Tan Minh Nguyen

CONTACT
INFORMATION

Department of Mathematics
University of California, Los Angeles
520 Portola Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

Phone: (832) 614-0285
E-mail: tanmnguyen89@ucla.edu
https://tanmnguyen89.github.io/

ACADEMIC
APPOINTMENTS

National University of Singapore, Singapore · Starting in July, 2023

- Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Department of Mathematics

University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA · 2020–present

- Post-doctoral Scholar in Mathematics
- Mentor: Professor Stanley J. Osher

EDUCATION

Rice University, Houston, Texas, USA

Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2014–2020

- Advisor: Professor Richard G. Baraniuk
- Thesis: Momentum-based Methods for Training and Designing Deep Neural Networks

M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2014–2016

- Advisor: Professor Richard G. Baraniuk
- Thesis: Bridging Theory and Practice in Deep Learning with the Deep Rendering Model

B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2011–2014

RESEARCH
INTERESTS

My research focuses on the interplay of the interpretability, robustness, and efficiency of machine learning models from three principled approaches:

- Optimization (primal-dual frameworks for deep learning models, momentum-based neural networks, fast multipole transformers)
- Differential equation (Nesterov neural ordinary differential equations, graph neural diffusion)
- Statistical modeling (mixture and nonparametric kernel regression frameworks for transformers, deep generative models)

JOURNAL
SUBMISSIONS

Tan M. Nguyen*, Nhat Ho*, Ankit B. Patel, Anima Anandkumar, Michael I. Jordan, Richard G. Baraniuk. "A Bayesian Perspective of Convolutional Neural Networks through a Deconvolutional Generative Model". *Under review, Journal of Machine Learning Research.*

CONFERENCE
SUBMISSIONS
& PREPRINTS

Xing Han*, Tongzheng Ren*, **Tan M. Nguyen***, Khai Nguyen, Joydeep Ghosh, Nhat Ho. "Robustify Transformers with Robust Kernel Density Estimation". *Under review, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2023.*

Khang Nguyen*, **Tan M. Nguyen***, Hieu Nong*, Vinh Nguyen, Nhat Ho, Stanley J. Osher. "Revisiting Over-smoothing and Over-squashing using Ollivier-Ricci Curvature". *Under review, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2023.*

Hien Dang*, Tho Tran Huu*, **Tan M. Nguyen***, Stanley Osher, Hung Tran-The, Nhat Ho. "Neural Collapse in Deep Linear Networks: From Balanced to Imbalanced Data". *Under review, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2023.*

*: co-first author

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JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS	Bao Wang*, **Tan M. Nguyen***, Andrea L. Bertozzi, Richard G. Baraniuk, Stanley J. Osher. "Scheduled Restart Momentum for Accelerated Stochastic Gradient Descent". *SIAM Journal on Imaging Sciences, 2022.*

Bao Wang, Hedi Xia, **Tan M. Nguyen**, Stanley J. Osher. "How Does Momentum Benefit Deep Neural Networks Architecture Design? A Few Case Studies". *Research in the Mathematical Sciences, 2022.*

Yue Wang, Jianghao Shen, Ting-Kuei Hu, Pengfei Xu, **Tan M. Nguyen**, Richard Baraniuk, Zhangyang Wang, Yingyan Lin. "Dual Dynamic Inference: Enabling More Efficient, Adaptive, and Controllable Deep Inference". *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing, 2020.*

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS	**Tan M. Nguyen***, Tam Nguyen*, Nhat Ho, Andrea Bertozzi, Richard G. Baraniuk, Stanley J. Osher. "A Primal-Dual Framework for Transformers and Neural Networks". *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2023 (journal-quality, notable-top-25%).*

Khai Nguyen, Tongzheng Ren, Huy Nguyen, Litu Rout, **Tan M. Nguyen**, Nhat Ho. "Hierarchical Sliced Wasserstein Distance". *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2023 (journal-quality).*

Tan M. Nguyen*, Tam Nguyen*, Long Bui, Hai Do, Dung Le, Hung Tran-The, Khuong Nguyen, Richard G. Baraniuk, Nhat Ho, Stanley J. Osher. "A Probabilistic Framework for Pruning Transformers via a Finite Admixture of Keys". *International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), 2023.*

Tan M. Nguyen*, Minh Pham*, Tam Nguyen, Khai Nguyen, Stanley J. Osher, Nhat Ho. "FourierFormer: Transformer Meets Generalized Fourier Integral Theorem". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 25.6%).*

Tan M. Nguyen*, Tam Nguyen*, Hai Do, Khai Nguyen, Vishwanath Saragadam, Minh Pham, Khuong Nguyen, Nhat Ho, Stanley J. Osher. "Improving Transformer with an Admixture of Attention Heads". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 25.6%).*

Nghia Nguyen*, **Tan M. Nguyen***, Huyen Vo, Stanley J. Osher, Thieu Vo. "Improving Neural Ordinary Differential Equations with Nesterov's Accelerated Gradient Method". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2022 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 25.6%).*

