

Ben Cookson

GRADUATE STUDENT · UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Education

University of Toronto

PHD + MSc COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Advisors: Allan Borodin and Nisarg Shah

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Sept 2023 - Present

University of New Brunswick

BACHELOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

- GPA: 4.3/4.3

Fredericton, NB, Canada

Sept 2018 - May 2023

Publications

Full versions of all papers can be found at bcookson.github.io

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- C1. **Temporal Fair Division**, Benjamin Cookson, Soroush Ebadian, Nisarg Shah, in Proc. of 39th Annual AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI'25), 2025. (Vol. 39, No. 13, pp. 13727-13734)
- C2. **Constrained Fair and Efficient Allocations**, Benjamin Cookson, Soroush Ebadian, Nisarg Shah, in Proc. of 39th Annual AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI'25), 2025. (Vol. 39, No. 13, pp. 13718-13726)
- C3. **Fairly Stable Two-Sided Matching With Indifferences**, Benjamin Cookson, Nisarg Shah, in Proc. of Twenty-Sixth ACM Conference on Economics and Computation, 2025 (pp. 1130-1130)
- C4. **Unifying Proportional Fairness in Centroid and Non-Centroid Clustering**, Benjamin Cookson, Nisarg Shah, Ziqi Yu, in Proc. of The Thirty-Ninth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2025 (Forthcoming)
- C5. **Fairness Perceptions of Large Language Models**, Benjamin Cookson, Soroush Ebadian, Nisarg Shah, in Proc. of 40th Annual AAAI Conf. on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI'26), 2026. (Forthcoming)

Professional Experience

- 2023-2025 **Research Assistant**, University of Toronto
- 2023-2025 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Toronto
- 2022-2023 **Cybersecurity Student Researcher**, National Research Council Canada
- 2020-2023 **Software Developer Intern**, IBM Canada

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

- 2025-2026 **SRI Graduate Fellow**, Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society \$ 7500
- 2023-2025 **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**, Government of Canada \$ 30,000
- 2023 **Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick Silver Medal**, University of New Brunswick
- Govind and Lakshmi Gujar Computer Science Prize**, University of New Brunswick \$ 1,000

Teaching Experience

- 2024, 2025 **CSC373 - Algorithm Design, Analysis and Complexity**, Teaching Assistant UofT
- 2024 **CSC240 - Enriched Introduction to the Theory of Computation**, Teaching Assistant UofT
- 2023 **CSC110 - Foundations of Computer Science I**, Teaching Assistant UofT

Professional Service _____

Journal Reviewer For: ACM Transactions on Economics and Computation (TEAC), Games and Economic Behavior (GEB),
Algorithmica, Artificial Intelligence (AIJ)

Conference Reviewer For: AAAI 2026, FAccT 2025