Sreejith Santhosh

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RESEARCH Interests

Theoretical Biophysics, Dynamical Systems, Morphogenesis, Active Matter

EDUCATION

PhD in Physics (Biophysics)

2020 - present

Advisor : Mattia Serra

University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

B.Tech. in Engineering Physics.

2016 - 2020

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India

Publications

- Sreejith Santhosh, Mehrana R. Nejad, Amin Doostmohammadi, Julia M. Yeomans, Sumesh P. Thampi; "Activity induced nematic order in isotropic liquid crystals" Journal of Statistical Physics (2020)
- Sreejith Santhosh, Mattia Serra. "Optimal Locomotion for Limbless Crawlers" Physical Review E (2022)
- Sreejith Santhosh, Haodong Qin, Bjoern F. Klose, Gustaaf B. Jacobs, Jerome Vetel, Mattia Serra; "Spike formation in 3d flow separation" J. Fluid Mechanics (2023)
- Mattia Serra,.., **Sreejith Santhosh**,.., L. Mahadevan; "A mechanochemical model recapitulates distinct vertebrate gastrulation modes"Sci. Advances (2023)
- Merlin Lange,.., Sreejith Santhosh,..,Mattia Serra,.., Loïc A. Royer; "Zebrahub-Multimodal Zebrafish Developmental Atlas Reveals the State Transition Dynamics of Late Vertebrate Pluripotent Axial Progenitors" Cell (2024)
- Sreejith Santhosh , Cuncheng Zhu, Blaise Fencil, Mattia Serra; "Coherent Structures in Active Flows on Dynamic Surfaces" biorXiv (2025)
- Sierra Schwabach*, **Sreejith Santhosh***, Audrey Miller Williams, Maureen Cetera, Mattia Serra, Sally Horne-Badovinac "Tissue geometry and mechanochemical feedback initiate rotational migration in Drosophila" biorXiv (2025)
- Enrico Maiorino, **Sreejith Santhosh**, Julian Dukes, Mattia Serra; "Integrating local and global cues for optimal source finding without gradients" (pre-print)
- Sreejith Santhosh, Mattia Serra; "Odd modulus localizes stress-strain at topological defects" (pre-print)
- * : These authors contributed equally

IN-PREPARATION

• Sreejith Santhosh, Manli Chuai, Cornelis J Weijer, Mattia Serra; "Epiblast mechanics pattern the pre-gastrulation chick embryo"

SOFTWARE AND DOCUMENTATION

- Computing Finite-time Lyapunov exponent (FTLE) for flows on curved surfaces (github.com/SreejithSanthosh/curvedSurface-LCS)
- Website with tutorials for FTLE code for flows in 2D and 3D. (sreejithsant-hosh.github.io/FTLEhub/)

Conferences and Workshops

- "Genes, geometry and mechanics govern vertebrate gastrulation", April 2021, 11th Annual Southern California Systems Biology Symposium, UCLA (Los Angeles, USA)
- "Lagrangian folding of material surfaces and the theory of material spike formation in 3D flow separation", April 2022, 15th Southern California Fluids Symposium, UCLA (Los Angeles, USA)
- "Mechanics and a Turing Mechanism pattern the early chick embryo", Feb 2023, Biophysics of Organoids, Princeton University (Princeton, USA)

- "Spike formation theory in 3d flow separation", Southern California Fluids Symposium, SDSU (April 2023, San Diego, USA), APS DFD (Nov 2024, Salt Lake City, USA)
- KITP summer school on "Synthetic Morphogenesis", Jul-Aug 2023, KITP (Santa Barbara, USA)
- "Patterning mechanisms in pre-gastrulation chick embryo", March 2024, APS March Meeting (Minneapolis, USA)
- "Coherent Structures in Active Flows on Dynamic Surfaces", March 2025, APS March Meeting (Anaheim, USA)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Nonlinear dynamics and physics of complex systems group PI: Mattia Serra

2021 - present UCSD

• Graduate student researcher tackling research questions in theoretical dynamical systems, morphogenesis and biophysics.

Theoretical biophysics group

2019 - 2020

PI: Manoj Gopalakrishnan

IIT Madras

• Studied chemotactic signalling network of E.Coli as a stochastic processes and investigated the dependence of drift velocity in different environments.

Theory of complex materials group

Summer 2019

PI: Dmitry Chigrin

RWTH Aachen

 Investigated theoretical non-equilibrium models of hydro-gels and worked with the numerical implementations of these models.