Tam Nguyen*, **Tan M. Nguyen***, Dung Le, Khuong Nguyen, Anh Tran, Richard G. Baraniuk, Nhat Ho, Stanley J. Osher. "Improving Transformers with Probabilistic Attention Keys". *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2022 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 21.9%).*

Matthew Thorpe*, **Tan M. Nguyen***, Hedi Xia*, Thomas Strohmer, Andrea Bertozzi, Stanley J. Osher, Bao Wang. "GRAND++: Graph Neural Diffusion with a Source Term". *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2022 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 32.9%).*

Tan M. Nguyen, Richard G. Baraniuk, Mike Kirby, Stanley J. Osher, Bao Wang. "Momentum Transformer: Closing the Performance Gap Between Self-attention and Its Linearization". *Mathematical and Scientific Machine Learning (MSML), 2022.*

Tan M. Nguyen, Animesh Garg, Richard G Baraniuk, Anima Anandkumar. "InfoCNF: An Efficient Conditional Continuous Normalizing Flow with Adaptive Solvers". *Asilomar Conference, 2022.*

Tan M. Nguyen, Vai Suliafu, Stanley J. Osher, Long Chen, Bao Wang. "FMMformer: Efficient and Flexible Transformer via Decomposed Near-field and Far-field Attention". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 25.7%).*

Hedi Xia, Vai Suliafu, Hangjie Ji, **Tan M. Nguyen**, Andrea Bertozzi, Stanley J. Osher, Bao Wang. "Heavy Ball Neural Ordinary Differential Equations". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 25.7%).*

Tan M. Nguyen, Richard G. Baraniuk, Andrea Bertozzi, Stanley J. Osher, Bao Wang. "MomentumRNN: Integrating Momentum into Recurrent Neural Networks". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 20.1%).*

Yujia Huang, James Gornet, Sihui Dai, Zhiding Yu, **Tan M. Nguyen**, Doris Tsao, Anima Anandkumar. "Neural Networks with Recurrent Generative Feedback". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2020 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 20.1%).*

Tan M. Nguyen*, Nhat Ho*, Ankit B. Patel, Anima Anandkumar, Michael I. Jordan, Richard G. Baraniuk. "Neural Rendering Model: Joint Generation and Prediction for Semi-Supervised Learning". *Deep Math Conference (DeepMath), 2019.* (Oral presentation)

Tan M. Nguyen, Wanjia Liu, Fabian Sinz, Richard G. Baraniuk, Andreas S. Tolias, Xaq Pitkow, Ankit B. Patel. "Towards a Cortically Inspired Deep Learning Model: Semi-Supervised Learning, Divisive Normalization, and Synaptic Pruning". *Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience (CCN), 2017.*

Ankit B Patel, **Tan M. Nguyen**, Richard Baraniuk. "A Probabilistic Framework for Deep Learning". *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2016 (journal-quality, acceptance rate: 23.6%).*

WORKSHOP PAPERS	Gavin D. Portwood, Peetak P. Mitra, Mateus Dias Ribeiro, **Tan M. Nguyen**, Balasubramanya T. Nadiga, Juan A. Saenz, Michael Chertkov, Animesh Garg, Anima Anandkumar, Andreas Dengel, Richard G. Baraniuk, David P. Schmidt. "Turbulence Forecasting via Neural ODE". *NeurIPS Workshop on Machine Learning and the Physical Sciences, 2019.*
WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION	*Integration of Deep Neural Models and Differential Equations* at the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2020.
	Integration of Deep Learning Theories at the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2018.
AWARDED GRANTS	PI, Toyota Research Institute Grant, *A Unified Framework for Building Large-Scale Language Models in Developing Countries: From Model and System to Data*, $100,000, November, 2022 - November, 2023.
SUBMITTED GRANT PROPOSALS	PI, National Science Foundation Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), *Statistical Frameworks for Transformers: Representability, Efficiency, and Robustness*, $200,000, July, 2023 - July, 2026.
HONORS AND AWARDS	*Computing Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship (CIFellows)*, 2020–2023.
	AWS Cloud Credits for Research, $50,000, September, 2018.
	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2016–2020.

Ford Foundation Fellowship Honorable Mention, 2016.

Neuroengineering IGERT: From Cells to Systems Fellowship, 2015 – 2017.

Texas Instruments Fellowship, 2014–2016. (Awarded to top incoming graduate students in the ECE department at Rice University)

Louis J. Walsh Scholarship in Engineering, 2013–2014. (Awarded to top undergraduate students in the ECE department at Rice University)

Gold Scholar on Coca-Cola's Community College Academic Team, 2011.

TEACHING	Summer 2022, Math 156 Machine Learning, UCLA.

Fall 2021, Probability & Statistics Course, FPT Software AI Residency, Vietnam.

