Christopher R. Collins

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http://crcollins.com

Education

- **Carnegie Mellon University** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  Ph.D. in Theoretical/Computational Chemistry — *2014 – 2019 Expected*
  Thesis Topic: Using Machine Learning and Molecular Similarity to Predict Chemical Properties
- **University of North Georgia** — **Dahlonega, GA**
  B.S. in Chemistry with Chemical Physics Concentration — *2010 – 2014*

Research

- **Carnegie Mellon University** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  Graduate Student; Advisor: David Yaron — *2014 – Present*
  - Developed parallel and distributed code for optimizing INDO parameters with SGD (50x speedup on 60 core cluster)
  - Achieved state-of-the-art performance predicting polymer properties with deep learning with multi-task regression
  - Invented new molecular descriptors that reduced previous prediction errors by 50% while reducing $O(n^2)$ storage costs to $O(1)$
  - Implemented ranking heuristic for global minimum energy conformation search using kernel ridge regression
  - Developed method for predicting atomic forces using by differentiating LSTM-based energy models
  - Examined LASSO regression model for feature selection in Density Functional Theory Model
  - Managed two groups of ML masters students on big data term projects (one active learning and the other multilabel/ranking classification)
- **University of North Georgia** — **Dahlonega, GA**
  Undergraduate Researcher; Advisor: Aimée Tomlinson — *2011 – 2014*
  - Researched Benzobisazole Cruciform structures using DFT for use as efficient organic solar cells
  - Built set of tools to automate research process (reduced hours of work to minutes)
  - Formulated SVM model for predicting Benzobisazole properties (orders of magnitude faster than comparable methods for the same accuracy)
- **Carnegie Mellon University** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  Undergraduate Researcher; Advisor: David Yaron — *Summer 2013*
  - Researched decomposition of Thiaphospholes using quantum computational methods
  - Wrote MATLAB code to automate running Gaussian/AMPAC calculations and parsing results
  - Wrote code to calculate molecular overlaps and generate molecular orbital diagrams
  - Created routines to draw structures with molecular orbital overlaps indicated on each atom

Work Experience

- **Google, Inc.** — **Los Angeles, CA**
  Software Engineering Intern; Host: Laura Book — *Summer 2018*
- **Google, Inc.** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  Software Engineering Intern; Host: John Tantalo — *Summer 2017*

- Implemented and deployed library for path critical data transfer format (all traffic in Google Shopping)
- Developed code generation code with multiple target languages (Python, Java, C++) for data format API
- Developed design documents for further migration to library

- **Tripwire, Inc.** **Alpharetta, GA**
  Engineering Intern *2012 – 2014*

  - Rewrote entire test suite for Benchmark product using Selenium and PyTest (Python)
  - Aided in migration of critical IP360 product and wrote automated test suite for API
  - Maintained and expanded installation automation for CCM product
  - Wrote automated script to test for CSRF and XSS vulnerabilities in IP360 web application

Technical Skills

Proficient Languages: Python, MATLAB, Octave, Javascript, C, C++ , Bash, Java, Mathematica, LaTeX, HTML5, SQL

Familiar Languages: Go, CUDA C, TI-BASIC, CSS, Maple, Haskell, ASM (self built CPU), x86 ASM, Ruby

Software: *nix (Linux, Centos, FreeBSD, AIX, Solaris), Vim, Gaussian/AMPAC, Git, SVN, SSH, rsync, coreutils, Make, Logisim, Vagrant, PostgreSQL, Varnish, Hadoop, MapReduce, Spark, AWS, nginx, Apache, Torque, ab, LabVIEW, Pig/GuineaPig

Libraries: NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Scikit-Learn, Pandas, Django, CVXPY, CVX, Keras, PyBrain, Caffe, Protobuf, Jinja2, TensorFlow, Theano, Selenium, Paramiko, PyTest, Bootstrap, jQuery, jQueryUI, Swig, SDL, OpenMP, OpenMPI, SCIP

Side Projects

- **MolML** (`https://github.com/crcollins/molml`)

