
BACKGROUND

- 2022 – **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *Interactive Optimization and Learning Lab, Technische Universität Berlin / Zuse Institute Berlin*, Berlin, DE.
- Advisor: Sebastian Pokutta
- 2021 **Ph.D., Mathematics**, *North Carolina State University*, Raleigh, NC, USA.
- Thesis: **Construction of Functions from Nonlinear Transformations**
- Advisor: Patrick L. Combettes
- 2018 **M.Sc., Applied Mathematics**, *North Carolina State University*, Raleigh, NC, USA.
- 4.0/4.0 GPA
- 2016 **B.Sc., Mathematics**, *James Madison University*, Harrisonburg, VA, USA.
- 3.93/4.0 GPA (Summa Cum Laude)

AWARDS, HONORS, & RECOGNITIONS

- 2022 **MATH+ Postdoctoral Member**, *Berlin Mathematics Research Center*.
- 2018 – 2021 **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF-GRFP)**, *NC State University*.
Three-Year full time research grant (\$138,000)
- 2016 **University Graduate Fellowship**, *NC State University*, (\$4,000).
- 2016 **Ikenberry Prize**, *James Madison University*, Department of Mathematics & Statistics.
Presented to the outstanding member of the senior class
- 2015 **Joan and Ernest Droms Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics**, *James Madison University*, (\$4,000).
- 2014 & 2016 **COMAP International Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM)**.
2016: *Meritorious* (top 8%); 2014: *Honorable Mention*
- 2014 **Jeffrey E. Tickle Scholarship in Mathematics**, *James Madison University*, (\$4,000).
- 2013 & 2014 **Lisa Persson-Helms Scholarship in Mathematics**, *James Madison University*, (\$1,000 both years).

RESEARCH

PROJECTS

- 2022 – **Interactive Optimization and Learning Lab**, *TU Berlin / Zuse Institute Berlin*, Advisor: Sebastian Pokutta.
Research on conditional gradient algorithms and their applications in machine learning.
- 2017 – 2021 **Construction of Functions from Nonlinear Transformations**, *NCSU*, Advisor: Patrick L. Combettes.
Modeling, analysis, and algorithm development for solving nonlinear problems in signal/image/audio processing, data science, and large-scale optimization.
- 2014 – 2016 **Independent Study: Aeroacoustics of Turbulent Coanda Wall Jets**, *JMU*, Advisor: Caroline Lubert.
- 2015 **NSF-REU** (Algebraic methods in computational biology), *Texas A&M University*, Advisor: Anne Shiu.
- 2014 **NSF-REU** (Inverse scattering problems), *James Madison University*, Advisor: Hala A. H. Shehadeh.

REFEREEING

- 2020 & 2021 **Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications (JMAA)**.
2020 **Journal of Approximation Theory (JAT)**.

TECHNICAL

- 2013 – **High-level languages**,
 - **MATLAB/Octave** (9 years)
 - **Python 3** (2 years). packages: numpy, scipy, tensorflow, keras, matplotlib, and jupyter notebook
 - **Julia** and **FORTRAN** (< 1 year).

Markup languages, *L^AT_EX*, *Beamer*, *Microsoft Office*, and *HTML*.

Tools, *Linux/Mac/Windows*, *bash*, *vim*, *meld*, *git*, *docker*, *slurm*, *Maple*, *Mathematica*, and *Moodle*.

Programming Experience.

- Developed a new parallel, block-iterative algorithm for nonlinear recovery problems.
- Coded projects for for computational geometry, finite element methods, numerical integration/differentiation, control theory, sparse interpolation, fixed point equations, optimization, and signal/image/audio processing.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

9. *Signal recovery from inconsistent nonlinear observations*, P. L. Combettes, and Z.W., **Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP)**, to appear. Singapore, May 22–27, (2022).
8. *Block-activated algorithms for multicomponent fully nonsmooth minimization*, M. N. Bui, P. L. Combettes, and Z.W., **Proceedings of the 2022 IEEE ICASSP**, to appear. Singapore, May 22–27, (2022).
7. *A variational inequality model for the construction of signals from inconsistent nonlinear equations*, P. L. Combettes and Z. W., **SIAM Journal on Imaging Sciences**, vol. 15, pp. 84–109 (2022).
6. *Reconstruction of functions from prescribed proximal points*, P. L. Combettes and Z. W., **Journal of Approximation Theory**, vol. 268, art. 105606, (2021).
5. *A fixed point framework for recovering signals from nonlinear transformations*, P. L. Combettes and Z. W., **Proceedings of the European Signal Processing Conference**, pp. 2120–2124. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, January 18–22, (2021).
4. *Obstructions to convexity in neural codes*, C. Lienkaemper, A. Shiu, and Z. W., **Advances in Applied Mathematics**, vol. 85, pp. 31–59 (2017).
3. *Rocket launch noise and the Coanda effect*, C. P. Lubert, J. N. Romero, J. S. Sochacki, and Z. W. **AIAA Space**, art. 2016-5625, (2016).
2. *Analyzing multistationarity in chemical reaction networks using the determinant optimization method*, B. Félix, A. Shiu and Z. W., **Applied Mathematics and Computation**, vol. 287–288, pp. 60–73 (2016).
1. *Architectural acoustical oddities*. Z. W. and C. P. Lubert, **Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics**, vol. 22, art. 025002, (2015).

