Davidson Noby Joseph

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School Address

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EDUCATION

Master's of Science, Physics University of Alberta, Canada

GPA: 4.0/4.0

Field: Condensed Matter Theory.

Sep. $2023 \rightarrow \text{Aug. } 2025$

Bachelor of Science, Honors in Mathematical Physics (First Class Honors)

University of Alberta, Canada Sep. $2019 \rightarrow \text{Apr. } 2023$

GPA: 3.7/4.0

Concentrations: Physics & Mathematics.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Position: Master's Student Sep. $2023 \rightarrow Present$

Affiliation: Department of Physics, University of Alberta.

Supervisor: Dr. Igor Boettcher.

PROJECT: Band Theory & Density of States on Archimedean Lattices. (in prep)

Archimedean lattices are convex uniform tessellations of \mathbb{R}^2 . First discovered by Kepler in 1619 and named after Archimedes, each vertex of the lattice is met with the same configuration of regular polygons (modulo rotation) and thus is "homogeneous" in this sense. The condition for completely tiling the whole plane yields only 11 unique such lattices including some of the well known canonical ones viz. "Square", "Triangle" & "Honeycomb" lattices. We studied a nearest-neighbour tight-binding model with hopping amplitude t on these 11 lattices Λ by considering the lattice as an embedded graph $G_{\Lambda} = (V, E)$. This graph theoretic picture naturally induces an adjacency matrix A_{Λ} of the lattice and the eigenvalue problem reduces to that of finding the spectrum of the $-tA_{\Lambda}$. We have computed their band structures and the Density of States (DOS) by exploiting translation symmetry and reducing the eigenvalue problem to that on the unit cell through "Bloch" Adjacency Matrix $A_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{k})$ on \mathbf{k} space .

PROJECT: Graphs & Counting Returning Walks on Archimedean Lattices. (in prep)

We formulated a systematic approach to construct A_{Λ} for all the 11 Archimedean lattices through tensor products of smaller Adjacency matrices. Moreover, we have computed the moments $\langle i|A_{\Lambda}^{n}|i\rangle$ for these Λ , which corresponds to the number of returning walks in n steps on Λ (which we call degenerate loop numbers). These degenerate loop numbers were only known in the literature for the canonical lattices but had not been computed for the remaining eight. Moreover, we developed the theory of "Bloch" generating functions by explicitly constructing the functions $X_{\Lambda}(t, \mathbf{k})$ and proving that when integrated over the Brillouin Zone, these functions reduce to the ordinary generating function $X_{\Lambda}(t)$ whose coefficients yield the degenerate loop numbers. The method can be easily generalized to produce the generating function $X_{\Lambda}^{*}(t)$ for non-backtracking returning walks as well. Using these degenerate loop numbers, we have also computed the DOS of these Λ through the method of continued fraction by calculating coefficients $\{(a_n, b_n)\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$. We have constructed a faster, more reliable recursive method to compute these coefficients given the moments $\langle i|A_{\Lambda}^{n}|i\rangle$ through "Lanczos polynomials" which avoids computing repeated matrix products and sidesteps the problem of loss of orthogonality in standard Lanczos algorithm.

PROJECT: The Ising Model with h = 0 on Archimedean Lattices. (in prep)

We employed the method of Feynman, Kac & Ward in conjunction with our Bloch Adjacency Matrices $A_{\Lambda}(\mathbf{k})$ to solve for the free energy per site $(-\beta f = \frac{\ln(\mathcal{Z})}{N})$ for the Ising model without an external magnetic field and isotropic nearest-neighbour coupling J on all 11 Archimedean Lattices in the thermodynamic limit $N \to \infty$. Our results match the standard results in the literature for the Triangle, Honeycomb and the celebrated Onsager solution for the Square lattice. Our expressions for the critical temperature T_c are in good agreement with standard Monte-Carlo simulations.

