

Harshal D. Kaushik

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Education

Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering (Fall 2021) Oklahoma State University Advisor: Dr. Farzad Yousefian Dissertation: On Distributed Optimization Problems with Variational Inequality Constraints: Algorithms, Complexity Analysis, and Applications.	Spring 2017 – Present
M.Tech. in Applied Mechanics Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, India.	2013 – 2015
B.E. in Mechanical Engineering University of Pune, India.	2008 – 2012

Awards and Scholarships

- *Roy and Virginia Dorrough* Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. 2020 – 2021
- Member of an honor society for Industrial and Systems Engineering students: Alpha Pi Mu. 2018 – Present
- Member of the Institute of Operations Research and Management Science (INFORMS). 2018 – Present
- M.Tech. scholarship from the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India. 2013 – 2015

Research Interest

- Multi-agent distributed optimization
- Variational inequalities and computational game theory
- Large-scale optimization
- Nonlinear programming

Publications

- [1] H. D. Kaushik and F. Yousefian, “A method with convergence rates for optimization problems with variational inequality constraints”, accepted for publication in **SIAM Journal on Optimization**, June 2021. arXiv: 2007.15845v1 [math.OC].
- [2] H. D. Kaushik and F. Yousefian, “An incremental gradient method for large-scale distributed nonlinearly constrained optimization”, accepted for **2021 American Control Conference (ACC)**, Jan. 2021. arXiv: 2006.07956v3 [math.OC].
- [3] H. D. Kaushik and F. Yousefian, “Distributed optimization for problems with variational inequality constraints”, submitted to **IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control**, May 2021. arXiv: 2105.14205 [math.OC].
- [4] P. Ramu and H. Kaushik, “A log-third order polynomial normal transformation approach for high-reliability estimation with scarce samples”, **International Journal of Reliability and Safety**, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 14–38, 2020. [Link].

- [5] H. Kaushik and F. Yousefian, “A randomized block coordinate iterative regularized subgradient method for high-dimensional ill-posed convex optimization”, in **2019 American Control Conference (ACC)**, Philadelphia, PA, USA, 2019, pp. 3420–3425. [Link].
- [6] H. Kaushik, R. Mohan, and K. A. Prakash, “Utilization of wind shear for powering unmanned aerial vehicles in surveillance application: A numerical optimization study”, in **5th International Conference on Advances in Energy Research, ICAER 2015**, Mumbai, India, Energy Procedia, vol. 90, 2016, pp. 349–359. [Link].

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant

2017 – Present

Oklahoma State University

- **Large-scale, ill-posed convex optimization:** Extended the first-order schemes by leveraging the iterative regularization and the randomized block selection techniques to address a large-scale (solution space of the order $10^8 - 10^{12}$) ill-posed optimization problem. Proved the almost sure convergence and obtained the convergence rate statements.
- **Efficiency of equilibria in multi-agent competitive games:** Built a unifying optimization framework with the Cartesian variational inequality constraints that can quantify efficiency in the multi-agent networks. Developed iterative regularized block-coordinate gradient schemes with the goal of obtaining the convergence rate statements.
- **Finite sum problems with variational inequality constraints:** Proposed incremental gradient methods to circumvent a computationally costly projection operator and to address the variational inequality constraints in a finite sum distributed optimization problems. Analyzed the proposed schemes to obtain the rate of convergence.

Operations Research Intern

Summer 2019

Schneider National

- **Network pricing problem:** Reformulated the nonlinear mixed-integer programming problem into a bilevel optimization framework. Built a hybrid algorithm by blending docplex solver with the iterative gradient descent scheme. Effectively employed SQL and Python libraries: pandas, NumPy. Profoundly collaborated across different teams, gathered data in a short time, and elucidated the presumable gain.

Project Associate

2015 – 2016

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras

- **Failure probability estimation:** Calculated the reliability of a complex system utilizing the available scarce dataset. Tools used: importance sampling, surrogate modeling, and the approximation of the tails of cumulative distribution function in a probit space.
- **Trajectory optimization of a glider and the stability analysis:** Incorporated the six degrees of freedom flight dynamics model in the problem formulation. Optimized for improving the surveillance and stability.

Conference Presentations

- “An incremental gradient method for large-scale distributed nonlinearly constrained optimization”, **INFORMS Online 2020** (Nov. 13th, 2020).
- “First-order methods for optimization over the solution set of variational inequality problems”, **INFORMS Annual Meeting 2019**, Seattle, WA (Oct. 22nd, 2019).

- “A randomized block coordinate iterative regularized subgradient method for high-dimensional ill-posed convex optimization”, **2019 American Control Conference**, Philadelphia, PA (Jul. 11th, 2019).
- “A first order method for high-dimensional ill-posed optimization problems”, **INFORMS Annual Meeting 2018**, Phoenix, AZ (Nov. 5th, 2018).
- “Utilization of wind shear for powering unmanned aerial vehicles in surveillance application: A numerical optimization study”, **5th International Conference on Advances in Energy Research, ICAER 2015**, Mumbai, India (Dec. 16th, 2015).

Academic Service

- Reviewer for the **Conference on Decision and Control**, 2021.

Teaching Experience

- TA for **Engineering and Economic Analysis** (IEM 3503): Spring 2019, 2020. Fall 2017, 2018.
- TA for **Production Planning and Control System** (IEM 4613): Fall 2018, 2019.
- TA for the graduate level course, **Introduction to Optimization** (IEM 5013): Fall 2019.

Coursework and Programming Skills

- **Doctoral coursework:** Distributed and Parallel Optimization (IEM 6990), Stochastic Processes (IEM 5133), Network Optimization (IEM 5063), Convex Optimization (IEM 6990), Integer and Combinatorial Optimization (IEM 6053), Nonlinear Optimization (IEM 6043), Optimization Under Uncertainty (IEM 6063).
- **Programming:** Python 3 (NumPy, SciPy, pandas), SQL.
- **Optimization solvers:** docplex, Gurobi, CVX.
- **Engineering analysis software:** CATIA v5, ANSYS Fluent, OpenFOAM.