HIGHLIGHTED COURSEWORK

Proximal Optimization in Data Science	Nonlinear programming
Representations of High-Dimensional Data (MSRI Summer School)	Convex Analysis
Semidefinite and Second-Order Conic Programming	Advanced Functional Analysis
Real Algebraic Geometry and Convex Optimization	Dynamical Systems and Control Theory*
Nonlinear Equations and Optimization	Analysis*
Vector Space Methods in System Optimization	Numerical Analysis*

* indicates a year-long sequence for which a Ph.D. Qualifying Examination was passed.

TEACHING

- 2022 – **Graduate Advising**, *Interactive Optimization and Learning Lab*, TU Berlin / ZIB.
Supporting MS and PhD student researchers via advising projects, applying for funding, organizing seminars, and hiring research assistants.
- 2022 – **ZIB Tutorial Lecture Series**, *Zuse Institute Berlin*, Berlin, DE.
Organizing and presenting expository lectures on useful topics which are not found in “standard” coursework.
- 2016 – 2018 **Recitation Leader and Teaching Assistant**, *NC State University*.
Calculus I for business and life science, Calculus I for math majors and engineers, and Calculus III

Question (1-5 scale)	Class Mean	Dept. Mean
The instructor explained material well	4.7	4.2
The instructor was prepared for class	4.7	4.5
The instructor was enthusiastic about teaching the course	4.8	4.4
The instructor consistently treated students with respect	4.8	4.5
Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher	4.7	4.3

- 2016 – 2018 **Math Tutor**, *NCSU Multimedia Center (2017–2018); JMU Science & Math Learning Center (2016)*.
- 2015 – 2016 **Math 167**, *James Madison University*.
Proposed, developed, and co-taught a seminar on higher-level topics in math, accessible to first-year undergraduates.

EXTRACURRICULARS

LEADERSHIP

- 2022 **Session Chair**, *Nonsmooth Optimization and Machine Learning*, INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, USA.
- 2018 – 2020 **Vice President**, *American Mathematical Society Graduate Student Chapter at NC State University*.
 - Organized the Triangle Area Graduate Mathematics Conference for Spring 2019.
 - Organized recruitment and social events for the NC State mathematical community.
- 2018 – 2020 **President**, *Undergrads Union Grads (UUG)*, NC State University.
 - Coordinated the mentoring program for undergraduate math majors.
- 2018 – 2020 **Organizer**, *Nonlinear Analysis Graduate Student Workshop*, NC State University.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- ZIB Tutorial Lecture Series**. Berlin, DE. March 16, 2022
 - *Proximity operators and nonsmooth optimization* (online)
- European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO) 2020**. Amsterdam, NL. January 21, 2021
 - *A fixed point framework for recovering signals from nonlinear transformations* (online)
- Nonlinear Analysis Graduate Student Workshop**. NC State, Raleigh, NC, USA. Fall 2020
 - *Signal recovery from nonlinear transformations*
- Triangle Area Graduate Math Conference**. UNC, Chapel Hill, NC, USA. Fall 2019
 - *The Gospel of Proximal Calculus: Optimization for non-differentiable problems*
- SIAM Graduate Student Tutorial**. NC State, Raleigh, NC, USA. March 21, 2019
 - *Proximal methods for optimization*
- Operator Splitting Workshop**. SAMSI, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA. March 21–23, 2018
 - *Composite Infimal Convolutions*: Invited lecture
- Applied Math Graduate Student Seminar** NCSU, Raleigh, NC, USA. Fall 2016
 - *Analyzing Multistationarity in Chemical Reaction Networks*
- Graduate Student Algebra Seminar** NCSU, Raleigh, NC, USA. Fall 2016
 - *Obstructions to Convexity and Neural Codes*
- Joint Mathematics Meetings** Seattle, WA, USA. January 6th, 2016
 - *Analyzing Multistationarity in Chemical Reaction Networks*
- M.A.A. MD-DC-VA Section Meeting** Salem, VA, USA. April 24 – 25th, 2015
 - *Architectural Acoustic Oddities & The Asymptotic Behavior of Repetition Pitch*
- Shenandoah Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (SUMS)**, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA, USA.
 - 2016 and 2018: Graduate Student Panelist
 - 2015: *Obstructions to Convexity in neural Codes*: Undergraduate lecture
 - 2014: *Architectural Acoustic Oddities* (poster): First place prize winner