

Yujie Tang

Assistant Professor
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Research Interests

- Reinforcement learning, optimization, control theory
- Networked systems, multi-agent systems, cyber-physical networks

Education

09/2013 – 01/2019 Department of Electrical Engineering, California Institute of Technology
Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, 2019. Advisor: Steven Low
M.S. in Electrical Engineering, 2015

03/2018 – 05/2018 Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing, UC Berkeley
Visiting student

08/2009 – 07/2013 Department of Electronic Engineering, Tsinghua University
B.S. in Electronic Engineering, 2013

Appointments

08/2022 – present Department of Industrial Engineering & Management, Peking University
Assistant Professor

02/2019 – 06/2022 School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard University
Postdoctoral Fellow Advisor: Na Li

07/2018 – 09/2018 National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Summer internship

Teaching Experience

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

Spring 2020	Learning, Estimation and Control of Dynamical Systems	APMTH 232
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Teaching Assistant, Caltech

Winter 2018	Power System Analysis	EE/CS/EST 135
Winter 2016	Networks: Structure & Economics	CMS/CS/EE 144
Fall 2014	Mathematical Optimization	ACM/CMS 113

Student Advising

- Tianpeng Zhang, Ph.D. student (co-advised with Prof. Na Li)
Topic: Multi-robot source-seeking algorithms with location estimation
- Zhaolin Ren, Ph.D. student (co-advised with Prof. Na Li)
Topic: Distributed zeroth-order social welfare optimization for multi-agent games

Professional Activities

Session Organization

- Co-chair of INFORMS Annual Meeting sessions
2021 *Data-Driven Optimization and Control for Power Systems*
2020 *Real-Time and Online Optimization for Power Systems*
2018 *Time-Varying Optimization and Learning in Power Systems*

Technical Program Committee

- ACM/IEEE International Conference on Cyber Physical Systems (ICCPs), 2020 & 2021.

Reviewer

- Automatica, IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems, IEEE Transactions on Power Systems, IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid, IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy, IEEE Control Systems Letters, Systems & Control Letters
- American Control Conference, IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, Power Systems Computation Conference, Learning for Dynamics & Control (L4DC)

Publications

Preprints

- [P1] Yang Zheng,* **Yujie Tang*** and Na Li. “Analysis of the optimization landscape of linear quadratic Gaussian (LQG) control,” submitted to *Mathematical Programming*, under review. Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.04393>.
- [P2] **Yujie Tang**, Zhaolin Ren and Na Li. “Zeroth-order feedback optimization for cooperative multi-agent systems,” accepted by *Automatica*. Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2011.09728>.

Journal Articles

- [J1] **Yujie Tang**, Emiliano Dall’Anese, Andrey Bernstein and Steven Low. “Running primal-dual gradient method for time-varying nonconvex problems,” to appear in *SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization*. Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.00613>.
- [J2] Xin Chen, Guanna Qu, **Yujie Tang**, Steven Low and Na Li. “Reinforcement learning for selective key applications in power systems: Recent advances and future challenges,” *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*, 2022.
- [J3] **Yujie Tang**, Vikram Ramanathan, Junshan Zhang and Na Li. “Communication-efficient distributed SGD with compressed sensing,” *IEEE Control Systems Letters*, vol. 6, pp. 2054–2059.
- [J4] Yingying Li,* **Yujie Tang**,* Runyu Zhang and Na Li. “Distributed reinforcement learning for decentralized linear quadratic control: A derivative-free policy optimization approach,” *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*. Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.09135>.
- [J5] **Yujie Tang**, Junshan Zhang and Na Li. “Distributed zero-order algorithms for nonconvex multi-agent optimization,” *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 269–281, Mar. 2021.
- [J6] **Yujie Tang**, Guanna Qu and Na Li. “Semi-global exponential stability of primal-dual gradient dynamics for constrained convex optimization,” *Systems & Control Letters*, vol. 144, Oct. 2020.
- [J7] **Yujie Tang**, Krishnamurthy Dvijotham and Steven Low. “Real-time optimal power flow,” *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*, vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 2963–2973, Nov. 2017.
- [J8] **Yujie Tang** and Steven H. Low. “Optimal placement of energy storage in distribution networks,” *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*, vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 3094–3103, Nov. 2017.

*Equal contribution.