Position: Research Assistant May $2023 \rightarrow \text{Aug. } 2023$

AFFILIATION: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences, University of Alberta

Supervisor: Dr. Eric Woolgar

PROJECT: On Special Solutions of the Quasi-Einstein Equations

A Quasi-Einstein manifold is the triplet (\mathcal{M}, g, X) with g as the metric tensor on manifold \mathcal{M} , such that there exists a 1-form X (or equivalently its dual vector field \vec{X}) satisfying the Quasi-Einstein equation that arises in the near-horizon geometry of extremal black holes. The Quasi-Einstein (QE) equation is a generalization of the components of the Ricci tensor on the (n-1)-dimensional Horizon cross section that arises from a certain limiting process of the metric near the horizon (near-horizon limit) when m=2 for a black hole in an (n+1)-dimensional spacetime with cosmological constant λ . We investigated the case when the manifold $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{S}^n$ for the rotationally symmetric warped metric $ds^2 = dr^2 + \zeta^2(r)g(\mathbb{S}_{\operatorname{can}}^{n-1}), \ n \geq 3$ for closed X(r). We reformulated the problem in terms of admissible trajectories on 2-D phase space by transforming the QE equation into an ODE system.

Position: Research Assistant May $2022 \rightarrow \text{Aug. } 2022$

Affiliation: Department of Physics Supervisor: Dr. Igor Boettcher

Project: Anomalous Quantum Wave Dynamics in Hyperbolic Space.

Hyperbolic lattices are simulations of hyperbolic space using discrete lattice geometries that produce an effective negative curvature. They have been realized in ground-breaking experiments with both superconducting resonators and topoelectrical circuits over the last four years. Importantly, the propagation of quantum or classical wave packets is the central experimental probe in these experiments. The emergence of a non-commuting operator, Q beside the (Laplace-Beltrami) Hyperbolic Laplacian (Δ_H) in the Schrödinger equation $(-\Delta_H + \epsilon Q)\psi = E\psi$ alters the time evolution of a plane wave which is an eigenstate of $-\Delta_H$ propagating through these lattices in a non-trivial manner. This operator naturally arises from the expansion of ψ on hyperbolic lattices embedded in the Poincaré Disk; hence, it emerges as a property of the lattice geometry. We characterized this anomalous behaviour through time evolution via numerical simulations in both real and momentum space.

Position: Research Assistant May $2021 \rightarrow \text{May } 2023$

Affiliation: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences Supervisors: Dr. Beatrice Helen Vritsiou & Dr. Sergii Myroshnychenko

PROJECT: On the Illumination of k-dimensional faces of the n-dimensional cube. (in prep)

The Illumination Conjecture, equivalent to the Covering Conjecture presents an upper bound for the minimum number of light sources needed to illuminate the boundary of a Convex body $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ where the upper bound 2^n is satisfied in the case of the hypercube $[-1,1]^n \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. A variant of the Illumination Conjecture by Bezdek, Brass, Moser and Pach which focuses on illuminating the k-dimensional faces of K posits a similar upper bound of 2^{n-k} defined by the k-dimensional faces of the hypercube. We disproved the variant conjecture for the hypercube by showing that it fails for $2 \le k \le n-2, \forall n \ge k+2$. We further showed that it is only true for $k=1, \forall n \ge 3$. Moreover, we found matching upper and matching lower bounds for k=2 and k=n-2.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant Sep. $2024 \rightarrow Present$ Position: DEPARTMENT: Department of Physics PHYS 530, Graduate Statistical Mechanics CLASS: INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Igor Boettcher Grading duties and assignment help. Jan. $2024 \rightarrow \text{Apr. } 2024$ Position: Teaching Assistant DEPARTMENT: Department of Physics PHYS 297, Experimental Physics II Class: INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Aksel Hallin & Dr. Michael Woodside In charge of preparing lectures, grading and supervising students through replicating the classic Frank-Hertz experiment for Hg and Ne as part of the Laboratory section. Position: Teaching Assistant Sep. $2023 \rightarrow Dec. 2023$ DEPARTMENT: Department of Physics PHYS 124, Particles & Waves CLASS: Instructor: Undergraduate Physics Labs (PHYSUGL) In charge of preparing lectures, grading and supervising students for the Lab section for first year labs. Experiments encompass aspects from Newtonian mechanics and periodic motion that relate to topics learnt in class. Position: Teaching Assistant Jan. $2023 \rightarrow \text{May } 2023$ DEPARTMENT: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences MATH 216, Introduction to Analysis Class: Instructor: Dr. Arno Berger Grading duties. Position: Teaching Assistant Sep. $2022 \rightarrow Dec. 2022$ DEPARTMENT: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences MATH 117, Honors Calculus I (Analysis) Class: Dr. Jochen Kuttler Instructor: Grading duties. Position: Jan. $2022 \rightarrow \text{May } 2022$ Teaching Assistant DEPARTMENT: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences CLASS: MATH 144, Calculus for the Physical Sciences Instructor: Dr. David McNeilly Grading duties. Position: Teaching Assistant Sep. $2021 \rightarrow Dec. 2021$ DEPARTMENT: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences MATH 117, Honors Calculus I (Analysis) Class: INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jochen Kuttler Grading students and stand in TA for both Midterm and Final examination. Position: Jan. $2021 \rightarrow \text{May } 2023$ Teaching Assistant Department: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences Where: Decima Robinson Support Center, University of Alberta Dr. Sean Graves EMPLOYER:

