

# John Edwards, Ph.D.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Computer Science  
Utah State University  
MAIN 401D  
Logan, UT 84322

(435) 797-0246  
john.edwards@usu.edu  
edwardsjohnmartin.github.io

## RESEARCH

Data visualization, CS education, data science

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science, The University of Texas, 2013  
M.S. Computer Science, Brigham Young University, 2004  
B.S. Computer Science, Utah State University, 1998

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant professor, Utah State University, 2018-current  
Assistant professor, Idaho State University, 2015-2018  
Post-doctoral fellow, Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute, University of Utah, 2013-2015  
Visiting scholar, University of Hong Kong, 2012  
Assistant instructor (during PhD studies), The University of Texas, 2010-2013  
Robotics and visualization research engineer, Autonomous Solutions, Inc., 2008-2009  
Research and development engineer, ProLogic, Inc., 2005-2008  
Software engineer, Rigaku, Inc., 1999-2005

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Boyd Edwards, Bo Johnson\*, and John Edwards. Periodic bouncing modes for two uniformly magnetized spheres I: Trajectories. *Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science*. In press, 2020. *Featured article*.

Boyd Edwards, Bo Johnson\*, and John Edwards. Periodic bouncing modes for two uniformly magnetized spheres II: Scaling. *Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science*. In press, 2020.

Lloyd Griffel\*, Donna Delparte, and John Edwards. Using Support Vector Machines classification to differentiate spectral signatures of potato plants infected with Potato Virus Y. *Computers and electronics in agriculture*, 153, 318-324. 2018.

DeWayne Derryberry, Ken Aho, John Edwards, and Teri Peterson. Model selection and regression t-statistics. *The American Statistician*. 72(4), 379-381. 2018.

Nathan Morrical\* and John Edwards. Parallel quadtree construction on collections of objects. *Computers and Graphics*. 66:162168. 2017.

Boyd Edwards and John Edwards. Periodic nonlinear sliding modes for two uniformly magnetized spheres. *Chaos: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Nonlinear Science*. 27(5):053107, 2017.

Boyd Edwards and John Edwards. Dynamical interactions between two uniformly magnetized spheres. *European Journal of Physics*. 38(1):015205, 2016.

Xin Tong, John Edwards, Chun-Ming Chen, Han-Wei Shen, Christopher Johnson, and Pak Chung Wong. View-dependent streamline deformation and exploration. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*. 22(7):1788-1801, 2016.

John Edwards, Eric Daniel, Valerio Pascucci, Chandrajit Bajaj. Approximating the Generalized Voronoi Diagram of Closely Spaced Objects. *Computer Graphics Forum*. 34(2):299-309, 2015.

John Edwards, Eric Daniel, Justin Kinney, Terrence Sejnowski, Tom Bartol, Daniel Johnston, Kristen Harris, and Chandrajit Bajaj. VolRoverN: Enhancing surface and volumetric reconstruction for realistic dynamical simulation of cellular and subcellular function. *Neuroinformatics*. 12(2):277-289, 2014.

John Edwards and Chandrajit Bajaj. Topologically correct reconstruction of tortuous contour forests. *Computer-Aided Design*. 43(10):1296-1306, 2011.

\* Student author

John Edwards, Juho Leinonen\*, and Arto Hellas. A Study of Keystroke Data in Two Contexts: Written Language and Programming Language Influence Predictability of Learning Outcomes. *ACM Technical Symposium on Computing Science Education*. Portland, OR. March 2020. ~30% acceptance rate. H5-index: 31.

John Edwards, Erika Fulton, Jonathan Holmes, Joseph Valentin\*, David Beard, and Kevin Parker. Separation of syntax and problem solving in Introductory Computer Programming. *IEEE Frontiers in Education*. San Jose, CA. October 2018. ~50% acceptance rate. H5-index: 5

Sidharth Kumar, Duong Hoang, Steve Petruzza, Valerio Pascucci, and John Edwards. Reducing network congestion and synchronization overhead during data aggregation when writing hierarchical data. *IEEE International Conference on High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage, and Analysis*. Jaipur, India. December 2017. 23% acceptance rate. H5-index: 43.

