

Cigole Thomas

Curriculum vitae

Department of Mathematics,
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Work Experience

July 2025 Assistant Professor, Bates College, Maine
August 2022 - May 2025 Postdoctoral Fellow, Colorado State University
Mentor: Prof. Rachel Pries

Education

2016 - 2022 MS - Ph.D. in Mathematics | George Mason University, Virginia
Advisor : Prof. Sean Lawton
2010 - 2015 Integrated BS - MS in Mathematics |
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali (IISER), India
Advisor : Prof. Krishnendu Gongopadhyay

Research Interests

Algebraic Geometry | Arithmetic Dynamics on Character Varieties | Number Theory
Mathematics Education | Data Learning using Algebraic Varieties

Preprints and Publications

1. T. Day, R. DeLand, J. Juul, Swati, C. Thomas, B. Thompson, and B. Tobin. *Dynamical Irreducibility of Certain Families of Polynomials over Finite Fields*, Finite Fields and Their Applications, Volume 108 (2025). [Paper](#)
2. C. Thomas. *Asymptotic Dynamics on Character Varieties over Finite Fields* Geom Dedicata 219, 35 (2025). [Paper](#)
3. J. Jauchén, H. Klawns, L. Nguyen, R. R.G., E. Sander, P. Seshaiyer and C. Thomas. *Graduate Learning Assistants in the Mathematical Sciences: A new approach to core graduate classes* PRIMUS (Problems, Resources, and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies), 33:8, 819-840, (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511970.2023.2172751>
4. G. Gongopadhyay and C. Thomas. *Decomposition of complex hyperbolic isometries by involutions*. Linear Algebra and its Applications Volume 500, 1 July 2016, Pages 63-76.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.laa.2016.03.011>

Conference Proceedings:

1. R. R.G., H. Klawns, C. Thomas, L. Nguyen, J. Jauchén, P. Seshaiyer and E. Sander. *ON DEMAND: Graduate Assistants supporting active learning in graduate classrooms*. Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference Proceedings Vol. 13 (2021).
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13021/itlcp.2021.3007>
2. M. Broeckelman-Post, L. Fernandez, T. Polk, J. Hwang, C. Thomas, B. Stewart, S. Tuckerman, S. Hassell-Goodman, S. Taylor, K. Nordin, N. Brophy; A. Hingle; E. R.C. Staudt. *WORKSHOP: [For GTAs] Engaging Students and Giving Feedback as a GTA*. Innovations in Teaching & Learning Conference Proceedings Vol. 12 (2020).
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13021/itlcp.2020.2857>

Awards and Fellowships

2025 - 2026	MAA Project NExT Fellow
Spring 2022	Clarke Family Award for Excellence in Analysis, Algebra or Topology , George Mason University (GMU)
Spring 2022	Dissertation Completion Grant Instituted by Office of Provost, GMU
Aug 2021 - Dec 2022 & Aug 2018 - Aug 2019	Industrial Immersion Program (IIP) Fellowship Funded by George Mason University's Provost Graduate Education Office
Summer 2021 & Summer 2020	Summer Research Fellowship Instituted by Office of Provost, GMU
Spring 2021	Doctoral Research Scholars Fellowship Instituted by Office of Provost, GMU
Aug 2019 - May 2020	Graduate Research Assistant for the project, NSF-IUSE (Improving Undergraduate STEM Education) at GMU
May 2018	T.C. Lim Award for Excellence in Teaching Awarded by Department of Mathematics, GMU.
May 2016	INSPIRE Fellowship for PhD instituted by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India (Not availed)
July 2015 - August 2015	Research Experience for Graduate Student (REGS) By GEometric Structures And Representation Varieties (GEAR)
August 2010 - May 2015	INSPIRE - SHE Fellowship (Roll No: 259S/2010) Instituted by Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India
June 2012 - August 2012	Undergraduate Summer Fellowship INnovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired REsearch (INSPIRE), DST India

