

Joshua L. Lansford

PHD CANDIDATE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING · UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

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Education

University of Delaware, College of Engineering

Newark, DE

Major: PhD Candidate in Chemical Engineering, GPA: 3.8

2015 – 2020 (Expected)

Advisor: Dr. Dionisios G. Vlachos

University of Virginia, School of Engineering and Applied Science

Charlottesville, VA

Major: B.S. in Chemical Engineering with High Distinction and a minor in Engineering Business, GPA: 3.8

2009 – 2013

Interests and Skills

Research Areas: machine learning, uncertainty quantification, electrocatalysis, fuel cells, and batteries

- Machine learning and uncertainty quantification of stochastic and deterministic models
- Applications in characterization and micro-kinetic modeling using transition state theories and statistical mechanics, including: heterogeneous catalysis, spectroscopy, surface science, and quantum chemistry

Programming Languages: Python, Unix, SAS, SQL, Aspen, MATLAB, Tableau, Java, JavaScript, VBA, HTML, Mathcad

- Contributor to open source atomic simulation python software ASE
- Built the University of Delaware's Proxify bookmark into a Chrome Extension

Certifications: Machine Learning by Stanford University, Neural Networks and Deep Learning by DeepLearning.AI (Coursera)

Honors and Awards

2019-2020 – Blue Waters Graduate Fellowship, first place at the AIChE poster completion in the CRE Division (co-author)

2019 – Catalysis Club of Philadelphia (CCP) Ted Koch Travel Award, Deep Learning for Science School at Berkeley Travel Grant, Kokes Award for the 26th North American Catalysis Society (NACS) Conference

2018 – Phillip and Ruth Evans Fellowship, University of Delaware Professional Education Development Award, ISCRE25 Graduate Student Travel Grant, CRE Division AIChE Graduate Student Travel Grant

2017 – National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention

2013 – Louis T. Rader Chemical Engineering Prize, Awarded first place by Bill Clinton on Up to Us fiscal policy campaign

2012 – Second place at the AIChE student poster competition (presenter)

Pre-2012 – Donald and Jean Heim, Dr. John Kenneth Haviland, and ExxonMobil Teagle Scholarships

Research Experience

University of Delaware – Advisor: Prof. Dionisios G. Vlachos

Newark, DE

Topic Combined Physics- and Data-based Model Development with Uncertainty Quantification for Catalyst Characterization and Kinetic Modeling

2015 – Current

- Developed theory to explain vibrational scaling of chemisorbates on transition metal surfaces from quantum principles
- Enforced physical constraints in design of a neural network that performs multinomial regression for structure prediction from spectra using two-levels of synthetic data and a closed-form derivation of the Wasserstein loss with respect to the softmax
- Quantified uncertainty in a multi-scale oxygen reduction kinetic model using probabilistic graphical modeling (PGM)

University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT

National Science Foundation Research Fellowship

2012

- Developed predictive fluid catalytic cracking model that split effects of the support matrix and active zeolite catalyst to better determine gasoil conversion and product yields

University of Virginia Organic Synthesis Lab

Charlottesville, VA

- Determined optimal reaction conditions for stereospecific mechanisms

2010

Teaching & Research Advising**University of Delaware**

Newark, DE

Graduate Student Mentor – Scaling of frequencies and entropies across surfaces

2019 – Current

Graduate Student Mentor – Characterizing bimetallics using computational infrared spectroscopy and phase diagrams

Current

Undergraduate Mentor – Combining infrared and X-ray absorption spectra for structure generation via genetic algorithms

2019 – Current

Undergraduate Mentor – CO oxidation descriptor selection with partial least squares

2017 – 2019

Teaching Assistant – Process design

Spring, 2017

- Initiated, designed, and taught a new in-person team-building class for honors students

Journal Publications

J. L. Lansford and D. G. Vlachos, Infrared Spectroscopy Data- and Physics-driven Machine Learning for Characterizing Surface Microstructure of Complex Materials. Nat. Commun. 11, 1513 (2020)

M. Núñez, J. L. Lansford, and D.G. Vlachos, Optimization of the facet structure of transition-metal catalysts applied to the oxygen reduction reaction. Nat. Chem. 11, 449–456 (2019).

J. Feng, J. L. Lansford, A. Mironenko, D. B. Pourkargar, D. G. Vlachos, M. A. Katsoulakis, Non-parametric correlative uncertainty quantification and sensitivity analysis: Application to a Langmuir bimolecular adsorption model. AIP Adv. 8, 035021 (2018).

J. L. Lansford, A. V. Mironenko, and D. G. Vlachos, Scaling relationships and theory for vibrational frequencies of adsorbates on transition metal surfaces. Nat. Commun. 8, No. 1842 (2017).

