

Alperen Ali Ergür

Address	U Texas at San Antonio Mathematics Department One UTSA Circle San Antonio, TX, 78249	Phone	412 499 2678
		Email	alperen.ergur@utsa.edu http://alpergur.xyz

Education

2016	PhD in Mathematics - <i>Texas A&M University, USA</i>
2011	MS in Mathematics- <i>Tobb University, Turkey</i>
2009	BS in Mathematics- <i>Bilkent University, Turkey</i>

Employment

Aug 2020-present	University of Texas at San Antonio <i>Assistant Professor</i> Computer Science Department (25 %) Mathematics Department (75 %)
-------------------------	--

Sep 2019-Aug 2020	Carnegie Mellon University, Theoretical Computer Science Group <i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i> Mentors: Venkatesan Guruswami and Pravesh Kothari
--------------------------	---

May 2017-Aug 2019	Technical University of Berlin, Algorithmic Algebra Group <i>Einstein Postdoctoral Fellow</i> Mentors: Peter Bürgisser and Felipe Cucker
--------------------------	--

Aug 2016-May 2017	North Carolina State University, Symbolic Computation Group <i>Postdoctoral Research Scholar</i> Mentor: Cynthia Vinzant
--------------------------	--

Sep 2011-Aug 2016	Texas A&M University, Probability Theory and Algebraic Geometry Groups <i>Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant, and REU Instructor</i> Mentors: Grigoris Paouris and J. Maurice Rojas
--------------------------	---

Research Interest

Real Algebraic Geometry, Convex Geometry, Optimization, Theory of Computation
High Dimensional Probability, Randomized Numerical Algorithms, Reinforcement Learning

Grants, Awards, etc

Dec 2024	The Kay and Steve Robbins Faculty Teaching Fellowship in Computer Science
Sept 2024	NSF-CCF-2414160, Algorithmic Foundations Program, Single-PI Title: Algorithmic Foundations for Processing Algebraic Sets, Amount: $\sim 450K$
2023+	MAA NExt Fellow, 2023 Class
Oct 2021	NSF-CCF-2110075, Algorithmic Foundations Program, Single-PI Title: Beyond Worst-Case Analysis for Computing with Polynomials, Amount: $\sim 100K$
Jan 2017	Postdoctoral Fellowship by Einstein Foundation
2014-2015	Travel Grants by University of Trento, Institut Henri Poincare, and AMS
Sept 2009	Full Scholarship by Tobb University including tuition and stipend
Sept 2004	Full Scholarship by Bilkent University including tuition and stipend
< 2004	Two Bronze, One Silver Medal in National Math Competitions

Teaching Experience

1. San Antonio Creative Mathematics Circle, 2024 +
Rodrigo Velez, Süleyman Tek, and I started a math circle for middle school children.
We only admitted 7 sixth graders and plan to train them as a cohort.
2. University of Michigan
Led a group of student researchers (REU) on a reinforcement learning project in summer 25.
3. University of Texas at San Antonio
 - *Mentoring:*
Thanuka Hanseemenu Wijenayaka (Visiting Scholar, Control Theory-RL, Current)
Vincent Miller (M.S. in CS, Current)
Chris La Velle (M.S. in Pure Math, 2025)
Yaseen Syed (M.S. in Applied Math, Current)
Jonathan de Konig (undergrad researcher, Current)
Melika Golestani (undergrad researcher, Current)
Farhan Tajwar Romit (undergrad researcher, 2025 \rightarrow Grad School @ Texas A&M)
Rahul Savishkumar (high school researcher, 2024 \rightarrow UT Dallas CS)
Jesus Rebollo-Bueno (postdoc, 2022 \rightarrow Lecturer @ Sevilla, Spain)
Josue Tonelli-Cueto (postdoc, 2023 \rightarrow Postdoc @ John Hopkins Applied Math)
Abigail Martinez (M.S. student, 2022)
Ian Solis (undergrad researcher, 2022 \rightarrow Southwest R&D, UT Austin Grad School)
Nina De La Torre, (undergrad researcher, 2023 \rightarrow Grad School @ UT Austin)
Chris La Velle, (undergrad researcher, 2023 \rightarrow Grad School @ UTSA)
 - *Reinforcement Learning Seminar*
In Fall 24, I run a seminar on fundamentals of RL where I lectured and we implemented basic algorithms together. [Link to resources](#)
 - *Student-accessible research seminar on Geometry, Probability, and Computing*
[Link to resources](#)
 - *New Course Design and Redesign*
Probability and Computing