Research Experience

Summer 2018 - May 2022	PhD Thesis Research Advisor: Prof. Sean Lawton Topic: <i>Stratification and Arithmetic Dynamics on Character Varieties</i>
Aug 2020 - Dec 2020	Graduate Research Assistant Industrial Immersion Program (IIP), George Mason University Topic: <i>Algebraic Varieties and Neural Networks</i> Advisor: Prof. Sean Lawton
Aug 2018 - Aug 2019	Graduate Research Assistant Industrial Immersion Program (IIP), George Mason University Topic: <i>Learning Algebraic Varieties</i> Advisor: Prof. Sean Lawton and Dr. Jeff Byers (Naval Research Academy)
Spring 2016 - Fall 2018	Graduate Intern Mason Experimental Geometry Lab (MEGL), GMU Advisor: Prof. Sean Lawton Project: <i>Arithmetic Dynamics of Moduli Spaces</i>
June 2015 - August 2015	Graduate Intern Research Experience for Graduate Student (REGS) by GEAR at MEGL Advisor: Dr. Christopher Manon Project: <i>Experiments with Character Varieties</i>
May 2014 - May 2015	MS Thesis Research Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali, India Advisor: Dr. Krishnendu Gongopadhyay Topic: <i>Decomposition of complex hyperbolic isometries by involutions.</i>

Teaching Experience

Spring 2025	Instructor of Record	Math 369 (2 sessions) Linear Algebra 1
Spring 2024	Instructor of Record	Math 369
Fall 2023	Instructor of Record	Math 360 Mathematics of Information Security
Spring 2023	Instructor of Record	Math 369 Math 360 Math 301 Introduction to Combinatorics
Fall 2022	Instructor of Record	Math 360
Summer 2022	Instructor of Record	Math 203 Linear Algebra
Fall 2020	Graduate Learning Assistant (Online)	Math 621 Algebra (Graduate)
Spring 2020	Graduate Teaching Assistant (Online for second half of semester)	Math 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II
Fall 2019	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Math 114
Summer 2019	Graduate Student Lecturer	Math 113 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I
Summer 2018	Instructor of Record	Math 125 Discrete Mathematics I
Spring 2018	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Math 113
Fall 2017	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Math 114
Summer 2017	Instructor of Record	Math 108 Introductory Calculus with Business Applications
Spring 2017	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Math 114
Fall 2016	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Math 114
Summer 2016	Instructor of Record	Math 108
Spring 2016	Graduate Teaching Assistant	Math 114

Active Learning Experience

- Teaching - NSF - Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) project at GMU
 - Graduate Research Assistant : June 2019 - May 2020 . Duties include:
 - * Developing Inquiry Based Learning (IBL) worksheets to promote group work and discussion among students for Calculus 1 and Calculus 2.
 - * Co-organizing biweekly teaching seminars to discuss the challenges and progress of the implementation of IBL worksheets in recitations.
 - * Coordinating other teaching assistants involved in IUSE project.
- Ran problem sessions using active learning for Graduate Algebra course in Fall 2020 as a Learning Assistant.
- Developed IBL type worksheets for Graduate Algebra Course based on problems for the Graduate Preliminary Examination.