  - Library to extract features from molecules
    - Extracts features at the atom, molecule, or crystal level (~20-30 descriptors)
    - Parallel feature generation
    - Automated transformation saving/loading/packaging
  - Full automated testing suite (100% code coverage)

- **Chemtools/Chemtools-Webapp** (`https://gauss.crcollins.com`)

  - Implemented a set of tools for use in Benzobisazole research
    - Gaussian log output parser to collect molecular properties
    - Machine learning model to predict polymer properties from oligomers
    - Molecule graph detector/classifier
    - Benzobisazole structure generator and machine learning predictor for optoelectronic properties
    - Supercomputer job submitter and curator
  - Full automated testing suite (over 95% code coverage)
  - Python/Django Application with a Bootstrap front end
  - Vagrant VM build system

- **pyOS**

  - Implementation of a *nix like operating system using Python
  - Created shell similar to Bash Shell
  - Reimplemented standard unix programs (cp, mv, rm, ls, etc)
  - Included permissions, pipes, multiple users, and a virtual file system

- **Other**

  - 8 bit CPU (Logisim)
  - Mandelbrot/Buddhabrot Generator (Python, Javascript, C/C++ , CUDA C, TI-BASIC)
  - Various Quadtree Visualizations (Python, C/C++ , Javascript)

- Cellular Automata Based Electronic Simulation (Javascript)
- Object Relation Management Library (Python/SQL)
- University Course Scraper (Python)
- Cryptography Library (Python, Logisim)
- Automated Peer Review System Web Application (Python/Django)
- Virtual Cluster and Server Architecture Vagrant Builds
- Resident-Hospital Matching Program (Python, SCIP)

Courses

- (UNG) Linear Algebra
- (UNG) Intro to MATLAB
- (UNG) Intro to Cryptography
- (UNG) Differential Equations
- (UNG) Computational Methods in Physics
- (Udacity) Into to Parallel Programming
- (CMU) Convex Optimization
- (CMU) Machine Learning
- (CMU) Statistical Machine Learning
- (CMU) Graduate Artificial Intelligence
- (CMU) Deep Learning
- (CMU) Machine Learning with Large Datasets
- (CMU) Deep Reinforcement Learning and Control
- (CMU) Intermediate Statistics
- (CMU) Quantum Chemistry
- (CMU) Special Topics in Computational Quantum Chemistry
- (CMU) Computational Chemistry

Publications

- **Collins, C. R.** ; Li, H.; Gordon, G. J.; Yaron, D. J. Continuous Bag of Bonds: A Size-Consistent Way of Representing Molecules. *In Progress*.
- **Collins, C. R.** ; Tomlinson, A. L. Application of Machine Learning to Predict the Optoelectronic Properties of Benzobisazoles. *In Progress*.
- Li, H.; **Collins, C. R.** ; Ribelli, T. G.; Matyjaszewski, K.; Gordon, G. J.; Kowalewski, T.; Yaron, D. J. Tuning the Molecular Weight Distribution from Atom Transfer Radical Polymerization Using Deep Reinforcement Learning. arXiv:1712.04516 **2017**.
- **Collins, C. R.** ; Gordon, G. J.; von Lilienfeld, O. A.; Yaron, D. J. Constant Size Molecular Descriptors For Use With Machine Learning. arXiv:1701.06649 **2017**.
- **Collins, C. R.** ; Yaron, D. J. Developing Coarse-Grained Site Models for Excited Electronic States of Conjugated Polymers. *SPIE* **2015**.
- Qiu, Y.; Worch, J. C.; Chirdon, D. N.; Kaur, A.; Maurer, A. B.; Amsterdam, S.; **Collins, C. R.** ; Pintauer, T.; Yaron, D.; Bernhard, S.; Noonan, K. J. T. Tuning Thiophene with Phosphorus: Synthesis and Electronic Properties of Benzobisthiaphospholes. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**.
- Tlach, B. C.; Tomlinson, A. L.; Morgan, K. D.; **Collins, C. R.** ; Jeffries-EL, M. Evaluation of the Impact of Extended Conjugation on the Optoelectronic Properties Benzo[1,2-d:4,5-d']bisoxazole Polymers. *Aust. J. Chem.* **2013**.