Nathan Morrical\* and John Edwards. Parallel quadtree construction on collections of objects. *Shape Modeling International*. Berkeley, CA. June 2017. 37% acceptance rate. <sup>†</sup>

John Edwards, Eric Daniel, Valerio Pascucci, Chandrajit Bajaj. Approximating the Generalized Voronoi Diagram of Closely Spaced Objects. *Eurographics*. Zurich, Switzerland. July 2015. 27% acceptance rate. H5-index: 10. <sup>†</sup>

Sidharth Kumar, John Edwards, Peer-Timo Bremer, Aaron Knoll, Cameron Christensen, Venkatram Vishwanath, Philip Carns, John A. Schmidt, Valerio Pascucci. Efficient I/O and storage of adaptive resolution data. *High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis (SC14)*. New Orleans, LA. November 2014. 21% acceptance rate. H5-index: 43.

John Edwards, Wenping Wang, and Chandrajit Bajaj. Surface segmentation for improved remeshing. *Proceedings of the 21st International Meshing Roundtable*, pages 403-418. San Jose, CA. October 2012.

John Edwards and Chandrajit Bajaj. Topologically correct reconstruction of tortuous contour forests. *Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on Solid and Physical Modeling*, pages 51-60. Haifa, Israel. September 2010. 29% acceptance rate.

Joel Alberts, John Edwards, Josh Johnston, and Jeff Ferrin. 3D visualization for improved manipulation and mobility in EOD and combat engineering applications. *Proceedings of SPIE Defense, Security and Sensing*. April 2009.

Josh Johnston, Joel Alberts, Matt Berkemeier, and John Edwards. Manipulator Autonomy for EOD Robots. *26th Army Science Conference*. December 2008.

\* Student author

† Also listed under Journals section

BOOK CHAPTER	John Edwards, Sidharth Kumar, and Valerio Pascucci. Big data from scientific simulations. In L. Grandinetti, G.R. Joubert, M. Kunze, and V. Pascucci, editors, <i>Big Data and High Performance Computing</i> , pages 32–46. IOS Press, Amsterdam, Berlin, Tokyo, Washington, DC, 2015.
GRANTS FUNDED	<p><i>Revolutionary Data Presentation and Manipulation</i>. PI: M. Shields. co-PIs: <u>J. Edwards</u>, D. Heath. Missile Defense Agency (STTR). B18C-001-0097. \$100,000. 2018.</p> <p><i>Syntax before problem solving: an approach to introductory computer programming education</i>. PI: <u>J. Edwards</u>. co-PIs: E. Fulton, J. Holmes, D. Beard, K. Parker. Idaho State University Office of Research. \$32,564. 2017.</p> <p><i>Implementing Unmanned Aircraft Systems to detect crop viruses using hyperspectral remote sensing and machine learning</i>. PI: D. Delparte. co-PI: <u>J. Edwards</u>. Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture. \$161,175. 2017.</p> <p><i>Unified modeling and visualization of avalanche flow paths</i>. PI: <u>J. Edwards</u> with S. Pawlidis (student). STEM Undergraduate Research Initiative, Idaho SBOE. \$1,740. 2017.</p> <p><i>ISU CoSE Internal Travel Grant</i>. <u>J. Edwards</u>. \$2,000. 2017.</p> <p><i>Improving STEM Education: Engaged Learning in an Introductory Computer Programming Course</i>. PI: <u>J. Edwards</u>. co-PIs: J. Holmes, K. Parker. ISU Teaching Innovation Grant. \$4820. 2017.</p> <p><i>STEM Action Center: Computer Programming Workshops in Southeastern Idaho</i>. C. Hill, et al. United Way. \$8000. Role: Senior personnel. 2017.</p> <p><i>igniteCS: CS education in Southeastern Idaho high schools</i>. PI: <u>J. Edwards</u> co-PIs: J. Rose, J. Glines, et al. Google igniteCS gift. \$5307. 2016.</p> <p><i>NIH BRAIN Initiative Summer Course on interdisciplinary computational neuroscience</i>. <u>J. Edwards</u>. Competitive admission to funded workshop at University of Missouri. 31% acceptance rate. 2016.</p> <p><i>UTexas Professional Development Award for travel to San Jose, CA</i>. <u>J. Edwards</u>. \$275. 2012.</p> <p><i>UTexas Professional Development Award for travel to Providence, RI</i>. <u>J. Edwards</u>. \$250. 2011.</p> <p><i>UTexas Professional Development Award for travel to Haifa, Israel</i>. <u>J. Edwards</u>. \$450. 2010.</p>
THESES	(Ph.D.) Analysis-Ready Models of Tortuous, Tightly Packed Geometries, 2013 (M.S.) Live Mesh: An Interactive 3D Image Segmentation Tool, 2004
RESEARCH SOFTWARE	<p><i>CorioVis</i> - Coriolis simulation software <a href="https://edwardsjohnmartin.github.io/coriolis">https://edwardsjohnmartin.github.io/coriolis</a></p> <p><i>pgvd</i> - Parallel Generalized Voronoi Diagram Approximation <a href="https://github.com/edwardsjohnmartin/pgvd.git">https://github.com/edwardsjohnmartin/pgvd.git</a></p> <p><i>Phanon</i> - CS1 Education Software <a href="https://phanon.herokuapp.com">https://phanon.herokuapp.com</a></p>

