

Gabriele IOMMAZZO | Postdoctoral Researcher

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Main research interests

My current research focuses on convex optimization, with a strong emphasis on first-order methods. On the theoretical side, I recently worked on exploiting the geometric properties of the problem at hand to achieve faster convergence rates, and on inexact oracles. On the application side, I have been studying the performance of these algorithms in diverse contexts, with applications in quantum nonlocality, optimization over product domains and semidefinite programming. During my PhD, I worked on mixed-integer linear/nonlinear programming, in particular distance geometry on large graphs, and I studied the integration of machine learning predictors into combinatorial optimization problems.

Background

Postdoctoral Researcher — Zuse Institute Berlin, Germany

May 2022–

Analysis and design of 1st order methods for convex optimization, particularly Frank-Wolfe: linear convergence on polytopes, block-coordinate, inexact oracles. Applications: SDP, convex feasibility, matrix completion, quantum nonlocality. Machine learning-based column generation for vehicle routing.

Advisors: Sebastian Pokutta

Joint Ph.D. in Computer Science — École Polytechnique, France & Università di Pisa, Italy

Oct 2017–Dec 2021

Machine learning based optimization, applications in the energy sector (unit commitment problems) and automatic algorithm configuration (MILP solvers).

MINLP formulations for distance geometry and graph theory, applications in protein structure reconstruction on large graphs.

Advisors: Claudia D'Ambrosio, Antonio Frangioni, Leo Liberti

Research Intern — CNRS LIX, École Polytechnique, France

Mar 2017–Oct 2017

Data-driven optimization

M.Sc. in Business Informatics and Data Science — Università di Pisa, Italy

Oct 2013–Oct 2017

Mathematical optimization, operations research, machine learning, numerical analysis, data science, data mining, databases. Grade: 110/110 Summa Cum Laude

Erasmus student exchange program — Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Sep 2011–Mar 2012

B.Sc. in Business Administration and Management — Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy

Oct 2008–Apr 2013

Statistics, financial mathematics, financial accounting, business economics. Grade: 104/110

Grants and sponsorships

2023–2024: **MISTI Seed Fund** (\$9k) — “Learning-symbolic programming”, in partnership with MIT, USA and Università di Pisa, Italy

2022–2024: **MATH+ Postdoctoral Member**, Berlin Mathematics Research Center

2021: **Research Fellowship** (€20.3k) — “Machine learning based approaches for the algorithm configuration problem”, Università di Pisa, Italy

Awards

2022: **Premio Lorenzo Brunetta 2019–2021** (€2.5k) — awarded by the “Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti” to the best Ph.D. thesis in operations research obtained in the years 2019–2020–2021 (assigned every three years)

Professional service

Program Committee Member: 15th and 16th LION conference, 32nd EURO conference

Organizer: 2023 Thematic Einstein Semester on Mathematical Optimization and Machine Learning (workshop, conference), QOPT Workshop 2023

Reviewer: conferences (LION, CPAIOR) and journals (Journal of Global Optimization, Annals of Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence, Graphs and Combinatorics, Optimization Methods and Software, EURO Journal on Computational Optimization)

Talks

Seminar Modern Methods in Applied Stochastics and Nonparametric Statistics: WIAS, Berlin, Germany, June 11, 2024: *“Linearly converging Frank–Wolfe over intersecting polytopes”*

QOPT Workshop 2023: ZIB, Berlin, Germany, May 3–June 02, 2023: *“A bird’s eye on conditional gradient algorithms”*

Fifth Conference on Discrete Optimization and Machine Learning (DOxML): GRIPS, Tokyo, Japan, Aug 8–9, 2023: *“Cycle-based formulations in distance geometry”*

2022 European Conference on Operational Research (EURO): Aalto University, Espoo, Finland, Jul 3–6, 2022: *“Solver configuration by optimization and machine learning”*

Machine Learning NeEDS Mathematical Optimization online seminar series: held online, organized by IMUS, Sevilla, Spain and Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark, May 17, 2021: *“Optimize to learn to optimize: getting down and dirty”*

2020 Journée "Hors les Murs" du groupe Polyèdres et Optimisation Combinatoire: LAMSADE, Université Paris Dauphine, Paris, France, Dec 15, 2020: *“A cycle-based formulation for the Distance Geometry Problem”*

2020 Cologne-Twente Workshop on Graphs and Combinatorial Optimization (CTW): held online, Sep 14-16, 2020: *“A cycle-based formulation for the Distance Geometry Problem”*

2020 International Conference on Machine Learning, Optimization, and Data Science (LOD): Università di Siena, Siena, Italy, Jul 19-23, 2020: *“A learning-based mathematical programming formulation for the automatic configuration of optimization solvers”*

CRM/DIMACS Mixed Integer Nonlinear Optimization Workshop: Polytechnique de Montréal, Montréal, Canada, Oct 07-10, 2019: poster on *“Learning to configure mathematical programming solvers by mathematical programming”*

2019 Mixed Integer Programming Workshop (MIP): MIT, Boston, Jul 15-18, 2019: poster on *“Algorithmic Configuration by Learning and Optimization”*

