

# Paula Navarrete

(413) 362-5551 | pnavarretedi@umass.edu | linkedin.com/in/paula-navarrete-diaz | cheerstopaula.github.io

## Education

---

**University of Massachusetts Amherst.** Ph.D. in Computer Science Amherst, MA

Advisor: Yair Zick. GPA: 4.0

2022 –Expected: 2027

Coursework: Advanced Algorithms, Advanced Natural Language Processing, Artificial Intelligence, Game Theory and Fairness, Database Design and Implementation, Probabilistic Graphical Models.

**Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC).** M.S. in Engineering

Santiago, Chile

Advisor: Rodrigo Cienfuegos. GPA: 3.89

2016 –2019

Thesis: Assessment of the tsunami forecast capacity using sea surface data assimilation [J3]

**Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC).** B.S. in Mathematical Engineering

Santiago, Chile

GPA: 3.64

2012 –2016

Relevant Coursework: Linear Algebra, Stochastic Models, Probabilities Theory, Statistical Inference, Regression Analysis, Multivariate Calculus, Simulations, Optimization under uncertainty, Real Analysis.

## Experience

---

**Graduate Research Assistant.** University of Massachusetts Amherst

Feb 2024 – Present

Algorithmic design, analysis, and implementation, combinatorial optimization and fair division

Amherst, MA

- Develop and analyze fair, efficient algorithms for applications such as course allocation [W1] and chore division
- Translate theoretical insights into implementable solutions, balancing efficiency with real-world constraints
- Perform time complexity analysis and establish theoretical guarantees for algorithmic performance
- Lead data collection and analysis using real-world data
- Design experiments, run simulations, and conduct statistical analyses to assess practical effectiveness

**Data Science Intern.** Data Science for the Common Good program (DS4CG)

May 2024 – Sept 2024

Developed web tool for iNaturalist to improve species range predictions with expert feedback

Amherst, MA

- Designed and implemented a backend database to store machine learning predictions and user annotations
- Built interactive front-end features, including a hexagonal grid for map annotations
- Collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to deploy a human-in-the-loop workflow for biodiversity data quality

**Data Scientist.** PUC Energy and Complex Systems Lab

Jun 2021 – Jul 2022

Project lead on short and long term time series forecasting for solar energy and electric demand

Santiago, Chile

- Integrated deep learning models into solar operation management software
- Connected models to a database with real-time measurement inputs
- Created protocols to handle outliers and patch missing data for model training
- Co-authored journal article on MDP models for solar farm cleaning [J1]

**Researcher.** Research Center for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (CIGIDEN)

Mar 2019 – May 2021

Developed new techniques for non-seismic data based Near-Real time Tsunami forecasting

Santiago, Chile

- Built PCA algorithm to select and cluster candidate tsunami observation points
- Implemented near-real time data assimilation algorithm for tsunami forecasting
- Developed heuristic to optimize networks, achieving state-of-the-art forecasts with only three additional stations
- First author on a peer-reviewed journal publication [J3] and coauthor on two related publications [J2, J4]

Collaborated in public funding research project

- Formulated Bayesian inference approach for tsunami source reconstruction through an inverse problem
- Achieved state of the art tsunami forecasts by relying in sea surface observations rather than seismic data

**Research Fellow.** Earthquake Research Institute (ERI), University of Tokyo

Oct 2017 – Nov 2017

Supervisor: Kenji Satake

Tokyo, Japan

Research on Empirical Orthogonal Functions and Data Assimilation for tsunami forecasting

## Publications and Academic Works

---

- [W1] G. Bissias, C. Cousins, **P. Navarrete\*** and Y. Zick. 2025. Deploying Fair and Efficient Course Allocation Mechanisms. In Submission.
- [O1] **P. Navarrete\***, C. Cousins, G. Bissias and Y. Zick. 2024. Deploying Fair and Efficient Course Allocation Mechanisms. In Incentives of Academia Workshop of the 25th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC'24).
- [J1] M. González-Castillo, **P. Navarrete**, T. Tapia, Á. Lorca, D. Olivares, and M. Negrete-Pincetic. 2023. Cleaning scheduling in photovoltaic solar farms with deterministic and stochastic optimization. Sustainable Energy, Grids and Networks, vol. 36, p. 101–147, 2023.
- [J2] Y. Wang, H. Tsushima, K. Satake and **P. Navarrete**. 2021. Review on recent progress in near-field tsunami forecasting using offshore tsunami measurements: Source inversion and data assimilation. Pure and Applied Geophysics, pp. 1–20.
- [J3] **P. Navarrete\***, R. Cienfuegos, K. Satake, Y. Wang, A. Urrutia, R. Benavente, P. Catalán, J. Crempien and I. Mulia. 2020. Sea surface network optimization for tsunami forecasting in the near field: Application to the 2015 illapel earthquake. Geophysical Journal International, vol. 221, no. 3, pp. 1640–1650.
- [J4] Y. Wang, K. Satake, R. Cienfuegos, M. Quiroz and **P. Navarrete**. 2019. Far-field tsunami data assimilation for the 2015 illapel earthquake. Geophysical Journal International, vol. 219, no. 1, pp. 514–521.

Key: [J] Journal publication; [W] Working paper; [O] Other; \* Lead Author

## Teaching Experience

---

<b>Teaching Assistant.</b> University of Massachusetts Amherst	Fall 2022 –Spring 2024
Introduction to Computation, Reasoning Under Uncertainty, Artificial Intelligence	
<b>Teaching Associate.</b> University of Massachusetts Amherst	Fall 2023
Instructor for the course Introduction to Python	
<b>Adjunct Faculty.</b> Pontifical Catholic University of Chile	Spring 2020–Spring 2022
Head Instructor for the Stochastic Models engineering course	
<b>Teaching Assistant.</b> Pontifical Catholic University of Chile	Spring 2013 –Fall 2018
Calculus, Linear Algebra, Marketing, Stochastic Models	

## Other Academic Activities

---

- Invited to the Santiago Summer Workshop on Combinatorial Optimization 2025, at Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.
- Invited to the Dagstuhl seminar on “Fair Division: Algorithms, Solution Concepts, and Applications” (2024), Wadern, Germany.
- One of two selected speakers at the Incentives of Academia Workshop of the 25th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC'24), for the work titled “Deploying Fair and Efficient Course Allocation Mechanisms” in collaboration with C. Cousins, G. Bissias and Y. Zick.
- Poster presenter at the Columbia Workshop on Fairness in Operations and AI. Columbia University, New York, 2023, on the work titled “Efficient Yankee Swap for Fairly Allocating Courses to Students” with C. Cousins, V. Viswanathan and Y. Zick.
- Received PUC School of Engineering Letter of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching, 2022.
- Awarded Most Inspiring Professor of the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department, 2020.
- Received JASSO Grant for exchange students in Japan, 2017.

## Skills

---

**Programming:** Python, SQL, MATLAB, C#, Java, Bash, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, R, Excel  
**Libraries:** NumPy, Pandas, Networkx, Matplotlib, Pytorch, JAX