Presentations and Talks

May 2025	AMS 2025 Spring Western Sectional Meeting , Special Session on Topics in Number Theory and Arithmetic Geometry, I (Invited)
January 2025	JMM 2025 , Session: Arithmetic Dynamics of Single and Multiple Maps (Invited)
March 2024	Number Theory Lab , CSU (With Jamie Juul) <i>Dynamical irreducibility of certain families of polynomials</i>
January 2024	Institute Colloquium , University of Denver (Invited)
September 2023	AWM Symposium , Session: Women in Groups, Geometry, and Dynamics (Invited)
June 2023	Plenary Speaker: Workshop and school on Complex Lagrangians, Integrable Systems, and Quantization , University of Oxford (Invited)
April 2023	Speaker and Panelist: Colorado Conference for Underrepresented Students in Mathematics (Invited) <i>Dynamics of Group Action on Varieties</i> , Colorado State University
March 2023	Topology Seminar , Colorado State University <i>Data Learning using Varieties</i>
December 2022	Postdoc Seminar , Colorado State University (CSU) <i>Arithmetic Dynamics of Group Actions on Varieties</i>
November 2022	Number Theory Lab , CSU <i>Markoff Triples</i>
November 2022	Workshop in Genetics , Iowa State University (Invited) <i>How to create a website using GitHub</i> (Virtual)
October 2022	Front Range Number Theory Day , University of Colorado at Boulder <i>Counting Points on Character Varieties over Finite Fields</i> (Invited)
October 2022	FRAGMENT(Front Range Algebra GeOMetry & Number Theory) , CSU <i>Arithmetic Dynamics on Character Varieties</i>
April 2022	AMS Contributed Paper Session on Algebraic and Arithmetic Geometry and Commutative Algebra , JMM (Virtual) <i>Dynamics of the Outer Automorphism Group Action on Certain Character Varieties over finite fields.</i>
April 2022	Poster session of AWM Special Session on Women in Geometry , JMM <i>Dynamics of Outer Automorphism group action on $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$-Character Variety of \mathbb{Z}^r</i> .(Virtual) Selected Best Poster.
April 2022	Combinatorics, Algebra and Geometry Seminar , GMU <i>Arithemetic Dynamics on Character Varieties</i>
March 2022	Student Research Talks , GMU <i>Stratification and Arithemetic Dynamics on Character Varieties</i>
March 2022 & March 2021	The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) , GMU <i>Motion of Points on Varieties</i>
February 2022	IISER Math Alumni Talk (Virtual), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali, India <i>Dynamics of Group Action on Character Varieties</i> (Invited)
January 2022	Student Research Talks, IIP Presentations , George Mason University <i>Varieties in Data Learning</i>
November 2021	Binghamton University Graduate Conference in Algebra and Topology (BUGCAT) 2021 (Virtual) <i>Asymptotic Transitivity of Outer Automorphism Group Action on Character Varieties over Finite Fields.</i>
November 2021	Student Research Talks , George Mason University (GMU) <i>Asymptotic Transitivity of Dynamics on Character Varieties</i>

October 2021	The 3rd JNU-KAIST Geometry Topology Fair , (Virtual) Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), Daejeon (Invited) Talk 1: <i>An Introduction to Character Varieties</i> Talk 2: <i>Dynamics of the outer automorphism group action on finite field points of character varieties</i> (Invited)
September 2021	Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference (ITL) , GMU On-Demand Video Session <i>Graduate Assistants Supporting Active Learning in Graduate Classrooms</i> (co-presenter with Hannah Klawns and Long Nyguen.)
December 2020	IIP Talks , George Mason University <i>Algebraic Varieties and Neural Networks</i> .
November 2020	Binghamton University Graduate Conference in Algebra and Topology , BUGCAT 2020 (Virtual) <i>Conjugacy classes of polystable unimodular commuting matrices over finite fields</i>
September 2020	Innovations in Teaching and Learning (ITL) Conference , GMU (Virtual) Panelist for ‘ <i>Engaging Students and Giving Feedback as a GTA</i> ’(Invited)
July 2020	Geometry Labs United , ICERM Brown. <i>A Glimpse into a MEGL Project</i> (Virtual).
March 2020	Topology Seminar , George Washington University (Invited) <i>The Character Varieties of Torus knots</i> .
Spring 2018	Student Research Talks , George Mason University <i>An Introduction to Character Varieties</i> .
Spring 2018	Topology Seminar , George Washington University (Invited) <i>On $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ Character Varieties</i> .
Fall 2016	Student Research Talks , George Mason University <i>Decomposition of Complex Hyperbolic Isometries by Involution</i> .
Summer 2015 - Fall 2018	MEGL Symposium , George Mason University Talks and Poster Presentations with Mason Experimental Geometry Lab Research Team (jointly with undergraduate students)

