Philippe Desjardins-Proulx

October 31, 2015

CURRENT POSITION	Ph.D. candidate, Université de Sherbrooke, Canada, Poisot Lab, Université de Montréal, Canada, Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science, Canada.

CONTACT

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CITIZENSHIP   Canada

LANGUAGES

FRENCH: Native language
ENGLISH: Full professional proficiency
JAPANESE: Elementary proficiency

EXPERTISE

- **Machine Learning:** My thesis focuses on the problem of transfer learning, which could be described as the capacity to automatically transfer knowledge between a source (the knowledge we want to transfer) and a target (the model we want to build). I'm especially interested in probabilistic logic (or "statistical relational") learning algorithms and probabilistic graphical models. I'm also very interested in autonomous (reinforcement learning) agents.
- **Scientific computing:** Almost all my undergraduate projects were done on scientific computing applied to biology and I worked four years (2009-2012) as a research professional, focusing on C/C++ simulations and GPU computing with CUDA/OpenCL on the Canada Research Chair on Terrestrial Ecosystems' scientific cluster.
- **Ecology:** I have contributed to theoretical evolutionary ecology (speciation, community ecology) and worked with several biological data-sets.

EDUCATION

Department of Biology, Université de Sherbrooke, Canada.

Ph.D., September 2012 – December 2016 [expected]

- **Thesis Proposal**: *Transfer and the problem of biodiversity*
- **Adviser**: Dr. Dominique Gravel
- **Co-adviser**: Dr. Timothée Poisot
- **Area of Study**: Machine learning, ecology, population genetics.
- **Comprehensive exam**: Maximum Entropy in Ecology & Evolution.
- **Courses**: Advanced Distributed Computing (A13), Business Intelligence (S15).

College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, USA.

Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics, 2012,

- **Area of Study**: Data Mining & biostatistics.

Université du Québec, Québec, Canada.

B.S., 2009,

- Major in Biology,
- Minor in Mathematics & Computer Science.

AWARDS	**Alexander Graham Bell Graduate Scholarship** (2012)
	• **From:** Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
	• **Description:** Most competitive Canadian scholarship in science.
	• **Value:** 105 000 CAD (equivalent to 105 000 USD or 8 150 000 JPY, 2012 est.)
	Windows Azure Research Award (2013)
	• **From:** Microsoft Research
	• **Description:** The first group of 32 awards given by Microsoft (1000 applications). Gives a generous access to Microsoft Azure for research purpose.
	• **Proposal:** *Growing Intelligence with Cloud Markov Logic.*
	• **Value:** >40 000 USD.
	NVIDIA hardware donation program (2014)
	• **Description:** I was awarded a NVIDIA card for high-performance computing.
	• **Proposal:** *Transfer Learning, Deep Learning, and the Puzzle of Biodiversity.*

REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

[1] **P Desjardins-Proulx**, EP White, JJ Adamson, K Ram, T Poisot, and D Gravel. The case for open preprints in biology.
PLoS Biology 11(5): e1001563

[2] R Vergilino, TA Elliott, **P Desjardins-Proulx**, TJ Crease and F Dufresne. Evolution of a transposon in *Daphnia* hybrid genomes. *Mobile DNA* 4-7, 2013.
DOI: 10.1186/1759-8753-4-7

[3] D Ai, **P Desjardins-Proulx**, C Chu, and G Wang. The influence of immigration and dispersal limitation on the repeatability of niche and neutral communities. *PLOS ONE* 7(9): e46164, 2012.
DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0046164

[4] **P Desjardins-Proulx** and D Gravel. A complex speciation-richness relationship in a simple neutral model. *Ecology and Evolution* 2(8): 1781–1790, 2012.
DOI: 10.1002/ece3.292

[5] **P Desjardins-Proulx** and D Gravel. How likely is speciation in neutral ecology? *The American Naturalist* 179(1):137-144, 2012.
DOI: 10.1086/663196

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

[6] **P Desjardins-Proulx**. The case for arXiv and a broader conception of peer-reviews. Invited blog, International Network of Next-Generation Ecologists, 2012.
http://www.innge.net/?q=node/330.

[7] **P Desjardins-Proulx**, JL Rosindell, T Poisot, and D Gravel. A simple model to study phylogeographies and speciation patterns in space, 2012.
arXiv: 1203.1790.

[8] **P Desjardins-Proulx**. A foot in the neutral trap.
Invited comment for *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 2012.

[9] **P Desjardins-Proulx**. L'origine de la Biodiversité. Le Mouton Noir, Mai-Juin. Cahier Spécial sur la Biodiversité p.2, 2010. *Selected and republished by Gaia-Presse, a group sponsored by the Université Laval.*

JOB EXPERIENCES

Research Professional, Canada Research Chair on Terrestrial Ecosystem
• From 2009 to 2012.
• **Supervisor**: Dr. Dominique Gravel

- **Responsabilities**: Programming high-performance simulations in C, C++, and CUDA on a distributed cluster; Design of ecological models to understand biodiversity; Teaching scientific computing to graduate students (C, C++, Python, UNIX tools).

TEACHING
EXPERIENCES

Université du Québec, Québec, Canada.
- 2013. I organized a series of meetings on information theory and inference.
- 2012. CUDA training (intensive one-day course).
- 2012. Scientific computing with C and C++ (grad. students/post-docs).
- 2011. Scientific computing with C and C++ (grad. students/post-docs).

REFEREE
SERVICE

Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications; Ecology Letters, Journal of Theoretical Biology; Theoretical Ecology; Acta Biotheoretica; Molecular Ecology Ressources; The American Naturalist; Journal of Plant Ecology.

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS

- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers   2012–...
- Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science   2012–...
- Society for the Study of Evolution   2008–2012

PROGRAMMING
SKILLS

I have some experience with many programming languages, libraries, frameworks. I only list here my current working tools:
- **Languages**: C++11/14, Haskell, Rust, JavaScript/NodeJs, Python.
- **High-performance computing**: CUDA, OpenCL, OpenMP, ZeroMQ.
- **Databases**: SQL (especially PostgreSQL), Cassandra, MongoDB.
- **Operating Systems**: Linux (mostly Debian/Ubuntu-based).
- **Writing**: LaTeX 2_ε.

GRADUATE
COURSES

- 2015. Business Intelligence [A, 3 credits]   Athabasca
- 2013. Advanced Distributed Computing [A, 3 credits]   Athabasca
- 2012. Datamining (machine learning) [A, 4 credits]   UIC
- 2011. Biostatistics [A, 4 credits]   UIC
- 2010. Intro. to bioinformatics [A, 4 credits]   UIC
- 2010. Reading course on Ancestral Recombination Graphs [A+, 3 credits]   UQAR

ONLINE
COURSES

- 2014. Technology Entrepreneurship   NovoEd/Stanford

REFEREES

On request.