

Buyun Liang

MSc Student in CS @ UMN

✉ liang664@umn.edu

🏠 buyunliang.org

📄 Buyun-Liang

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

M.Sc in Computer Science

Minneapolis, MN, USA

Jun 2020 - Jun 2023 (expected)

○ GPA: 4.0/4.0

○ Research direction: Constrained Optimization in Deep Learning; Robustness in Recognition

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

M.Sc in Materials Science (Ph.D. Track)

Minneapolis, MN, USA

Sep 2018 - Aug 2020

○ GPA: 3.66/4.0 | GPA of Machine Learning related courses : 4.0/4.0

○ Research direction: Monte-Carlo and Molecular Dynamics Simulation in Computational Chemistry

Nanjing University

B.Sc in Physics (Elite Program)

Nanjing, Jiangsu, China

Sep 2014 - Jul 2018

○ GPA: 89.6/100 | Rank: 11/159

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Buyun Liang**, Tim Mitchell, Ying Cui, Ju Sun. *NCVX: A General-Purpose Optimization Solver for Machine Learning, and Practical Tricks*. In preparation for IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 2022. [[slides](#)][[website](#)]
- [2] Hengyue Liang, **Buyun Liang**, Ying Cui, Tim Mitchell, Ju Sun. *On Optimization and Optimizers in Adversarial Robustness*. In preparation for IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 2022. [[slides](#)]
- [3] **Buyun Liang**, Tim Mitchell, Ju Sun. *NCVX: A User-Friendly and Scalable Package for Nonconvex Optimization in Machine Learning*. In submission to Journal of Machine Learning Research, 2022. [[paper](#)][[website](#)][[code](#)]
- [4] Bhargav Joshi[†], **Buyun Liang**[†], Taihui Li[†], Roger Rusack[†], Ju Sun[†]. *Using Neural Networks to Predict Radiation Damage to Lead Tungstate Crystals at the CERN LHC*. In preparation for Nature Machine Intelligence, 2022. [[slides](#)][[website](#)][[code](#)] ([†] Equal contributors)
- [5] J. Ilja Siepmann, Jingyi L. Chen, **Buyun Liang**, Krishnan Mahesh (2020). *Effect of Non-Condensable Gas on the Thermophysical Properties of Bubbly Water and on Bubble Collapse Dynamics Probed by Molecular Simulations*. 33rd Symposium on Naval Hydrodynamics, Osaka, Japan, 18-23 October 2020. [[paper](#)]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NCVX: A General-Purpose Optimization Solver for Machine Learning, and Practical Tricks.

Research Assistant. Advisors: [Prof. Ju Sun](#), [Prof. Tim Mitchell](#), [Prof. Ying Cui](#) Dec 2021 - Present

- Created multiple constrained machine/deep learning examples for PyGRANSO package.
- Achieved comparable solution quality as specialized SOTA solvers in multiple constrained, nonsmooth machine/deep learning problems. See [1] for more details.
- Provided practical tricks to speed up convergence of constrained optimization problems.

On Optimization and Optimizers in Adversarial Robustness

Research Assistant. Advisors: [Prof. Ju Sun](#), [Prof. Tim Mitchell](#), [Prof. Ying Cui](#)

Jan 2022 - Present

- Provided a general tool to apply perturbation beyond the standard ℓ_p norms.
- Proposed an algorithmic framework blends PyGRANSO with a constraint-folding technique.
- Explored the implications of solution patterns on robustness evaluation. See [2] for more details.

Using Neural Networks to Predict Radiation Damage to Crystals at the CERN LHC.

Research Assistant. Advisors: Prof. Ju Sun, Prof. Roger Rusack *May 2022 - Present*

- Applied LSTM and Seq2Seq model with teacher forcing strategy to make prediction for laser response in ECAL crystal. See [4] for more details.

NCVX: A User-Friendly and Scalable Package for Nonconvex Optimization in Machine Learning

Research Assistant. Advisors: Prof. Ju Sun, Prof. Tim Mitchell *May 2021 - Jan 2022*

- Proposed a software package for nonsmooth, nonconvex, constrained optimization problem.
- Improved GRANSO package by enabling auto-differentiation, GPU support and tensor inputs.
- Provided detailed documentation and examples for NCVX PyGRANSO. See [3] for more details.

Effect of Non-Condensable Gas on the Thermophysical Properties of Bubbly Water Probed by Molecular Simulations

Research Assistant. Advisor: Prof. J. Ilja Siepmann *Nov 2018 - Aug 2020*

- Applied Gibbs Ensemble Monte Carlo methods to simulate nitrogen-water mixture, and determined the nitrogen solubility in the stretched water phase. See [5] for more details.
- Performed molecular dynamics simulations to generate trajectories of particles in water-nitrogen mixture systems and calculated physical properties (e.g., pressure and viscosity) of systems.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Reviewer for [International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics \(AISTATS 2023\)](#)
- Reviewer for [International Conference on Computer Science and Application Engineering \(CSAE 2022\)](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elementary Computational Linear Algebra (CSCI 2033-001 & CSCI 2033-010)

Graduate Teaching Assistant. Instructors: Prof. Ju Sun, Prof. Carl Sturttivant *Jan 2022 - May 2022*

Introduction to the Science of Engineering Materials (MATS 2001 & 2002)

Graduate Teaching Assistant. Instructors: Prof. Jeff Schott, Dr. Renee Christensen *Jan 2019 - May 2019*

HONORS AND AWARDS

- UMII Seed Grant Awards, University of Minnesota (2021)
- Erling A. Dalaker Fellowship, University of Minnesota (2019)
- Outstanding Graduate, Nanjing University (2018)
- Aegon-Industrial Fund Management Company Scholarship, Top 2%, Nanjing University (2017)
- National Scholarship, Top 2%, Ministry of Education of China (2016)
- Elite Program Scholarship $\times 3$, Top 4%, Nanjing University (2015, 2016, 2017)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Graduate Research Assistantship from CS&E

Graduate Teaching Assistantship from CS&E

Graduate Research Assistantship from CEMS

Minneapolis, MN, USA

Jun 2021 - Jan 2022 & May 2022 - Present

Jan 2022 - May 2022

Sep 2018 - Aug 2020