INVITED SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

A Statistical Treatment of the Attention Mechanism in Transformers. *Analytics Center of Excellence (ACOE), IQVIA, Italy, 2022.*

Principled Models for Machine Learning. *Math Machine Learning Seminar, the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences and UCLA, USA, 2022.*

Principled Models for Machine Learning. *Applied Math Colloquium at UCLA, USA, 2022.*

Momentum-based Methods for Training and Designing Deep Neural Networks. *VinAI Research, Vietnam, 2020.* (Invited talk)

Scheduled Restart Momentum for Accelerated Stochastic Gradient Descent. *Machine Learning Seminar, Rice University, USA, 2020.* (Invited talk)

Deep Generative Models for Geophysical Signal Disentanglement. *Geo-Mathematical Imaging Group (GMIG) Project Review Meeting, Rice University, USA, 2018.* (Invited talk)

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

A Primal-Dual Framework for Transformers and Neural Networks. *Special Session on "Mathematics of Machine Learning", Canadian Mathematical Society Winter Meeting, 2022.* (Invited talk)

Transformer with Fourier Integral Attentions. *Deep Learning for Sequence Modeling Minisymposium, the SIAM Conference on Computational Science and Engineering (CSE), 2023.* (Invited talk)

Transformer with a Mixture of Gaussian Keys. *Geometry of Machine Learning Minisymposium, the 4th Annual Meeting of the SIAM Texas-Louisiana Section, 2021.* (Invited talk)

Momentum-Based and Fast Multipole Methods for Designing Deep Learning Models. *Mathematical Foundation of Deep Learning with the Applications to PDE Minisymposium, the 4th Annual Meeting of the SIAM Texas-Louisiana Section, 2021.* (Invited talk)

Brain-inspired Robust Vision Using Convolutional Neural Networks with Feedback. *NeurIPS NeuroAI Workshop, 2019.* (Poster)

Conditional Continuous Normalizing Flows for Physics-Inspired Learning. *NVIDIA Onsite Research Event, 2019.* (Lightning Talk)

Neural Rendering Model: Rethinking Neural Networks from the Joint Generation and Prediction

Perspective. *NeurIPS Workshop on Integration of Deep Learning Theories, 2018.* (Contributed talk)

EnergyNet: Energy-Efficient Dynamic Inference. *NeurIPS Workshop on Compact Deep Neural Network Representation with Industrial Applications, 2018.* (Poster)

Tremor Generative Adversarial Network (TremorGAN): Deep Generative Model Approach for Geophysical Signal Generation. *NeurIPS Workshop on Machine Learning for Geophysical and Geochemical Signals, 2018.* (Poster)

The Latent-Dependent Deep Rendering Model. *ICML Workshop on Theoretical Foundations and Applications of Deep Generative Models, 2018.* (Poster)

Mixed Reality Generative Adversarial Networks: Closing the Visual Gap between Synthetic and Real Images. *Amazon Graduate Research Symposium, 2017.* (Poster)

A Probabilistic Framework for Deep Learning. *Computational and System Neuroscience Conference (COSYNE), 2016.* (Poster)

MENTORING

Hedi Xia, Ph.D. student in the Mathematics Department at UCLA

Tam Nguyen, Resident at FPT Software AI. (Next: Interviewing for a Ph.D. position at Rice University)

Yujia Huang, Ph.D. student in the Computing + Mathematical Sciences Department at Caltech

Wanjia Liu, Master student in the Computer Science Department at Rice University. (Next: Google)

Si Hui Dai, Undergraduate student in the Computing + Mathematical Sciences Department at Caltech. (Next: Ph.D. at Princeton)

Ethan Perez, Undergraduate student in the Computer Science Department at Rice University. (Next: Ph.D. at NYU)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Journal reviewing
- Journal of Machine Learning Research
- Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence
- Transactions on Machine Learning Research
- Machine Learning with Applications
- Information and Inference
- IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Information Theory
- Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology

Conference reviewing
- International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)
- Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)
- International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)
- AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)
- Asilomar Conference on Signals, Systems, and Computers

Other service

- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program at Caltech, Pasadena, California, *Project Mentor*
- Machine Learning Lunch at Rice University, Houston, Texas, *Organizer*
- Deep Learning Meeting at Rice University, Houston, Texas, *Organizer*

Membership   Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

References

Professor Stanley J. Osher
Professor of Mathematics, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Director of Special Projects, Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM)
University of California, Los Angeles
Email: sjo@math.ucla.edu

Professor Andrea L. Bertozzi
Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Betsy Wood Knapp Chair for Innovation and Creativity
Director of Applied Mathematics
University of California, Los Angeles
Email: bertozzi@math.ucla.edu

Professor Richard G. Baraniuk
C. Sidney Burris Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Founder & Director, OpenStax
Rice University, Houston, Texas
Email: richb@rice.edu

Professor Don Blasius
Professor of Mathematics
University of California, Los Angeles
Email: blasius@math.ucla.edu