Aided students with 100-200 level Math including proof-based Honors Math courses

at the University of Alberta.

Position: [Volunteer] Teaching Assistant Sep. $2021 \rightarrow Dec. 2021$

DEPARTMENT: Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences
WHERE: Decima Robinson Support Center, University of Alberta

EMPLOYER: Dr. Sean Graves

Aided students with 100-200 level Math (inc Honors) courses at the University of

Alberta.

GRANTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2019: University of Alberta, International Student Scholarship

2020-2023: Deans Honor Roll

2020: University of Alberta, Continuing Undergraduate Scholarship

2021: Mathematical & Statistical Sciences Undergraduate Summer Research Award (MSS

USRA)

2021: Golden Bell Jar Undergraduate Scholarship in Physics

2021: Murray Thomas Gibson Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics

2021: University of Alberta, Continuing Undergraduate Scholarship

2022: Department of Physics, Summer Undergraduate Physics Research Experience Award

(SUPRE)

2023: University of Alberta, Graduate Recruitment Scholarship

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

EVENT: Graduate Physics Research Symposium (Talk)

Oct. 2024

Where: The University of Alberta, Canada

I gave a talk showcasing some of my results pertaining to using Graph theory on Archimedean lattices including the introduction of Bloch Generating Functions and

the free energy per site for the Ising model on these lattices.

EVENT: MAPH 499 Honors Thesis Apr. 2023

Where: Department of Physics, University of Alberta

Gave a public presentation on the work I did on where I describe the kind of special

solutions on \mathbb{S}^3 for the Quasi-Einstein Equations.

EVENT: Department of Physics Poster Symposium Sep. 2022

Where: University of Alberta, Canada

Presented my Poster on Anomalous Quantum Wave Dynamics in Hyperbolic Space.

EVENT: Meet A Math Major Sep. 2022

Where: University of Alberta, Canada

Gave a talk titled "What Does Math Mean To You?" in which I talked about my journey in mathematics research alongside scholarship & funding opportunities as well as finding joy in the beauty of the subject. The Meet A Math Major event was part of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) outreach program by the Mathematical Sciences Society in collaboration with the Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences to make math research accessible and to encourage students, especially those

who are underrepresented in the field to pursue research in mathematics.

EVENT: Faculty of Science Undergraduate Research Symposium Aug. 2022

Where: University of Alberta, Canada

Poster Presentation consisting of my work on the Anomalous Quantum Wave Dynamics

in Hyperbolic Space.

EVENT: Young Mathematicians Conference (YMC)

Aug. 2022

Where: The Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio

Invited for a Single Student talk to speak on the work I did on the variant Illumination

Conjecture.

EVENT: MATH 499 Honors Thesis Apr. 2022

WHERE: Department of Mathematics & Statistical Sciences, University of Alberta

Gave a public presentation on the work I did on the variant illumination disproving the variant Illumination Conjecture.

WORKSHOPS

EVENT: Princeton Summer School on Condensed Matter (PSSCMP)

Jul. 2024

WHERE: The Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton

I attended Princeton Summer School on Condensed Matter focused on Quantum Matter, Superconductivity, Topology and Correlations, specifically the new and exciting

physics on Moiré materials.