Travel Grants and Funded Conferences

- October 2023: *AWM Funding* for AWM Symposium 2023
- April 2022: *AWM Funding* to present a poster at AWM Poster Session, JMM
- January 2022: *AMS Grad Student Travel Grant* to attend JMM, 2022.
- January 2022: *GMU Graduate Student Travel Grant* to present at JMM 2022.(Didn’t avail)
- July 2021: Funding to attend Mathematical Congress of America organized by Mathematical Association of America
- July 2021: *Motivic Homotopy*, Park City Advanced Mathematics Institute 2021 Graduate Summer School (PCMI 2021)
- March 2019: *Workshop on the Geometry and Physics of Higgs bundles IV*, Simons Center for Geometry and Physics (SCGP)
- May 2019: *Current trends on spectral data for Higgs bundles V*, Simons Center for Geometry and Physics (SCGP)
- June 2018: *RTG Workshop on the Geometry and Physics of Higgs bundles III* , University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- November 2017: *RTG Workshop on the Geometry and Physics of Higgs bundles II*, University of Illinois at Chicago
- January 2017: AMS-MRC funding to attend Joint Mathematical Meetings, Atlanta
- October 2016: *Workshop on the Geometry and Physics of Higgs bundles I*, University of Illinois at Chicago

- June 2016: *Character Varieties: Experiments and New Frontiers* as part of the AMS: Mathematics Research Committees - 2016, Snowbird, Utah
- October 2015: *Topology and Groups*, Goa University, India
- August 2015: Selected with funding for poster presentation at *Advanced School and Workshop on Geometry of Discrete Actions*, International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy (Didn't attend)
- December 2014: ATM Workshop on *Lattices: Geometry and Dynamics*, IISER Mohali, India
- December 2014: *International Workshop of Geometry and Analysis on Hyperbolic Geometry*, Delhi University, India

Professional Services and Outreach

1. **Hiring Committee Member:** Summer 2022 for the position of Mason Experimental Geometry Lab Outreach Director (Term Assistant Professor).
2. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
 - **Panelist:** Fall 2023
Experience as a Woman in Mathematics and Academia
organized by Association for Women in Mathematics, Colorado State University
 - **Committee Member:** Spring 2021, Spring 2022
Graduate student representative in the *GMU College of Science Diversity, Equity and Inclusion subcommittee for Graduate Student Recruitment, Retention, and Degree Attainment* to outline and propose a plan to support undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff who have been historically marginalized in STEM fields (Spring 2021).
 - Part of the *Association for Women in Mathematics (National Chapter)* group of *Capitol Hill Visit* in November 2018. The purpose of the visit was to engage in discussions with legislators/legislative staffers advocating for Women in STEM. See [Article 16](#), '*Advocating for STEM: A Capitol Idea!*' from AWM Newsletter for details of this visit.
3. **Undergraduate Advising and Mentoring**
 - Fall 2024 - Spring 2025: AWM Mentor for a PhD student
 - Spring 2024 : Advised a Honors thesis project on Linear Algebra
 - Spring 2023 : Advised a Honors thesis project on Combinatorics
 - August 2020 - May 2022 : Mentor for three incoming PhD students as part of the peer mentor program instituted by Department of Mathematics at GMU
 - Graduate student mentor for research team of undergraduates in Summer 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Summer 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018
4. **Reviewer**
 - Reviewer for zbMATH Open (since March 2025)
 - Reviewer for Innovations in Teaching and Learning (ITL) conference proposals at GMU
 - Reviewer for Spring 2020 Mason Core Assessment: Natural Sciences
5. **Professional Organizations**
 - **Association for Women In Mathematics (AWM) (GMU Chapter)**
 - * Vice President: 2020 - 2022, 2016 - 2017
 - * President: 2018 - 2020
 - * Treasurer: 2017 - 2018
 - American Mathematical Society (AMS) National Chapter : Member

