Raphael A. Meyer

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Third Year Ph.D. Student Theoretical Computer Science

Education

New York University **Brooklyn, NY**
Ph.D. in Computer Science, 3.92 / 4.00 GPA *2019–Present*
Advised by Prof. Christopher Musco
Deborah Rosenthal, MD Award for Best Quals Examination:
Towards Optimal Spectral Sum Estimation in the Matrix-Vector Oracle Model

Purdue University **West Lafayette, IN**
B.S. in Computer Science Honors, 3.72 / 4.00 GPA *2015–2020*
Concentrations in Foundations of CS, Computational Science, Machine Intelligence
Minors in Math, Electrical Engineering
Completed 15 Graduate Courses

Research Interests

I research the interplay of Statistics and Computation, largely through the lens of Linear Algebra.

- ► Randomized Linear Algebra (RandNLA)
- ► Statistical & Computational Lower Bounds
- ► Foundations of Data Science
- ► Optimization & Machine Learning

Work Experience

Teaching Assistant

Algorithmic Machine Learning and Data Science **Brooklyn, NY**
New York University *Fall 2020*

Introduction to Machine Learning **Brooklyn, NY**
New York University *Spring 2020*

Introduction to Algorithmic Analysis **West Lafayette, IN**
Purdue University *Fall 2018*

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Theoretical Machine Learning **West Lafayette, IN**
Purdue University *2018-2019*

Information-Theoretic Cryptography **West Lafayette, IN**
Purdue University *2016-2018*

Internships

Software Engineering Intern **New York, NY**
Bloomberg L.P. *Summer 2017*

- Recognized, Tested, and Proved Inefficiencies with Existing Distributed Scheduler
- Integrated New Service to Observe System Load and be able to Learn Smart Solutions
- Cleared Technical Debt by Resolving bugs, Collecting Metrics, Automating Workflows

Software Engineering Intern **New York, NY**
Bloomberg L.P. *Summer 2016*

- Integrated various Database, PubSub, and API platforms to provide a new format of data
- Iteratively designed to guarantee the API we produce matches Client Expectations
- Learned to code Effective, Maintainable, and Production-Worthy code

Service

Organizer: NYU Tandon TCS "Pandemic Presentations" Day (link) *2022*
Organizer: NYU Tandon TCS Reading Group *2021*

ICLR Conference: Conference Reviewer *2023*
SODA Conference: External Conference Reviewer *2023*
NeurIPS Conference: Conference Reviewer *2022*
ICML Conference: Conference Reviewer *2022*
STOC Conference: Conference External Reviewer *2022*
ICLR Conference: Conference Reviewer *2022*
NeurIPS Conference: Conference Reviewer *2021*
ISIT Conference: Conference External Reviewer *2017*

Honors and Awards

Deborah Rosenthal, MD Award for Best Quals Exam: New York University *2021*
Outstanding Reviewer Award: NeurIPS Conference *2021*
Student Travel Grant: ICML Conference *2019*
School of Engineering Fellowship: New York University *2019*
Finalist: CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award *2018*
Student Travel Grant: ISIT Conference *2017*
Outstanding Sophomore of the Year: Purdue Computer Science *2016–2017*
Silver Medal, Giant Slalom: Ecole de Ski Français *2016*
Qualcomm Rookie Team of the Year: Boilermake Hackathon *2015*
Top Ten Hacks: Boilermake Hackathon *2015*
Certificate of Cuisine: Cordon Blue School of Gourmet Cuisine *2015*

Publications

▶ **Near-Linear Sample Complexity for Lp Polynomial Regression**
with Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, David P. Woodruff, and Samson Zhou at *SODA 2023*.

▶ **Fast Regression for Structured Inputs**
with Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, David P. Woodruff, and Samson Zhou at *ICLR 2022*.

- **Hutch++: Optimal Stochastic Trace Estimation**
  with Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, and David P. Woodruff at *SOSA 2021*.
  My most cited article! (link)
- **The Statistical Cost of Robust Kernel Hyperparameter Tuning**
  with Christopher Musco at *NeurIPS 2020*.
- **Optimality Implies Kernel Sum Classifiers are Statistically Efficient**
  with Jean Honorio at *ICML 2019*.
- **Characterizing Optimal Security and Round-Complexity for Secure OR Evaluation**
  with Amisha Jhanji and Hemanta K. Maji at *ISIT 2017*.

Talks & Presentations

Invited Talks

The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Single Vector Krylov for Low-Rank Approximation — **Presentation**
Theory Reading Group § Purdue University — *2022*

Hutch++ and More: Towards Optimal Spectral Sum Estimation — **Presentation**
Computational Lower Bounds in Linear Algebra § SIAM AN22 — *2021*

Lessons from Trace Estimation Lower Bounds — **Presentation**
Computational Lower Bounds in Linear Algebra § SIAM AN21 — *2021*

Hutch++: Optimal Stochastic Trace Estimation — **Presentation**
Theory Reading Group § Johns Hopkins University — *2021*

Conference Presentations

The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Single Vector Krylov for Low-Rank Approximation — **Presentation**
GAMM ANLA Conference — *2022*

Fast Regression for Structured Inputs — **Poster**
ICLR Conference — *2022*

Hutch++: Optimal Stochastic Trace Estimation — **Poster**
WALD(O) Conference — *2021*

Hutch++: Optimal Stochastic Trace Estimation — **Presentation**
SOSA Conference — *2021*

The Statistical Cost of Robust Kernel Hyperparameter Tuning — **Poster**
NeurIPS Conference — *2020*

Statistical Efficiency of Optimal Kernel Sum Classifiers — **Presentation, Poster**
ICML Conference — *2019*

Statistical Efficiency of Optimal Kernel Sum Classifiers — **Poster**
Midwest Theory Day — *2019*

Optimal Secure OR Evaluation — **Presentation**
ISIT Conference — *2017*

Reading Groups

Hutch++: Optimal Stochastic Trace Estimation **Presentation**
NYU VIDA Reading Group *2022*

Introduction to Leverage Scores **Presentation**
NYU Tandon Theory Reading Group *2021*

Strategies for Episodic Tabular & Linear MDPs **Presentation**
NYU Tandon Reinforcement Learning Reading Group *2021*

Lagrangian Duality **Presentation**
NYU Tandon Theory Reading Group *2021*

Introduction to Differential Entropy **Presentation**
NYU CDS Reading Group on Information Theory *2020*

Lower Bounds for the Oracle Complexity of Convex Optimization **Presentation**
NYU Tandon AMLDS Reading Group *2019*

Programming Languages

Julia, Python, C++, C, LaTeX, Racket: *Proficient*

Wrote Production-Worthy Code in Multiple Software Engineering Internships