Presentations and Posters

- **Using Active Learning in Quantum Chemistry to Reduce Experimental Costs** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU 10-805 Machine Learning with Large Datasets Term Project — *2017*
- **A Data-driven Approach for Selecting Optimal Quantum Chemical Methods** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU 10-805 Machine Learning with Large Datasets Term Project — *2017*

- **Using Generative Adversarial Networks to Estimate Uncertainty in Quantum Chemical Methods by Exploiting Similarity in Chemical Compound Space** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU Original Proposal — *2017*
- **Dueling Recurrent Network for Partially Observable Markov Decision Process** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU 10-703 Deep Reinforcement Learning and Control Term Project — *2017*
- **Accelerating the (Augmented) Roothaan-Hall Method in Solving the Density Functional Theory Problem** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU 10-725 Convex Optimization Term Project — *2016*
- **Constant Size Molecular Descriptors For Use With Machine Learning** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  Midwest Theoretical Chemistry Conference — *2016*
- **Constant Size Molecular Descriptors For Use With Machine Learning** — **Zürich, Switzerland**
  CECAM Chemical Space Workshop — *2016*
- **Using Data to Accelerate Quantum Chemical Calculations by Getting Better at Guessing** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU 15-780 Graduate Artificial Intelligence Term Project — *2016*
- **Using Machine Learning and Molecular Similarity to Predict Chemical Properties** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU Progress Report — *2016*
- **Using Machine Learning and Molecular Similarity to Predict Chemical Properties** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU Chemistry Department Poster Session — *2016*
- **Predicting Chemical Properties Using Machine Learning Methods** — **Farmington, PA**
  CMU Chemistry Department Retreat Poster Session — *2015*
- **The Influence of Chemical Representations on the Efficiency of Molecular Screening** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU Graduate Seminar — *2015*
- **A Mission to Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS) and Its Otherworldly Neighbors** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU 10-702 Statistical Machine Learning Term Project — *2015*
- **Predicting Chemical Properties Using Machine Learning Methods** — **Pittsburgh, PA**
  CMU 10-701 Machine Learning Term Project — *2014*
- **Application of Machine Learning to Predict the Optoelectronic Properties of Benzobisazoles** — **Dahlonega, GA**
  UNG Senior Seminar — *2014*
- **Machine Learning in Chemical Compound Space** — **Dahlonega, GA**
  UNG Junior Seminar — *2013*
- **Donor-Acceptor Behavior of Benzobisazole Cruciformic Polymers** — **Atlanta, GA**
  American Chemical Society Southeastern Regional Meeting — *2013*
- **The Impact of Conjugation Length on Benzobisazole Cruciforms** — **Raleigh, NC**
  American Chemical Society Southeastern Regional Meeting — *2012*
  - Runner-up Undergraduate Poster in Organic Chemistry

Teaching

- Teaching Assistant
  - 09-221 Laboratory I: Introduction to Chemical Analysis
  - 09-214 Physical Chemistry
  - 09-101 Introduction to Experimental Chemistry (2 times)
  - 09-103 Atoms, Molecules, and Chemical Change
  - 09-231 Mathematical Methods for Chemists
  - 09-106 Modern Chemistry II
  - 09-107 Honors Chemistry
- Weekly Lecture Series in Theory Suite (Organizer)
  - Intro to Python
  - Intro to Bash Scripting (2 lectures)
  - Intro to Object Oriented Programming
  - Intro to NumPy (2 lectures)

Awards

- State Level Technology Literacy Challenge Winner
- Runner-up Undergraduate Poster
- 2nd Place Spam Classifier in CMU Machine Learning out of about 100.

Service

- CMU Graduate Student Assembly Representative
- Mellon College of Science Graduate Student Advisory Committee
- Department of Chemistry Social Committee
- Department of Chemistry Student Ambassador
- MellonFit Treasurer and Authorized Signer