- Mathematical Association of America (MAA) : Member
- Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics National Chapter : Member till 2022
- Women of Color in STEM (GMU Chapter) : Member till 2022

6. Outreach

- Spring 2018 - Spring 2022 : Met with prospective graduate students
- Spring 2018 : Volunteer for new graduate student orientation
- **Mason Experimental Geometry Lab (MEGL)**
 - Graduate Lab Manager : Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020
 - Volunteer for MEGL Outreach for school students: Spring 2016 - Spring 2020
- **Mathematics Outreach**
 - Fall 2023 : Moderator for Math Day 2023 at CSU
 - Fall 2022 : Judge for poster session at the Graduate Student Showcase at CSU
 - April 2021 : Panelist: Virtual outreach session organized by ‘*Math Initiatives in Nepal*’ as part of Kovalesky day in Nepal
 - Spring 2017 and Spring 2018 : Co-organizer of outreach events for girl students from Highschool (as Vice president and Treasurer of AWM)
 - Volunteer for multiple outreach activities organized by MEGL at elementary, middle, high schools and library including the Nifty-Fifty event at the Department of Homeland Security for S&T/CWMD Kids day
 - Spring 2016 and Spring 2018: Volunteer at the SIAM booth at USA Science and Engineering Festival
 - Spring 2017 : Volunteer as Crowd counter for National Math Festival
 - Feb 2017, Feb 2018 and Feb 2019 : Grader for MATHCOUNTS

7. Seminars and Conferences Organized

- Co-organizer: **Number Theory Lab, Colorado State University:** Fall 2022 - Spring 2025
- Co-organizer: **Postdoc Seminar, Colorado State University:** Fall 2022 - Spring 2024
- Chair : **AMS Contributed Paper Session on Algebraic and Arithmetic Geometry and Commutative Algebra**, JMM 2022 (Virtual)
- Co-organizer : **AWM/IIP Talk** at GMU by Dr. Anne Costolanki on ‘*Navigating a technical career as a woman in STEM*’- Nov 2021 (Virtual)
- Organizer : **AWM Young Mathematician Talk** at GMU - April 2021 (Virtual)
- **StReeTs(Student Research Talks) Seminar Series at GMU**
 - Organizer - Fall 2018
 - Co-organizer - Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020
- Conference Organization
 - Volunteer for **East Coast Optimization Meeting (ECOM)** in 2019 and 2020. Duties included securing partial funding from GMU and helping out with organization
 - Co-organizer for one day workshop on ‘**Professional Development Event**’ at GMU in March 2017 in the capacity as the Vice President of AWM
 - Assistant to Organizers for **Mathematics Research Communities (MRC)** conference on *Character Varieties: Experiments and New Frontiers* by AMS in June 2016
 - Volunteer for **Advanced Training in Mathematics Workshop** on *Lattices: Geometry and Dynamics* at IISER Mohali, India in December 2014

8. Disability Services

- Reader for Office of Disability Services: Recorded chapters of books for Homological Algebra, Equivariant K-Theory, Category Theory and Introduction to Algebraic Geometry

8. Organizing Social Events - Math Department

- Spring 2022: Co-organized **Lunch with AWM**
- Spring 2019 and Spring 2020(Virtual) : Co-organized **AWM Social**
- Fall 2019 and Fall 2017 : Co-organized **AWM Math Hike**
- Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 (Virtual), Fall 2021: Co-organized **AWM Hot Chocolate Event**. Duties included securing funding and coordinating the event.
- Fall 2019: Helped coordinate the **Departmental Tea/Coffee Time** organized by the Department of Mathematical Sciences, GMU.
- Spring 2019: Co-organized **AWM Potluck and Movie Night** for graduate students.

References

Available upon request.