*MagPhyx* - Magnet simulation software  
<http://edwardsjohnmartin.github.io/MagPhyx>

*VolRoverN* - Neuronal reconstruction and geometric analysis  
[http://www.cs.utexas.edu/\\$\sim\\$bajaj/cvcwp/?page\\\_id=2089](http://www.cs.utexas.edu/$\sim$bajaj/cvcwp/?page\_id=2089)

## POSTERS

B. Johnson, B. Edwards, J. Edwards. Dynamical Interactions between Two Uniformly Magnetized Spheres *American Physical Society Four Corners Section: Annual Meeting*. Salt Lake City, UT, October 2018.

J. Ory, W. Grigg, J. Edwards, J. Holmes, K. Parker. 3PIO: Powerful and Practical Python IDE Online *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID, July 2017.

W. Grigg, S. Denton, J. Edwards, J. Stover. Hidden associations: visualizing word-to-word connections in Tweets *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID, July 2017.

J. Valentin, K. Aho, J. Edwards, D. Derryberry, T. Peterson. Improving computational efficiency in identifying parsimonious statistical models *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID, July 2017.

G. Cochrane, J. Edwards, D. Delparte. LiDAR Odometry and Mapping for Terrain Analysis from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID, July 2017.

G. Cochrane, M. Sterbentz, J. Edwards. Real-Time LiDAR Terrain Mapping and Analysis *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID, July 2016.

J. Glines, J. Edwards. Isosurface Extraction in a Simple C/C++ Library *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID, July 2016.

N. Vollmer, N. Harrison, J. Edwards. An Adaptive, Parallel Algorithm for Approximating the Generalized Voronoi Diagram *Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID, July 2016.

J. Edwards, C. Johnson. Visualizing white matter tracts in the human brain. *SIAM Conference on Computational Science and Engineering*. Salt Lake City, UT, March 2015.

S. Kumar, B. Summa, C. Christensen, J. Edwards, V. Pascucci. Multi-resolution I/O for Massive Simulations: Enabling Scalable Visualization and Processing. *Predictive Science Academic Alliance Program (PSAAP) TST Meeting*. Palo Alto, CA, May 2014.

J. Edwards, E. Daniel, C. Bajaj, J. Kinney, T. Bartol, T. Sejnowski, K. Harris, D. Johnston. VolumeRoverN: Analysis-ready domain models of neuronal forests. *2nd Annual Austin Translational Neuroscience Symposium*. Austin, TX, October 2012.

★ Best poster award

J. Edwards, A. Rand, J. Kinney, K. Harris, C. Bajaj. Analysis-ready meshes of neuronal forests. *1st IEEE Symposium on Biological Data Visualization*. Providence, RI, October 2011.

