

# DANIEL IRVING BERNSTEIN

<https://dibernstein.github.io>

dibernst@mit.edu  $\diamond$  bernstein.daniel@gmail.com

**Research interests:** Algebraic statistics, applied algebraic geometry, causal inference, matrix completion, rigidity theory, tropical geometry, phylogenetics, contingency tables, convex and discrete geometry,

## EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

---

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 2021        | Jerrold E. Mardsen Postdoc, Fields Institute                                 |
| 2018 – 2020 | NSF Postdoc, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Mentor: Caroline Uhler)  |
| 2018        | ICERM Postdoc, Brown University  |
| 2018 Ph.D.  | North Carolina State University, Mathematics (advisor: Seth Sullivant)       |
| 2015 M.S.   | North Carolina State University, Mathematics                                 |
| 2013 B.S.   | Davidson College, Mathematics (departmental honors, <i>magna cum laude</i> ) |

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2021 | Jerrold E. Marsden Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$35,000 CAD)                     |
| 2018 | NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (\$150,000 USD)    |
| 2018 | NC State Math Department Winton-Rose Award (\$1,000 USD)                      |
| 2013 | North Carolina State University Graduate Fellowship (\$4,000 USD)             |
| 2013 | William G. McGavock Mathematics Award (Davidson College Math Department)      |
| 2013 | Patterson Prize for talk given at the MAA Southeastern Section Spring Meeting |

## PAPERS

---

### Submitted papers and preprints

- Generic symmetry-forced infinitesimal rigidity: translations and rotations. Submitted. arXiv:2003.10529.
- On Alignment in Deep Linear Neural Networks (with Adityanarayanan Radhakrishnan, Eshaan Nichani, and Caroline Uhler). Submitted. arXiv:2003.06340
- Typical ranks in symmetric matrix completion (with Greg Blekherman and Kisun Lee). Submitted. arXiv:1909.06593

### Journal Papers

- The algebraic matroid of the funtf variety (with Cameron Farnsworth and Jose Israel Rodriguez). *Journal of Pure and Applied Algebra*, Volume 224, Issue 8, August 2020. arXiv:1812.10353
- L-infinity optimization to Bergman fans of matroids with an application to phylogenetics. *SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics*, 34, no. 1 (2020): 701-720. arXiv:1702.05141
- The tropical Cayley-Menger variety (with Robert Krone). *SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics*, **33** (2019) no.3, pp. 1725–1742. arXiv:1812.09370
- Typical and Generic Ranks in Matrix Completion (with Greg Blekherman and Rainer Sinn). *Linear algebra and its applications*, Volume 585, 15 January 2020, pp. 71-104. arXiv:1802.09513
- Unimodular hierarchical models and their Graver bases (with Christopher O’Neill). *Journal of Algebraic Statistics*. **8** (2017) no. 2. <https://doi.org/10.18409/jas.v8i2.66>. arXiv:1704.09018
- Completion of tree metrics and rank 2 matrices. *Linear Algebra and its Applications*. **533** (2017), pp. 1-13. arXiv:1612.06797
- L-infinity optimization to linear spaces and phylogenetic trees (with Colby Long). *SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics*. **31** (2017) no. 2, pp. 875-889. arXiv:1702.05127

5. Unimodular binary hierarchical models (with Seth Sullivant). *Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series B.* **123** (2017), pp. 97-125. arXiv:1502.06131
4. Normal binary hierarchical models (with Seth Sullivant). *Experimental Mathematics.* **26** (2017) no. 2 pp. 153-164. arXiv:1508.05461
3. Bounds on the expected size of the maximum agreement subtree (with Lam Si Tung Ho, Colby Long, Mike Steel, Katherine St. John and Seth Sullivant). *SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics.* **29** (2015) no. 4, pp. 2065-2074. arXiv:1411.7338
2. On three sets with nondecreasing diameter (with Carl Yerger and David J. Grynkiewicz). *Discrete Mathematics.* **338** (2015) no. 8, pp. 1328-1344. arXiv:1407.5122

### Refereed conference proceedings

1. Ordering-based causal structure learning in the presence of latent variables (with Basil Saeed, Chandler Squires, and Caroline Uhler). *The 23rd International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2020)*. arXiv:1910.09014