- Algorithmic Foundations of Data Science Link to resources
 - Introduction to Optimization (with C. Walton)
 - Abstract algebra series from an algorithmic view (under development)
 - *Instructor of the record @ UTSA School of Data Science:*
Probability and Computing, Algorithmic Foundations of Data Science
 - *Instructor of the record @ UTSA Main Campus:*
Linear Algebra, Probability and Computing, Abstract Algebra,
Algebra and Number Systems (intro to proofs), Calc 2
4. Technische Universität Berlin
 - *Seminar:* Interior Point Methods in Convex Optimization (with T. de Wolff)
 - *Graduate Class:* Effective Algebraic Geometry (with P. Bürgisser, J. Tonelli-Cueto)
 5. NC State University
 - Instructor of the Record: Linear Algebra for Science Majors, Calculus, Precalc
 6. Texas A&M University
 - *Assistant Instructor @ Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (REU)*
Mentored *eight* undergraduate research projects in four summers: 2013-2016
7 Students → grad school @ MIT, Harvard, Chicago, Notre Dame, Brown, UIUC
Two students won NSF graduate fellowship.
 - Recitation Leader for Graduate Algebra, Probability, Advanced Calculus

Publications and Preprints

Google scholar

UTSA students and postdocs are in bold.

Probability

1. The Rank of Sparse Random Matrices
(with A. Coja-Oghlan, Pu Gao, S. Hettereich, H. Rolvien)
Random Structures and Algorithms, 2022
<https://doi.org/10.1002/rsa.21085>
2. Probabilistic Condition Number Estimates for Real Polynomials I
(with G. Paouris and J.M. Rojas)
Foundations of Computational Mathematics, 2019
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10208-018-9380-5>
3. Smoothed Analysis for the Condition Number of Structured Real Polynomial Systems
(with G. Paouris and J.M. Rojas)
Mathematics of Computation, 2021
<https://doi.org/10.1090/mcom/3647>
4. On the Expected Number of Zeros of Random Fewnomials
(with P. Bürgisser and J. Tonelli-Cueto)
SIAM Journal on Applied Algebra and Geometry (SIAGA), 2019
<https://doi.org/10.1137/18M1228682>

5. On the Number of Real Zeros of Random Sparse Polynomial Systems
(with Mate Telek, **Josue Tonelli-Cueto**) available at Arxiv submitted to SIAGA journal
6. Strategic Gradient Manipulation for Membership Inference Attacks in Machine Unlearning
(with **Abu Noman Sakib**, **Zihensen Wang**, Zijie Zhang, and Yang Zhou)
in preperation to be submitted to ICML 2026

Optimization

7. Approximating Nonnegative Polynomials via Spectral Sparsification
SIAM Journal on Optimization, 2019
<https://doi.org/10.1137/17M1121743>
8. Multihomogenous Nonnegative Polynomials and Sums of Squares
Discrete & Computational Geometry, 2018
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00454-018-0011-3>
9. Approximate Real Symmetric Tensor Rank
(with **J. Rebollo-Bueno**, P. Valettas)
Arnold Mathematical Journal, 2023
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40598-023-00235-4>
10. Optimal Preconditioning is a Geodesically Convex Optimization Problem
(with M.L. Doğan, E. Tsigaridas),
Submitted to SODA 2026. Full article will be submitted to FOCM Journal.

