Aidan Lakshman

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine

Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Informatics; expected graduation Summer 2025

Dissertation: Comparative genomic methods to reveal functional associations among proteins

University of Central Florida

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics; magna cum laude, 2020

- Burnett Honors College
- National Merit Scholar

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Graduate Researcher, 2020 - 2025

- Designed novel algorithms to predict gene function using evolutionary signal; preliminary results formed the basis of a successfully funded U01 grant, results in review at *Nature Biotechnology*
- Optimized network clustering algorithms to process graphs with millions of nodes in constant memory complexity
- Created domain-specific network clustering algorithms to predict metabolic pathways from genome data
- Managed the Wright Lab's technical infrastructure, CI/CD pipelines, and code repositories
- Researched new approaches to infer causal relationships among variables in the presence of data missingness

Amazon Web Services, Herndon, VA [Virtual]

Software Development Engineer Intern, Summer 2020 & 2021

- Led a team to implement a robust testing framework for Research Service Workbench on AWS (RSW)
- Streamlined RSW user experience by redesigning frontend components and building new backend infrastructure
- Implemented frontend components using React, backend components with Node.js and AWS Lambda

Carnegie Mellon University, Intelligent Coordination and Logistics Lab

Robotics Institute Summer Scholar, Summer 2018

- Optimized traffic signal control algorithms with Bayesian hierarchical modelling to predict bus behavior
- Developed assistive technology for mobility impaired pedestrians using cellular and DSRC GPS data

Software Engineering Institute, CERT Division, Carnegie Mellon University

Data Science / Software Engineering Intern, Summer 2017

- Identified trends in malware execution behavior using Apache Spark and Python
- Developed a Python program to simulate web traffic and user activity for cyberdefense training environments

GRANT FUNDING

R Consortium, Infrastructure Steering Committee

"Critical Updates to Biostrings", 2024 – 2025 [Award: \$8,000]

- Became the primary maintainer of Biostrings, an open source R package with >1M downloads per year
- Optimized internal methods, implemented CI/CD pipelines, handled bug reports, and added unit testing

University of Central Florida, Evolutionary Computation Lab

Burnett Research Scholars Grant, 2018 – 2019 [Award: \$3,000]

Optimized embodied evolutionary robotic systems for multi-foraging problems by incentivizing exploration

SKILLS

High Performance Computing

- Over 3.5 million compute hours on HTCondor systems
- Passed AWS Cloud Practitioner Certification Exam (2020-2023)

Programming Languages

- Expert proficiency: R (packages: Biostrings, SynExtend, froth; additional contributions to base R)
- Work Experience: C, Fortran, Python, JavaScript, Bash, PowerShell
- Other Experience: C#, Java, Haskell, Forth, Assembly (6502)

Computer Engineering

- Designed and built a cloud storage system with multiple layers of data redundancy
- Built a 6502 computer on a breadboard and developed a Forth OS from scratch in 6502-Assembly

PUBLICATIONS

Lakshman, Aidan and Wright, E.S. "EvoWeaver: Large-scale prediction of gene functional associations from coevolutionary signals" (**Under Revision** at *Nature Biotechnology*). [Preprint available on request] Lakshman, A., and Wright, E.S. "ExoLabel: Scalable network clustering for massive datasets" (**In preparation**).

SUNPERENCE PRESENTATIONS Predicting Gene Functional Associations from Coevolutionary Signals with EvoWeaver Municipal, Canada well 2024 Community Detection for Extremely Large Networks Salzburg, Austria Municipal Community Detection for Extremely Large Networks Salzburg, Austria Municipal Community Detection for Large Networks Salzburg, Bastburgh, PA Organizer and co-chair for special session "Scalable Analysis for Big Biological Data" RECOMB 2024 Pinsburgh, PA Project Sprint 2023* Project Sprint 2023* Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2023 Cambridge, MA Poster Presentation, won Best Poster award Feroiert Sprint 2023* Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2023 Cambridge, MA Project Sprint 2023* Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2023 Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2023 Protein Function from Coevolutionary Signal Bioconductor 2022* June 21-26, 2023 Albuquerque, NM Informatics Promote of Prodein Functional Promote Protein Coevolution and Protein Functional Promote Protein Signal Protein Functional Process Seate Well Protein Functional Process Seate Well Protein Functional Protein Coevolutionary Signal June 21-26, 2023 June 24-28, 2022 Protein Functional Inference using Coevolutionary Signal June 24-28, 2022 Protein Functional Inference using Coevolutionary Signal June 24-28, 2022 Protein Functional Inference using Coevolutionary Signal June 24-28, 2022 Protein Functional Protein Functional Association Networks Buffalo, NY Avaarded merit-based travel funding Fall 2022 Avaarded merit-based travel funding Fall 2021 Facching Assistant Facching Assistant Facching Assistant Facching Assista			
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