COMPETITIONS

EVENT: The Mathematical Competition in Modelling (MCM) Feb. 2022

Where: Remote

Our team of three used the Edmond- Karp Algorithm to model the transport of water

through the Colorado River Basin.

EVENT: AI4Society ML-in-Physics datathon Feb. 2022

Where: University of Alberta, Canada

Our team of five, won 4th place in the First Arrival Identification Challenge that used

an ML model to predict earthquakes before its arrival.

NOTABLE ACADEMIC PROJECTS

TITLE: Special Solutions to Quasi-Einstein Equations Jan. $2023 \rightarrow May 2023$

SUPERVISOR: Dr. Eric Woolgar

Honors thesis submitted for the completion of my undergradauate degree based on

preliminary work done on Quasi-Einstein metrics on \mathbb{S}^3 .

TITLE: Renormalization Group Flow on the Ising Model Sep. $2022 \rightarrow Dec. 2022$

SUPERVISOR: Dr. Andrzej Czarnecki

Final project for the completion of PHYS 495/595: INTRODUCTION TO QUANTUM FIELD THEORY in which I applied descrete real space renormalization techniques to the Generalized 1—D Ising Model to understand the behaviour of coupling constants

J, h through renormalization group flow.

TITLE: Phase Portrait Analysis Of a Non-Linear ODE System Jan. $2021 \rightarrow May 2021$

SUPERVISOR: Dr. Xinwei Yu

Final project for the completion of MATH 336: Honors Ode in which I studied a Non-Linear coupled ODE system of two variables $\dot{x}=y, \dot{y}=ay+x-x^2+xy$ dependent on a free parameter $a\in\mathbb{R}$. We studied the behaviour of the equilibrium points using the Grobman-Hartman theorem and used theorems of Dulac, Poincaré-Bendixson to conclude the non-existence of closed orbits on two regions of \mathbb{R}^2 seperated by the line

x = -a.

Title: Introduction to Tensors Dec. $2019 \rightarrow \text{Present}$

A $T_{\rm E}X$ Textbook on Tensors that I started writing when I was fascinated by Tensor Algebra in 1st year out of pure interest. The main idea was to learn the subject through explaining it. The Textbook so far covers Linear Algebra essentials viz. Fields, Vector spaces, Inner Product and Linear Transformations.

LEADERSHIP AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Position: Representative at the Student Committee for Faculty Hire Apr. 2024
What: Quantum Physics Faulty Hire (Department of Physics, University of Alberta)

As one of the four graduate students selected to be a part of the student committee for Quantum CIFAR (Canadian Institute For Advanced Research) faculty hire search at the Department of Physics, University of Alberta, I attended the colloquium talks, research plan talks and informal lunch sessions with all the faculty hire candidates invited to the department for their final rounds of interview. The student committee presented collective thoughts on the candidates based on their mentorship qualities, teaching abilities and their ability to excite the graduate students about their research. I played an instrumental role in representing the graduate theoretical condensed matter students by providing invaluable comments regarding the candidates' research plans, their fit in the physics department, and the incorporation of machine learning methods in their research.

Position: President May $2022 \rightarrow May 2023$

What: Undergraduate Mathematical Sciences Society (MSS)

Acting President of the Undergraduate Mathematical Sciences Society. Organized the first ever Science Interdepartmental Club-run Research Symposium for Undergraduates from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science & Psychology. Spearheaded an EDI high school outreach event where we invited High School students to mingle with Undergraduates in Math to provide insight on what it means to be a Math Major. We gave talks on how to get involved in Mathematics research and outreach. Organized both social and academic events like game nights or research outreach events to improve and strengthen the undergraduate Math community, including the introduction of "Mathmania" competition.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages

PROFICIENT: Mathematica, PTEX
FAMILIAR: Python, gnuplot, , TiKz

Teaching

Offline & Online teaching in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Alberta, including supervising lab work.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Affiliation: Theoretical Physics Institute (TPI), University of Alberta Sep. $2023 \rightarrow \text{Present}$ Affiliation: Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) Sep. $2023 \rightarrow \text{Present}$