

BENJAMIN J. SHIELDS

Research Scientist



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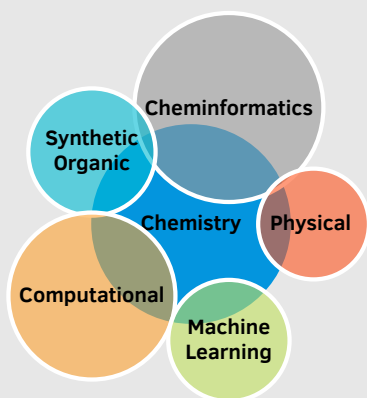
/in/benjamin-shields



b-shields

Technical Skills

Overview



Programming/Development

Experience

Code: Python • Bash • Wolfram

ML: scikit-learn • PyTorch • GPyTorch

CIX: RDKit • OpenEye • OpenBabel

Education

Ph.D., Chemistry

Princeton University

2016 - 2019 | Princeton, NJ

M.A., Chemistry (distinction)

Princeton University

2014 - 2016 | Princeton, NJ

B.S., Chemistry (highest honors)

University of North Carolina Asheville

2010 - 2014 | Asheville, NC

B.A., Applied Math (highest honors)

University of North Carolina Asheville

2010 - 2014 | Asheville, NC

Experience

Principal Scientist

CADD, Bristol Myers Squibb

Jan 2021 - Present

- **Focus:** Developing software, ML/informatics methods, and models for drug discovery. Working closely with interdisciplinary teams to identify hits and optimize leads across multiple modalities and therapeutic areas.
- **Projects:** ML infrastructure development, uncertainty estimation, molecular Bayesian optimization, virtual screening, large-scale enumeration and generative design, sequence modeling, synthetic accessibility scoring, ADMET modeling.

Postdoctoral Researcher

Adams & Doyle Labs, Princeton University

July 2019 - Jan 2021

- **Focus:** Developed a Bayesian optimization framework for chemical reaction optimization.
- **Projects:** Bayesian reaction optimization, online game to benchmark ML against human decisions, chemical feature engineering and explanatory modeling.

Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant

Doyle Lab, Princeton University

Aug 2014 - June 2019

- **Focus:** Development and understanding of novel methods for the preparation of small molecules.
- **Projects:** C-H functionalization, photophysics and ultrafast spectroscopy of Ni complexes, navigating chemical reactivity via ML.

Research Highlights

Machine Learning & Drug Discovery: My research in this area seeks to tackle challenging problems in drug discovery using machine learning, automation, physical modeling, and iterative design. Subjects of current interest include: Bayesian chemical structure optimization, uncertainty estimation, large-scale virtual screening, generative design, matched molecular pair analysis, and automated retrosynthesis. **Representative Publication:** Shields, Benjamin J.; Stevens, Jason; Li, Jun; Parasram, Marvin; Damani, Farhan; Martinez Alvarado, Jesus; Janey, Jacob; Adams, Ryan; Doyle, Abigail G. "Bayesian Reaction Optimization as A Tool for Chemical Synthesis", *Nature*, **2021**, 590, 89–96.

Organometallic Photophysics & Spectroscopy: Transition metal complexes play critical roles as photocatalysts for solar-to-electrical energy conversion and chemical synthesis. My research in this area utilizes organometallic chemistry, quantum mechanical modeling, and ultrafast spectroscopy to understand and improve photocatalytic systems. **Representative Publication:** Shields, Benjamin J.; Kudisch, Bryan; Scholes, Gregory, D.; Doyle, Abigail G. "Long-Lived Charge Transfer States of Nickel(II) Aryl Halide Complexes Facilitate Bimolecular Photoinduced Electron Transfer" *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2018**, 140, 3035–3039.

Synthetic Photochemistry & Methods Development: Photochemistry utilizes energy in the form of light to drive unique and otherwise unfavorable chemical reactions. The objective of this work is to develop broadly useful photosynthetic methods for small molecule synthesis. **Representative Publication:** Shields, Benjamin J.; Doyle, Abigail G. "Direct C(sp³)-H Cross Coupling Enabled by Catalytic Generation of Chlorine Radicals" *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2016**, 138, 12719–12722.

Select Presentations & Awards

"Leadership Award in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry", *BMS*, **2023**.

"Bayesian optimization as an approach to drug development", *MABC*, **2021**.

"Bayesian reaction optimization", *Center for Computer Assisted Synthesis*, **2020**.

"Machine learning in methods development", *Green Chemistry & Engineering*, **2019**.