J. Edwards, A. Gillette, R. K. Bettadapura, A. Rand, C. Rumsey, Q. Zhang, D. Johnston, K. Harris, C. Bajaj. Electrophysiological Models Derived from EM Reconstructions. *The National Academies Keck Futures Initiative Conference on Imaging Science*. November 2010.

A. Gillette, R. K. Bettadapura, F. Chowdury, J. Edwards, A. Gopinath, J. Rivera, B. Subramanian, A. Rand, C. Rumsey, Q. Zhang, D. Johnston, K. Harris, C. Bajaj, T. Bartol, D. Keller, J. Kinney, T. Sejnowski. Spatially Realistic and Reduced Electrophysiology Models Derived From EM Reconstruction. *MPG-HHMI Janelia Farm High-Resolution Circuit Reconstruction Conference*. Berlin, Germany, September 2009.

CONTRIBUTED  
TALKS

Separation of syntax and problem solving in Introductory Computer Programming. *IEEE Frontiers in Education*. San Jose, CA. Oct 5, 2018.

MagPhyx: simulation and visualization of magnet dynamics. *Idaho Academy of Science and Engineering*. Pocatello, ID. April 1, 2016.

Surface segmentation for improved isotropic remeshing. *21st International Meshing Roundtable*. San Jose, CA. Oct 9, 2012.

Topologically correct reconstruction of tortuous contour forests. *14th ACM Symposium on Solid and Physical Modeling*. Haifa, Israel. September 1, 2010.

Advanced techniques for LiDAR visualization and analysis using ArcGIS. *8th International Lidar Mapping Forum*. Denver, CO. February 2008.

INVITED TALKS

EdwardsLab: Visualization, geometry, and simulation. *Will Pearse Biological Programming Group, Utah State University*. Logan, UT. Sept 28, 2018.

The shape of thought: nanoscale geometry of hippocampal brain neurons. *Geometric and Image Data Sciences: Big Data Analysis, Graphics and Visualization*. Austin, Texas. September 14, 2018.

Geometric nanoscale modeling of neurons in 3D *NeuroNex Workshop*. Austin, Texas. July 31, 2018.

At the whiteboard: collaborative data science projects. *Utah State University*. Logan, UT. Dec 8, 2017.

Geometry and Topology: Brains, Bunnies, and Jet Engine Analysis. *Graphics Seminar, The University of Texas*. Austin, TX. Feb 6, 2015.

The adventure of discovery: geometry, topology and visualization. *Idaho State University*. Pocatello, ID. Oct 17, 2014.

Exploration of high-dimensional scalar functions. *Computational Visualization Center group meeting*. Austin, TX. Nov 13, 2013.

Analysis-ready models of tortuous, tightly packed geometries. *University of Colorado Medical Center*. Denver, CO. Mar 1, 2013.

Analysis-ready models of tortuous, tightly packed geometries. *New Mexico State University*. Las Cruces, NM. Feb 15, 2013.

Analysis-ready models of tortuous, tightly packed geometries. *Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute*. Salt Lake City, UT. Feb 8, 2013.

Cool Geometry Stuff. *Leander High School, Anna Bouboulis Geometry Class*. Leander, TX. Jan 5, 2012.

Surface segmentation for improved isotropic remeshing. *University of Hong Kong graphics group meeting*. Hong Kong. May 30, 2012.

Polyhedron separation. *Computational Visualization Center group meeting*. Austin, TX. Sept 7, 2011.

Analysis-ready 3D reconstructions of complex objects from planar cross-sectional slices. *Computational Visualization Center group meeting*. Austin, TX. Mar 25, 2011.

The connectome: challenges and approaches. *Computational Visualization Center group meeting*. Austin, TX, Oct 27, 2010.

LidarExplorer *Advanced LiDAR Workshop at the GeoTREE Center of the University of Northern Iowa*. August 2007.

## CONFERENCES

*ACM Special Interest Group for Computer Science Education (SIGCSE)*. Portland, OR. March 2020.

*IEEE VIS*. Vancouver, BC. October 2019.

*ACM SIGGRAPH*. Los Angeles, CA. July 2019.