J. Feng*, J. L. Lansford*, M. A. Katsoulakis, and D. G. Vlachos, Combining Uncertain Data and Expert Knowledge with Physics-Based Graphical Models for Quantifying Model Uncertainty (submitted) *contributed equally to this work

J. L. Lansford*, N. R. Quiroz*, and D. G. Vlachos, Agile Software for Rapid Product Quantification under Uncertainty using Principal Component Regression of Infrared Spectra with Analysis through Deconvolution (submitted) *contributed equally to this work

J. L. Lansford and D. G. Vlachos, Electron Density-Based Machine Learning for Accelerating Quantum Calculations (In Preparation)

J. L. Lansford and D. G. Vlachos, Optimal Probe Molecule Selection for Characterizing Surface Microstructure: a combined physics- and data-based approach (In Preparation)

J. L. Lansford, Sophia Kurdziel, and D. G. Vlachos, Theory and Scaling for Brønsted – Evans – Polanyi Energy and Frequency Relationships on Surfaces (In Preparation)

N. R. Quiroz, J. L. Lansford, and D. G. Vlachos, Coupling Experimental Kinetics and Thermodynamic Modeling with UV-Vis for Fundamental Studies and Speciation Quantification (In Preparation)

Invited Talks, Presentations and Posters**The Center for Dynamics and Control of Materials – Invited Talk (Josh Lansford)**

Austin, TX

Infrared Spectroscopy Data- and Physics-driven Machine Learning for Characterizing Complex Surface Structure

Feb. 2020

AIChE Meeting Presentation

Orlando, FL

Computational Modeling of operando Infrared Spectroscopy for Site-Specific Catalyst Characterization

Nov. 2019

North American Catalysis Society Meeting Presentation

Chicago, IL

Catalyst Site Characterization from Complex Infrared Spectroscopy

June 2019

Blue Waters Symposium Presentation

Sunriver, OR

Electron Density-Based Machine Learning for Accelerating Quantum Calculations

June 2019

Catalysis Club of Philadelphia Poster Competition

Forward and Inverse Modeling for Catalyst Characterization from Complex Vibrational Spectroscopy

Philadelphia, PA

Nov. 2018

AIChE Meeting Presentation

Catalyst Characterization from Complex Infrared Spectroscopy: A Machine Learning Approach

Pittsburgh, PA

Oct. 2018

Gordon Research Conference Poster Presentation

Entropic Effects on Microkinetic Modeling

New London, NH

June 2018

International Symposia of Chemical Reaction Engineering (ISCRE25) – Invited Talk (Dion Vlachos)

Catalyst Structure Prediction via DFT, Theory, and Machine Learning

Florence, Italy

May 2018

Catalysis Club of Philadelphia Poster Competition

Scaling Relations for Adsorbate Vibrations on Transition Metal Surfaces

Philadelphia, PA

Nov. 2017

AIChE Meeting Presentation

Adsorbate Vibrations on Transition Metal Surfaces: Applications and Theory

Minneapolis, MN

Oct. 2017

AIChE Student Poster Competition

Separation of Catalyst Kinetics for Maximizing Gasoline Output, Yield, and Selectivity

Pittsburgh, PA

Oct. 2012

Industry Work Experience**Capital One Bank**

Senior Data Analyst: National Expansion

McLean, VA

2014 – 2015

- Developed geocoding system to map customer ATM transactions at foreign-owned ATMs
- Created Tableau tool that provides daily updates to 10 Capital One Cafes
- Converted organization's data library to Tableau infrastructure and scaled to all markets of interest.

Data Analyst: Bank Operations

2013 – 2014

- Led self-proposed initiative to automate case tracking system for five business teams. Headed two IT teams and coordinated with business teams in addition to developing and mapping out the automated system – saved 25-50 business hours per day

Service & Leadership, Professional Affiliations**Reviewer**

The Journal of Physical Chemistry

Memberships

American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), Catalysis Club of Philadelphia (CCP)

Harvard University

Undergraduate Resident Tutor: Leverett House

Cambridge, MA

2019 – Current

- Live with and advise Harvard undergrads on research and graduate school

University of Virginia

University Dormitory Resident Advisor

Charlottesville, VA

2010 – 2013

- Live with and advise freshmen on transition from high school to college

President of UVA OXE Chemical Engineering Honor Society

2012 – 2013

- Organized tutoring, research panels, and other service and leadership opportunities

Co-President of UVA Wahoo Wizards Educational Outreach Group

2012 – 2013

- Developed and led new science experiments for low-income elementary school students