

Research Interests

Experimental Particle Physics.

Model-agnostic searches for new physics, jet substructure, precision standard model measurements, silicon pixel trackers

Machine Learning.

Anomaly detection, semi-supervised learning, unsupervised learning

Education

- Exp. 2022 **Johns Hopkins University, M.A. Ph.D.**
Advisors: Morris Swartz and Petar Maksimovic
- 2012-2016 **Carnegie Mellon University, B.S. Physics.**

Projects

CMS Pixel Detector Calibration and Software.

Active member of the CMS pixel offline group. Projects have included developing novel reconstruction techniques suitable for high levels of radiation damage, producing calibrations to account for radiation damage, testing candidate designs for the Phase-2 upgrade, maintenance and improvement of the pixel reconstruction code within the CMS software framework.

Measurement of the Drell-Yan Forward-Backward Asymmetry at High Dilepton Masses.

Main analyzer for CMS 13 TeV measurement. Employed a novel template fitting technique that improves sensitivity compared to counting based methods. Measurement used to set limits on the existence of a new heavy Z' that are complementary to direct searches.

Dijet Anomaly Detection: Tag N' Train.

Developed a novel technique for training machine learning classifiers on collider data. Demonstrated its applicability in a dijet anomaly search. Successfully able to find the hidden signal in the LHC Olympics anomaly detection challenge.

Positions

- 2021- Co-Convener of the CMS pixel offline software and reconstruction subgroup
- 2020-2021 JHU Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Diversity & Inclusion Co-Chair
- 2019- Regular Writer for Particle Bites

Selected Publications

Primary Author

Oz Amram and Cristina Mantilla Suarez. Tag N' Train: a technique to train improved classifiers on unlabeled data. *JHEP*, 01:153, 2021. arXiv:2002.12376.

CMS Collaboration. Measurement of the Drell-Yan forward-backward asymmetry at high dilepton masses in proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. (*CMS-SMP-21-002, Paper In Prep*), 2021. PAS Link.

Contributor

Gregor Kasieczka et al. The LHC Olympics 2020: A Community Challenge for Anomaly Detection in High Energy Physics, January 2021. arXiv:2101.08320.

Erini Lambrides et al. Merger or Not: Accounting for Human Biases in Identifying Galactic Merger Signatures, June 2021. arXiv:2106.15618.

Awards and Honors

- 2016 Richard E. Cutcosky Award, Carnegie Mellon
- 2016 Phi Beta Kappa, Carnegie Mellon
- 2015 Phi Kappa Phi, Carnegie Mellon

Presentations

Public

- Sep. 2021 "Anomaly Searches at the LHC and Beyond". UChicago Rising Stars in Experimental Particle Physics Symposia. Virtual
- Jul. 2020 "Anomaly Searches with Tag N' Train". Anomaly Detection Workshop, LHC Summer Olympics 2020. Virtual
- Jan. 2020 "Tag N' Train : Combining Autoencoders and CWoLa for Better Unsupervised Searches". ML4Jets 2020. New York, NY
- April 2018 "Measurement of the forward-backward asymmetry of high mass Drell-Yan lepton pairs at 13 TeV" APS April Meeting. Columbus, OH

CMS Internal Workshops

- May 2020 "CASE: CMS Anomaly Search" B2G Workshop. Virtual
- May 2020 "Inner Tracker Local Reconstruction for Phase 2" Tracker DPG Workshop. Virtual

Mentoring & Teaching

- 2019- Mentored younger graduate students at JHU on projects related to CMS pixel detector and data analysis
- 2020- Mentored a younger graduate student at Ohio State through USCMS mentoring program
- 2017-2021 Head Teaching Assistant, General Physics I
- 2016-2017 Teaching Assistant, General Physics Lab

Technical Skills

Proficient In.

C, C++, Python, Numpy, Keras, Tensorflow, ROOT, CMSSW

Familiar With.

Fortran, Madgraph, Pythia, POWHEG