## TALKS

---

### Invited conference talks

24. Rigidity of symmetry-forced frameworks. Would have been between June 22-26. Algebraic Statistics 2020 at University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, became a contributed online talk.
23. Title not determined. Would have been between June 15-17. FOCM workshop in computational algebraic geometry at Simon Fraser University. Canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
22. *The tropical Cayley-Menger variety*. April 4, 2020. Special Session on Rigidity Theory, Distance Geometry and Applications. AMS Spring Central Sectional Meeting at Purdue University. Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic. Would have been between March 15-21.
21. *The algebraic matroid of a Hadamard product of linear spaces*. Would have been between March 15-21 at the Oberwolfach workshop, *Algebraic structures in statistical methodology*. Canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.
20. *Tropical geometry in rigidity theory*. January 13, 2020. Discrete structures, a Heilbronn focused research group. Lancaster University, UK.
19. *The tropical Cayley-Menger variety*. July 17, 2019. Algebra meets combinatorics in Neuchatel. University of Neuchatel, Switzerland.
18. *\*The tropical Cayley-Menger variety*. July 9, 2019. SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry, minisymposium on algebraic geometry of low-rank matrix completion. Bern, Switzerland (\*self-invite, I spoke at the session I organized).
17. *Nonlinear algebra and matrix completion*. November 16, 2018. Nonlinear algebra in applications workshop at Brown University, ICERM.
16. *Using tropical geometry to characterize the algebraic matroid for rank-2 matrix completion*. July 13, 2018. SIAM Annual Meeting, minisymposium on distance geometry. Portland, OR.
15. *Typical and generic ranks in low-rank matrix completion*. April 21, 2018. AMS Spring Eastern Sectional Meeting at Northeastern University. Special Session on Algebraic Statistics.
14. *Tropical linear spaces in phylogenetics*. September 23, 2017. AMS Fall Southeastern Sectional Meeting at University of Central Florida. Special Session on Mathematics of Biomolecules: Discrete, Algebraic, and Topological.
13. *Tropical Geometry for Rigidity Theory and Matrix Completion*. August 1, 2017. SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry, minisymposium on algebraic methods in rigidity theory. Atlanta, Georgia
12. *Tropical linear spaces in phylogenetics*. May 27, 2017. Interactions between algebra and the sciences. Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences. Leipzig, Germany

11. *Combinatorial properties of hierarchical models*. July 11, 2016. SIAM Annual Meeting, minisymposium on algebraic statistics
10. *Toric Varieties in Statistics*. April 9, 2016. Meeting on Algebraic Geometry for Applications. Clemson University. Clemson, SC.
9. *Hierarchical Models: Normality and Related Properties*. Oct 3, 2015. 2015 AMS fall central sectional meeting, special session on algebraic statistics and its interactions with combinatorics, computation, and network science. Loyola University. Chicago, IL.

### Seminar talks and guest lectures

8. Virtual seminar on algebraic matroids and rigidity theory (March 26, 2020)
7. Valley geometry seminar at UMass Amherst (October 25, 2019)
6. Discrete math seminar at Texas State University (May 3, 2019)
5. Guest lecture in Ngoc Tran's tropical geometry class at UT Austin (May 2, 2019)
4. Applied algebra and geometry seminar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Nov 21, 2017)
3. Algebra, geometry, and combinatorics seminar at San Francisco State University (Oct 19, 2016)
2. Combinatorics, algebra, convexity, algorithms and optimization seminar at UC Davis (Oct 17, 2016)
1. Graduate student algebra seminar at NC State, about once each semester while in grad school

### SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

---

6. Virtual seminar on algebraic matroids and rigidity theory. Spring 2020-
5. SIAM minisymposium co-organizer: *Algebraic geometry of low rank matrix completion* at the SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry. Bern, Switzerland, July 9, 2019.
4. Co-organizer of the seminar in Algebra, Statistics and Optimization. Spring 2019-
3. AMS special session co-organizer: *AMS Special Session on Algebraic Statistics (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)* at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. Atlanta GA, January 5, 2017.
2. Conference co-organizer: *Second Triangle Area Math Graduate Conference*. Raleigh NC, October 24, 2015.
1. Conference co-organizer: *First Triangle Area Math Graduate Conference*. Raleigh NC, March 21, 2015.

### STUDENT MENTORING

---

1. Ian Limarta, MIT. Undergraduate research project in an application of matrix completion to fMRI studies.

### CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

---

33. *Discrete structures*, a Heilbronn focused research group at Lancaster University, UK (January 13-21, 2020)
32. *Algebra meets combinatorics*, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland (July 15-17, 2019)
31. *SIAM conference on applied algebraic geometry*, Bern, Switzerland (July 9-13, 2019)
30. *Bi-annual algebraic and tropical meetings of Brown and Yale* at Yale (November 29, 2018)
29. *Applied Algebra Day* at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (November 17, 2018)
28. *Nonlinear Algebra in Applications* at Brown University, ICERM (November 12-16, 2018)
27. *Real Algebraic Geometry and Optimization* at Brown University, ICERM (October 15-19, 2018)
26. *Algebraic Geometry Northeastern Series* at Brown University (September 21-23, 2018)
25. *Core Computational Methods* at Brown University, ICERM (September 17-21, 2018)
24. *Nonlinear Algebra Bootcamp* at Brown University, ICERM (September 5-12, 2018)
23. *SIAM Annual Meeting* in Portland, OR (July 9-13, 2018)
22. *AMS Spring Eastern Sectional Meeting* at Northeastern University (April 21-22, 2018)