Algorithms in Algebra and Geometry - Conferences

11. Plantinga-Vegter Algorithm Takes Average Polynomial Time
(with F. Cucker, J. Tonelli-Cueto)
ACM Symposium on Symbolic and Algebraic Computation (ISSAC), 2019
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3326229.3326252>
12. The Rank of Sparse Random Matrices
(with A. Coja-Oghlan, Pu Gao, S. Hettereich, H. Rolvien)
ACM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA), 2020
<https://epubs.siam.org/doi/pdf/10.1137/1.9781611975994.35>
13. Beyond Worst-Case Analysis for Root Isolation Algorithms
(with **J. Tonelli-Cueto**, E. Tsigaridas)
ACM Symposium on Symbolic and Algebraic Computation, (ISSAC), 2022
<https://doi.acm.org?doi=3476446.3535475>
14. On the Number of Iterations of the DBA Algorithm
(with F. Brünig, A. Driemel, H. Röglin)
SIAM Conference on Data Mining, 2024
<https://epubs.siam.org/doi/pdf/10.1137/1.9781611978032.20>
15. Feasibility of Circuit Polynomials without Purple Swans
(with W. Deng, G. Paouris, J.M. Rojas)
ACM Symposium on Symbolic and Algebraic Computation, (ISSAC), 2024
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3666000.3669716>

16. Accuracy and Stability of Algorithms for Computing the Fundamental Matrix
(with S. Agarwal, E. Connelly, R. Thomas) – in preperation to be submitted to CVPR 2026

Algorithms in Algebra and Geometry - Journals

17. Tropical Varieties for Exponential Sums
(with G. Paouris and J.M. Rojas)
Mathematische Annalen, 2020
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00208-019-01808-5>
18. On the Complexity of Plantinga-Vegter Algorithm
(with F. Cucker and **J. Tonelli-Cueto**)
Discrete & Computational Geometry, 2022
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00454-022-00403-x>
19. A Polyhedral Homotopy Algorithm for Real Zeros
(with T. de Wolff)
Arnold Mathematical Journal, 2022
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40598-022-00219-w>
20. Functional Norms, Condition Numbers, and Numerical Algorithms
in Algebraic Geometry (with F. Cucker, **J. Tonelli-Cueto**)
Forum Mathematics Sigma, 2022
<https://doi.org/10.1017/fms.2022.89>
21. On the Complexity of Chow and Hurwitz Forms
(with M. L. Doğan, E. Tsigaridas)
ACM Communication in Computer Algebra, 2024
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3653002.3653003>
22. On the Number of Iterations of the DBA Algorithm
(with F. Brüning, A. Driemel, H. Röglin)
Konwledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2025
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10618-025-01116-4>

Algebraic Geometry and Combinatorics

23. The Geometry of Rank Drop in a Class of Face-Splitting Matrix Products
(with S. Agarwal, E. Connelly, R. Thomas)
Advances in Geometry, 2024
<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/advgeom-2024-0016/html>
24. The Multivariate Schwartz-Zippel Lemma
(with M. L. Doğan, J. Mundo, E. Tsigaridas)
SIAM Journal of Discrete Mathematics, 2022
<https://doi.org/10.1137/20M1333869>
25. Toric Compactifications for Analytic Combinatorics
(with T. George, S. Gillen, S. Melczer, R. Pemantle)
– in prep to be submitted to Mathematics of Computation

Reinforcement Learning

- 26. Average and Extremal Power-Flow Configurations
(with J. Lindberg, **V. Miller**) – in preparation to be submitted to RLC 2026
- 27. Learning Biochemical Reaction Networks with Many Equilibrium States
(with **Y. Syeed**) – in preparation to be submitted to RLDM 2026
- 28. Learning Monomial Selection Strategies in Gröbner Basis Algorithms
(with C. Bunch, **M. Golestani**, M. Walewski, J. Tong, Y. Zeytuncu)
– in preparation to be submitted to ICML 2026
- 29. An Interpretable Model of Architectural Beauty
(with E. Kara, **J. de Koning**, N. Salingaros)
– in preparation to be submitted to AAAI 27

