), online, 2020
- International Conference on Machine Learning ([ICML](#)), online, 2020
- Research seminar of [Optimization and Learning for Data Science](#) group, Grenoble, 2019
- French-German-Swiss conference on Optimization ([FGS](#)), Nice, 2019
- International Conference on Continuous Optimization ([ICCOPT](#)), Berlin, 2019
- Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization ([EUROPT](#)), Glasgow, 2019
- Summer School on [Optimization, Big Data and Applications](#) in Veroli, 2019
- Traditional School [Control, Information and Optimization](#) in Moscow, 2018 – 2019
- International Conference on Machine Learning ([ICML](#)), Stockholm, 2018

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

- 2025 [AISTATS](#) Oral Presentation (2% of all submissions)
- 2023–2024 Two MSc student theses successfully defended at [EPFL](#) under my direct supervision
- 2023 [ICML](#) Oral Presentation (less than 2.4% of all submissions)
- 2020 [ICML](#) Top Reviewer
[NeurIPS](#) Oral Presentation (less than 1.12% of all submissions)
- 2019 Best Paper Presentation Award at [OBA School](#)
[NeurIPS](#) Top Reviewers Award
- 2018 Best Talk Award at [Control, Information and Optimization School](#) by B.T. Polyak
[ICML](#) travel award
- 2015–2016 Participant of [Challenge24 Finals](#) – International 24-hour Programming Contest
- 2015 Top-200 in [Facebook Hacker Cup](#)
[Moscow festival of sport programming](#) – First degree diploma
- 2012–2015 University Advanced Scholarship
- 2014 [Moscow festival of sport programming](#) – Second degree diploma
[All Siberian open programming contest](#) – Second degree diploma
Participant of [ACM ICPC NEERC](#) – Third degree diploma
- 2013 Top-600 in [Russian Code Cup](#)
- 2011 Prizewinner of ROI (Russian National Olympiad in Informatics among high school students) – 26th place
Gold medal for extraordinary successes in study
- 2010 Prizewinner of ROI – 90th place