Soft and active fluids group

2018 - 2019

IIT Madras

PI: Sumesh Thampi

• Theoretically demonstrated an activity induced hydrodynamic instability that generates nematic ordering in an isotropic phase.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

• Teaching Assistant, (Mechanics I) UCSD

Fall 2020

• Teaching Assistant, (Quantum Mechanics II) UCSD

Winter 2020

• Teaching Assistant, (Mechanics II) UCSD

Winter 2023, 2024, 2025

• Teaching Assistant, (Waves, Fluids and Thermodynamics) UCSD

Winter 2024

Awards/Honors

- Recipient of the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) scholarship by the Govt. of India. Top 1% of $\approx 50,000$ high school students in India.
- Recipient of the Physics Excellence Fellowship by Department of physics, UCSD in recognition of academic achievement in undergraduate studies (USD 8, 500).
- University of California president's Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings Fellow 2024. Selected after a rigourous campus-wide and UC-wide selection procedure among graduate students and postdocs, to represent UC at the Lindau meeting.
- UCSD Department of physics chair's challenge travel grant (USD 500)

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

Organizer: Coffee Room Seminar Series, UCSD

2022 - 2024

- Managed logistics for a student-run quantitative biology (q-bio) seminar series.
- Organizes events to create an inclusive and collaborative environment among graduate students, post-docs & faculty doing q-bio research at UCSD.

Tensors Student Coordinator, IIT Madras

2016 -2017

- Organized workshops and seminars for engineering aspirants in high school from unprivileged backgrounds in the state of Kerala, India.
- Managed a team of 15 to conduct a mock engineering entrance examinations for over 2000 high school students.

Founded organized a physics undergraduate journal club at IIT Madras Volunteer for UC San Diego Young Physicist program for high-school and middle-school students

 $2019\text{-}2020 \\ 2023$

Journals refereed Science Advances (2024)

STUDENTS MENTORED

- Julian Dukes (Physics undergraduate UCSD, 2023). After: PhD (Physics) UCSD 2024
- Blaise Fencil (Maths undergraduate UCSD, 2024)
- Kelly Ortiz Franco (ENLACE summer program 2024, Undergraduate Instituto Politécnico Nacional)
- Isabela Cifuentes Enriquez (ENLACE summer program 2024, Undergraduate Instituto Politécnico Nacional)
- Aravind Ramakrishnan (CS masters student UToronto, 2024). After: PhD (Physics) UCSD 2025
- Yuyang Lai (Engineering mechanics undergraduate, Peking University). After: PhD (Physics) UCSD 2025

Press

- Representing University of California in Lindau Nobel Laurate Meeting 2024 universityofcalifornia.edu/news/young-uc-scientists-selected-fellows-prestigious-nobel-laureate-meeting
- Mathematical Modeling of Chick Gastrulation today.ucsd.edu/story/gastrulation-evolution
- Zebrahub: Developemental atlas of zebrafish gastrulation czbiohub.org/life-science/zebrahub-tracks-zebrafish-development/
- National 3rd out of 851 teams, Samsung E.D.G.E shorturl.at/SXZxv, shorturl.at/FDhtL

PUBLIC PROFILES $\label{eq:Google Scholar: Shorturl.at/zbOEc} Google scholar: shorturl.at/zbOEc \\ GitHub: github.com/SreejithSanthosh$

Additional Information

Samsung E.D.G.E

2018

- Secured 3rd position among 851 teams from top 18 engineering and business schools in India in E.D.G.E, the business case study competition run by Samsung India. Awarded prizes worth $\approx 1,500$ USD.
- Proposed marketing and product strategies for Samsung to leverage the growing millennial population in India.

Professional shows, Saarang IIT Madras

2016 -2018

- Managed a team of 20 to organize shows by artists from across the world over a 4 day period during Saarang, the cultural festival of IIT Madras.
- Brought in sponsorship from consulate of Israel ($\approx 1,500$ USD), World Irish Dance Association ($\approx 10,000$ USD) and Spic Macay ($\approx 1,000$ USD).
- Was part of the broader professional shows team that managed an annual budget of $\approx 100,000$ USD to organize concerts at Saarang.

Job offer as a business analyst at e-commerce firm Flipkart. Apnea international stage Λ freediving certification.

2019

2024