21. *AMS Fall Southeastern Sectional Meeting* at University of Central Florida (September 23-24, 2017)
20. *SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry* at Georgia Tech (July 31-August 4, 2017)
19. *NSF/CBMS Conference on Tensors and Their Uses in Approximation Theory, Quantum Information Theory and Geometry* at Auburn University (July 24-28, 2017)
18. *Algebraic and Combinatorial Phylogenetics* at Barcelona Graduate School of Mathematics (June 26-30, 2017)
17. *Interactions Between Algebra and the Sciences* at Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Leipzig, Saxony, Germany (June 27, 2017)
16. *Computing in Tropical Geometry* at Zuse Institute Berlin (May 11-12, 2017)
15. *Joint Mathematics Meetings* (January 4 - 7, 2017)
14. *MSRI Summer School on Tropical Curves and Chip Firing* (July 25 - August 5, 2016).
13. *SIAM Annual Meeting* in Boston, MA (July 11 - 15, 2016).
12. *Summer School on Algebra, Statistics, and Combinatorics* at Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland (June 27 - July 2, 2016).
11. *AMS Mathematical Research Communities in Algebraic Statistics*, Snowbird UT (June 12-18, 2016).
10. *Meeting on Algebraic Geometry for Applications* at Clemson University, (April 9, 2016).
9. *AMS Fall Central Sectional Meeting* at Loyola University Chicago. (October 3-4, 2015).
8. *Macaulay2 Workshop* at Boise State University (May 27-30, 2015)
7. *Forty-Sixth Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing* at Florida Atlantic University (March 2-6, 2015)
6. *NSF/CBMS Conference on Mathematical Phylogeny* at Winthrop University (June 28 - July 22, 2014)
5. *Algebraic Statistics* at Illinois Institute of Technology (May 19-22, 2014)
4. *Joint Mathematics Meetings* (Jan 15-18, 2014)
3. *MAA Southeastern Section Spring Meeting* at Winthrop University (Spring 2013)
2. *MAA Southeastern Section Spring Meeting* at Clayton State University (Spring 2012)
1. *Workshop in Epidemic Models* at SAMSI and NCSU (May 16 - 20, 2011)

## JOURNALS REFEREED

---

American Mathematical Monthly; SIAM Journal on Applied Algebra and Geometry; Journal of Algebraic Statistics; Forum of Mathematics, Sigma; Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series B

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND OUTREACH

---

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society

2. Mentor to 3 graduate students in the IDSS postdoc/graduate student mentoring program (Fall 2019-)
1. LIDS social committee (Spring 2019)

### Brown University, Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics

1. Co-organizer (with Greg Blekherman and Rainer Sinn) of a working group in matrix completion (Fall 2018)

### North Carolina State University, Mathematics Department

5. Judge at the MAA poster session for undergraduate research at the 2017 JMM (January 6, 2017)
4. Co-organizer (with Emily Barnard) of NCSU's Graduate Student Algebra and Combinatorics Seminar (Fall 2014 - Spring 2017)
3. *Math Circle* (assistant), May 3, 2014

2. *AMS Graduate Student Chapter*, Fall 2013 - Spring 2016
  - Organize professional development and networking events for graduate students including a semesterly conference (see conference organizing)
  - President: Fall 2014 - Spring 2016, Treasurer: Fall 2013 - Fall 2014
1. *Math Doesn't Bug Me Team* (volunteer), Fall 2013 - Present
  - Outreach events for children in elementary and middle school

### **Davidson College, Mathematics Department**

1. *Bernard Society* (officer), Fall 2012 - Spring 2013
  - Organize departmental events

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### **North Carolina State University Mathematics Department**

3. *Calculus III* (Instructor of Record): Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017
2. *Calculus for Life and Management Sciences* (Recitation Leader): Spring 2014 and Fall 2014
1. *Applied Differential Equations* (Lecture Assistant): Fall 2013

### **Davidson College**

2. *Center for Teaching and Learning* (math and computer science tutor), Fall 2011 - Spring 2013
1. *Programming and Problem Solving* (homework grader), Fall 2010

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHING**

---

2. NCSU graduate student teaching assistant spring workshop (May 7, 2014)
1. NCSU graduate student teaching assistant fall workshop (August 14-18, 2014)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

---

2. American Mathematical Society (AMS)
1. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)

## **PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES**

---

Proficient in Java, C, C++, R, Python, Sage, Macaulay2, Mathematica

## **REFERENCES**

---

Seth Sullivant (Ph.D. Advisor)  
Professor of Mathematics  
North Carolina State University  
smsulli2@ncsu.edu

Jesús De Loera  
Professor of Mathematics  
University of California, Davis  
deloera@math.ucdavis.edu

Cynthia Vinzant  
Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
North Carolina State University  
clvinzan@ncsu.edu

Josephine Yu  
Associate Professor of Mathematics  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
jyu@math.gatech.edu

Greg Blekherman  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Associate Professor of Mathematics  
greg@math.gatech.edu

Louis Theran  
Lecturer in the School of Mathematics and Statistics  
University of St. Andrews  
lst6@st-andrews.ac.uk

Caroline Uhler  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Henry L. and Grace Doherty Associate Professor  
cuhler@mit.edu