

DEREK HART

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TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

- Used Python and Bash to acquire and analyze DNA simulations performed on remote high-performance cluster
- Built machine learning models using Scikit-learn and Keras to make predictions from complicated datasets
- Long-term experience communicating technical information in oral presentations and written publications
- Developed software in C++ and Matlab to collect and process experimental microscopy data

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta GA

- Ph.D. in Physics, Minor in Advanced Optics Expected Sep 2022
- M.S. in Physics, GPA: 3.70/4.00 2018
- Award: Georgia Tech Institute Fellowship

Colorado School of Mines, Golden CO

- B.S. in Engineering Physics, GPA: 3.87/4.00 2016
- Award: Physics Faculty Distinguished Graduate

SKILLS

Programming: Python (Scikit-Learn, Keras, Seaborn, Matplotlib, Pandas), C++, Bash, R, SQL, LaTeX, Javascript, Octave

Software: MATLAB, oxDNA, Linux, Adobe Suite, Visual Studio, RStudio, Microsoft Suite

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist (*professional development*) 2022
Predicting wheat phenotypic traits

- Built a “genotype to phenotype model” for a wheat breeding line dataset using Support Vector Regression
- Efficiently selected optimal hyperparameters using Bayesian search cross-validation

Predicting house prices

- Estimated house prices with high accuracy using Random Forest and XGBoost models
- Performed feature analysis and visualization to choose estimator inputs
- Built scikit-learn pipeline to impute and encode categorical inputs

Predicting diabetes risk

- Created a diabetes diagnostic test with a neural network model using Keras
- Rebalanced survey data with random oversampling
- Ranked diabetes risk factors using permutation importance

Graduate Research Assistant

2017 - Present

Kim Lab, School of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta GA

Computational project: Coarse-grained DNA modeling

- Constructed, organized, and performed oxDNA simulations using Bash in a high-performance computing environment
- Used Python tools such as Pandas and Seaborn to collect, aggregate, analyze, and plot large datasets
- Implemented a forward flux sampling to efficiently capture rare biological events on computationally feasible timescales

Experimental project: Single-molecule DNA biophysics

- Coded software in C++ to interact with scientific camera and other optical instruments via a user-friendly interface
- Created a collection of MATLAB scripts to process raw video data as well as analyze FRET trace data

- Designed and implemented a unique single-molecule DNA assay using molecular biology techniques
- Custom built a total internal reflection microscope

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2016 - 2019

School of Physics, Georgia Institute of Technology, *Atlanta GA*

- Developed students' problem solving and programming skills in group and individual settings
- Evaluated exams and study materials with instructors to improve course outcomes

Private Tutor

2013 - 2016

CollegeDrive Test Prep and Tutoring, *Denver CO*

- Interacted one-on-one with hundreds of high school students from all backgrounds for ACT, SAT & AP exams
- Designed custom lesson plans for each client to fit their goals and time-constraints
- Mediated difficult parent-student relationships, matching their expectations for better results

Research Fellowship

June 2015 - July 2015

National Institute of Standards and Technology, *Gaithersburg MD*

- Calibrated advanced mass sensor instruments used in ongoing work at a leading research organization during an 8-week summer program
- Independently learned to operate and extract data from a laser Doppler vibrometer
- Interpreted, visualized and presented critical results to a technical audience via oral presentation

Laboratory Internship

May 2014 - July 2014

Los Alamos National Laboratory, *Los Alamos NM*

- Explored using nuclear magnetic resonance methods to measure the water content in drought-stricken aspens in a 10-week summer program.
- Presented novel methods and results in both a written report and poster presentation

PUBLICATIONS

Hart, D.J., Jeong, J., Gumbart, J.C., and Kim, H.D. (2022) Weak tension accelerates hybridization and dehybridization of short oligonucleotides. *bioRxiv* [in peer review]

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Annual Meeting of the International Physics of Living Systems Network

University of Montpellier, *Montpellier, France*

- Weak tension accelerates hybridization and dehybridization of short oligonucleotides 2022

Physics of Living System Seminar

Georgia Institute of Technology, *Atlanta GA*

- Kinetics of DNA melting and hybridization under small tension 2021
- How do DNA bending and twisting affect CRISPR-Cas12 binding and cleavage? 2019
- Tracking Polymer Tangles 2018

Annual Meeting of the American Physical Society

Virtual conference

- Nucleic acid melting under small tension 2021