Selected Talks

- Aug 2025** ICERM Brown University, Random Polynomials and Applications Workshop
- April 2025** UT Austin Oden Institute Scientific Computing Seminar
- May 2024** Algebra and Geometry Seminar, New Mexico State
- Oct 2023** Senior Seminar, Spielman College
- Nov 2022** Algebraic Geometry and Complexity Theory Workshop, Polish Academy of Sciences
- May 2022** Real Algebraic Geometry and Optimization Seminar, Purdue University
- April 2022** Workshop on Analytical Combinatorics, AIM, San Jose, CA
- Jul 2021** Mathematical Congress of Americas, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Jun 2021** Effective Methods in Algebraic Geometry, MEGA 2021, Tromsø Norway
- Sept 2020** Data Seminar, U Missouri Columbia
- Mar 2020** ACO Seminar, Carnegie Mellon University
- Jul 2019** SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry 2019, Bern, Switzerland
- Jun 2019** Effective Methods in Algebraic Geometry (MEGA) 2019, Madrid, Spain
- Apr 2019** Computational Geometry Workshop, Schloss Dagstuhl, Germany
- Feb 2019** Universität Bonn, Theoretical Computer Science Seminar
- Nov 2018** Goethe Universität Frankfurt, Applied Discrete Mathematics Seminar
- Mar 2018** Emerging Trends in Geometric Functional Analysis, Banff (BIRS), Canada
- Dec 2017** Methods on Discrete Structures Lecture Series, TU Berlin
- Nov 2017** Algebra Meets Numerics Workshop, Berlin Academy of Sciences
- Mar 2017** U Michigan Ann Arbor, Analysis and Probability Seminar
- July 2016** Geometric Functional Analysis Concentration Week, Texas A&M
- Apr 2016** MIT, LIDS Seminar
- Apr 2016** Georgia Tech, Algebra Seminar
- Mar 2016** Univ of Chicago, Scientific Computing Seminar
- Mar 2016** NC State University, Symbolic Computation Seminar
- Dec 2015** Colorado State University, FRAGMENT Seminar

- Oct 2015** Technical University of Munich, Applied Geometry Seminar, Germany
- Sept 2015** University of Athens, Convex Geometric Analysis Seminar, Greece

Service

- Sept 25 +** Organizer, UTSA Algorithms Seminar
- May 25** Panelist, NSF CCF Directory
- 2021-23** Organizer, Geometry, Probability, and Computing Seminar
A student accessible research seminar co-organized with G. Paouris and P. Valettas
- Sept 24** Organizer, AMS Meeting Minisymposia:
with A. Shui and F. Sottile, Applications of Algebraic Geometry (22 speakers)
- 2023** PC Member, ACM Symposium in Algebraic Computation (ISSAC 2023)
- March 23** Panelist, NSF CCF Directory
- Nov 2021** Organizer, SIAM TX-Louisiana Section Meeting Minisymposia:
with J. M. Rojas and F. Sottile, Algorithmic Algebra and Geometry (4 sessions)
- July 2021** Organizer, Mathematical Congress of Americas Minisymposia:
with D. Armentano, M. Bender, and J. Tonelli Cueto,
Numeric-Symbolic Computation with Polynomials (3 Sessions)
- April 2020** Panelist, NSF CCF Directory
- July 2019** Organizer, SIAM Applied Algebraic Geometry Minisymposia:
with P. Lairez, G. Malajovich, and J. Tonelli Cueto,
Numerical Methods for Structured Polynomial System Solving (4 sessions)
- Fall 2017** Organizer, Algorithmic Algebra OberSeminar, with P. Bürgisser, TU Berlin
- Jan 2016** Organizer, Combinatorial Algebraic Geometry Workshop, Nesin Math Village
with Ö. Kızısel, H. Güntürkün, and Ö. Öztürk

PhD Thesis Committee

Maurice Rolvien, TU Dortmund Theoretical Computer Science, December 24

Ethan Payne, UTSA Computer Science, August 24

Jodh Pannu, UTSA Computer Science, August 24

Kumar Thummapudi, UTSA Computer Science, August 24

Sharvari Komajwar, UTSA Computer Science, August 21

References

- Teaching** Timothee Bryan (Term Assistant Professor of Mathematics, George Mason University)
- Peter Bürgisser (Professor of Algorithmic Algebra, Technical University of Berlin)
- Felipe Cucker (Professor of Mathematics, City University of Hong Kong)

Pravesh Kothari (Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Princeton University)

Grigoris Paouris (Professor of Mathematics, Texas A&M University)

J.Maurice Rojas (Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, Texas A&M University)

Cynthia Vinzant (Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Washington, Seattle)