2019 Cologne Twente Workshop (CTW): University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands, Jul 1-3, 2019: *“Algorithmic configuration by learning and optimization”*

1st EUROYoung Workshop, IMUS: Sevilla, Spain, May 02-03, 2019: *“Optimization over trained machine learning predictors”*

2018 Cologne Twente Workshop (CTW): CNAM, Paris, France, Jun 18-20, 2018: *“Optimization over trained machine learning predictors”*

2017 Data Science Summer School (DS3): École Polytechnique, Paris, France, Aug 28 to Sep 1, 2017: poster on *“Combining ML and Mathematical Optimization to tackle automatic parameter tuning on HUC problems”*

Visiting terms and invited seminars

- Feb 2023: MIT Sloan School, Cambridge, MA. Research visit, invited by Prof. Dimitris Bertsimas
- Jun 2022: ZIB, Germany. 1 seminar, invited by Prof. Thorsten Koch
- Oct–Nov 2019: CRM/DIMACS, Polytechnique de Montréal, Canada, “Mixed Integer Nonlinear Optimization” thematic month. 1 seminar, invited by Prof. Andrea Lodi
- May 2019: DIAG, Università La Sapienza, Italy. 1 seminar, invited by Prof. Laura Palagi

Teaching experience

Apr–Jun 2018: Big Data with C++ (INF442) — teaching assistant (32h), École Polytechnique, France

Supervision

Internships and seminars.....

2023, 2 months: L. H. Huber — *Seminar on Discrete Optimization and Machine Learning*, TU Berlin, Germany. Topic: differentiable optimization in neural networks and Lagrangian duality

2022, 2 months: M. Aïdli, B. Liang, E. Vercesi, A. Zhang — *GRIPS research internship program*, organized by IPAM, USA, FU Berlin and ZIB, Germany. Topic: artificial intelligence for optimization solver configuration

B.Sc. and MS.c. dissertations.....

2024, 7 months: Silvia Calabretta, Università di Pisa — *B.Sc. dissertation*. Topic: “Improvement of Frank-Wolfe Methods via Bundle-inspired Directions”

Computer Science skills

Coding: Julia (2y), Python (4y), AMPL (1y); bash, SQL, C++, Matlab

Software: optimization solvers (CPLEX, Gurobi, GLPK, SCIP, Baron, Bonmin, Ipopt), platforms (Azure, KN-IME), machine learning (PyTorch, Sklearn)

Deployment: Git, Jupyter

Typesetting: \LaTeX , Microsoft Office

Languages

ITALIAN (native), ENGLISH (proficient), FRENCH (proficient), SPANISH (elementary), GERMAN (rudimentary)

Working Papers

With F. Criado, D. Martínez-Rubio, E. Wirth and S. Pokutta. *Linear Rates for the Convex Feasibility Problem through Frank-Wolfe*

Publications

Preprints.....

P. Dvurechensky, G. Iommazzo, S. Shtern and M. Staudigl (2025). *A conditional gradient homotopy method with applications to Semidefinite Programming* (submitted to journal) [ArXiv]

Conference proceedings.....

G. Iommazzo, C. D’Ambrosio, A. Frangioni and L. Liberti (2021), *A Learning-based Mathematical Programming Formulation for the Automatic Configuration of Optimization solvers*. In: Nicosia, G., et al. Machine Learning, Optimization, and Data Science. **LOD 2020**. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 12565. Springer, Cham. [DOI][ArXiv]

L. Liberti, G. Iommazzo, C. Lavor and N. Maculan (2020), *A Cycle-based Formulation for the Distance Geometry Problem*. In: Gentile, C., Stecca, G., Ventura, P. (eds) Graphs and Combinatorial Optimization: from Theory to Applications. **CTW 2020**. AIRO Springer Series, vol 5. Springer, Cham. [DOI][link]

G. Iommazzo, C. D’Ambrosio, A. Frangioni, L. Liberti (2020), *Learning to Configure Mathematical Programming Solvers by Mathematical Programming*. In: Kotsireas, I., Pardalos, P. (eds) Learning and Intelligent Optimization. **LION 2020**. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 12096. Springer, Cham. [DOI][ArXiv]

International journals.....

S. Designolle, G. Iommazzo, M. Besançon, S. Knebel, P. Gelß, S. Pokutta (2023), *Improved Local Models and New Bell Inequalities via Frank–Wolfe Algorithms*. In **Phys. Rev. Research** 5, 043059, 6 p. American Physical Society [DOI][ArXiv]

L. Liberti, G. Iommazzo, C. Lavor, N. Maculan (2023), *Cycle-based Formulations in Distance Geometry*. **Open**

Journal of Mathematical Optimization, Volume 4, article no. 1, 16 p. [DOI][ArXiv]

Book chapters.....

G. Iommazzo, C. D'Ambrosio, A. Frangioni, L. Liberti (2023), *The Algorithm Configuration Problem*, In: Pardalos, P.M., Prokopyev, O.A. (eds) **Encyclopedia of Optimization**. Springer, Cham. [DOI][ArXiv]

PhD Thesis.....

[Iom21]: G. Iommazzo (2021), *Algorithmic Configuration by Learning and Optimization*. [link]