- [J9] Qiuyu Peng, **Yujie Tang** and Steven Low. “Feeder reconfiguration in distribution networks based on convex relaxation of OPF,” *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, vol. 30, no. 4, pp. 1793–1804, Jul. 2015.
- [J10] **Yujie Tang**, Laming Chen and Yuantao Gu. “On the performance bound of sparse estimation with sensing matrix perturbation,” *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing*, vol. 61, no. 17, pp. 4372–4386, Sep. 2013.

Conference Papers

- [C1] Xin Chen, **Yujie Tang** and Na Li. “Improve single-point zeroth-order optimization using high-pass and low-pass filters,” in *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning*, pp. 3603–3620, Jul. 2022. Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.01701>.
- [C2] Tianpeng Zhang, Victor Qin, **Yujie Tang** and Na Li. “Source seeking by dynamic source location estimation,” in *2021 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, Sep. 2021.
- [C3] **Yujie Tang**,* Yang Zheng* and Na Li. “Analysis of the Optimization Landscape of Linear Quadratic Gaussian (LQG) Control,” in *Proceedings of the 3rd Conference on Learning for Dynamics and Control (L4DC)*, pp. 599–610, Jun. 2021.
- [C4] **Yujie Tang**, Zhaolin Ren and Na Li. “Zeroth-order feedback optimization for cooperative multi-agent systems,” in *Proceedings of the 59th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, pp. 3649–3656, Dec. 2020.
- [C5] **Yujie Tang** and Steven Low. “A second-order saddle point method for time-varying optimization,” in *Proceedings of the 58th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, pp. 3928–3935, Dec. 2019.
- [C6] **Yujie Tang** and Na Li. “Distributed zero-order algorithms for nonconvex multi-agent optimization,” in *Proceedings of the 57th Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing (Allerton)*, pp. 781–786, Sep. 2019.
- [C7] **Yujie Tang**, Emiliano Dall’Anese, Andrey Bernstein and Steven H. Low. “A feedback-based regularized primal-dual gradient method for time-varying nonconvex optimization,” in *Proceedings of the 57th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, pp. 3244–3250, Dec. 2018.
- [C8] **Yujie Tang** and Steven Low. “Distributed algorithm for time-varying optimal power flow,” in *Proceedings of the 56th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, pp. 3264–3270, Dec. 2017.
- [C9] **Yujie Tang** and Steven H. Low. “Optimal placement of energy storage in distribution networks,” in *Proceedings of the 55th IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, pp. 3258–3264, Dec. 2016.

Invited Talks and Contributed Posters

- 10/2021 Dartmouth College, USA
Linear Quadratic Control from an Optimization Viewpoint
- 06/2021 UC Davis, USA
Communication-Efficient Distributed SGD with Compressed Sensing
- 06/2021 Learning for Dynamics & Control (L4DC) 2021, Oral Presentation
Analysis of the Optimization Landscape of Linear Quadratic Gaussian (LQG) Control
- 11/2020 INFORMS Annual Meeting 2020
Distributed Reinforcement Learning for Decentralized Linear Quadratic Control: A Derivative-Free Policy Optimization Approach
- 06/2020 Learning for Dynamics & Control (L4DC) 2020, Poster Session

- Distributed Reinforcement Learning for Decentralized Linear Quadratic Control: A Derivative-Free Policy Optimization Approach*
- 10/2019 INFORMS Annual Meeting 2019, Seattle, WA, USA
Distributed Zero-Order Algorithms for Nonconvex Optimization
- 11/2018 CPS PI Meeting 2018, Alexandria, VA, USA, Poster Session
 • *Time-Varying Optimization and Real-Time Optimal Power Flow*
 • *Optimal Placement of Energy Storage in Distribution Networks*
- 05/2018 Duke University, USA
Real-Time Optimization of Distributed Energy Resources
- 11/2017 5th IEEE GlobalSIP, Montreal, Canada
A Distributed Algorithm for Second-Order Real-Time OPF
- 06/2017 Zhejiang University & Tsinghua University, China
Planning and Control of Distributed Energy Resources
- 04/2017 32nd Southern California Control Workshop, Pasadena, CA, USA
Real-Time Optimal Power Flow
- 03/2017 51st Conference on Information Sciences and Systems, Baltimore, MD, USA
Real-Time Optimal Power Flow Based on Quasi-Newton Methods
- 11/2016 INFORMS Annual Meeting 2016, Nashville, TN, USA
Real-Time OPF Based on Quasi-Newton Methods