*NSF NeuroNex Workshop*. Austin, TX. June 2019.

*ACM Special Interest Group for Computer Science Education (SIGCSE)*. Minneapolis, MN. February 2019.

*IEEE Frontiers in Education*. San Jose, California. October 2018.

*ACM Special Interest Group for Computer Science Education (SIGCSE)*. Baltimore, MD. February 2018.

*Shape Modeling International*. Berkeley, CA. June 2017.

*Idaho EPSCoR Annual Meeting*. Coeur d'Alene, ID. October 2016.

*Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research*. Boise, ID. July 2016.

*Idaho Academy of Science and Engineering*. Pocatello, ID. April 2016.

*Eurographics*. Zurich, Switzerland. July 2015.

*High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis (SC14)*. New Orleans, LA. November 2014.

*IEEE VIS*. Atlanta, GA. October 2013.

*21st International Meshing Roundtable*. San Jose, CA. October 2012.

*Austin Translational Neuroscience Symposium*. Austin, TX. October 2012.

*IEEE Symposium on Biological Data Visualization*. Providence, RI. October 2011.

*ACM Symposium on Solid and Physical Modeling*. Haifa, Israel. September 2010.

## WORKSHOPS

*NSF Interactive Discussion: Computer Science Undergraduate Education in 2026 and Beyond*. SIGCSE. March 2, 2019.

*Planning and Writing Successful Grant Proposals*. Utah State University. Oct 15, 2018.

*Developing an Effective Propagation Plan for Educational Innovations.* IEEE FIE. Oct 5, 2018.

*How To Prepare Competitive NSF Engineering Education Proposals.* IEEE FIE. Oct 3, 2018.

*Geometric and Image Data Sciences: Big Data Analysis, Graphics and Visualization.* Austin, Texas. September 14, 2018.

*NSF NeuroNex 3DEM Workshop.* Austin, Texas. July 30-31, 2018.

*NSF Developing Empirical Education Research Studies (DEERS).* Charlottesville, VA. July 17-19, 2018.

*Deep Learning in the Classroom.* SIGCSE. February 23, 2018.

*Designing Empirical Education Research Studies (DEERS): Creating an Answerable Research Question.* SIGCSE. February 21, 2018.

*Integrating Cloud Computing into the Computer Science Curriculum.* SIGCSE. February 21, 2018.

*NSF XSEDE Workshop on data modeling.* Boise State University. July 18-20, 2016.

*NIH BRAIN Initiative Summer Course on interdisciplinary computational neuroscience.* University of Missouri. June 5-17, 2016.

*Grant Writers Workshop.* Idaho State University. February 29, 2016.

*Promotion and Tenure Workshop.* Idaho State University. November 18, 2015.

*Interactive Cooperative Grant Training.* Idaho State University. August 31, 2015.

*Advanced LiDAR Workshop.* University of Northern Iowa. August 2007.

## HONORS

Translational Neuroscience Symposium Best Poster Award, 2012  
 The University of Texas, Computer Science PhD Fellowship, 2009  
 Graduation *Magna Cum Laude*, Utah State University, 1998  
 Member *Phi Kappa Phi* Honor Society, 1998  
 Wendell Pope Scholarship, Utah State University, 1998  
 Superior Student Scholarship, Utah State University, 1996-1998

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Program committee  
     IEEE Intermountain Engineering, Technology, and Computing (i-ETC) 2020  
     International Conference on Geometric Modeling and Processing (GMP) 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Reviewer  
     ACM SIGCSE 2019, 2020  
     Computer Animation and Virtual Worlds  
     IEEE FIE 2018  
     ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software  
     GMP 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018  
     Computing Surveys  
     Computer Aided Geometric Design

European Symposium on Algorithms 2014  
International Meshing Roundtable 2015  
SIGGRAPH Asia 2015

UNIVERSITY  
SERVICE

Member of Computer Science Undergraduate Curriculum Committee 2018-2020  
Member of Computer Science Faculty Search Committee 2019-2020  
Chair of CS faculty search committee 2017-2018 (ISU)  
University Research Council 2016-2018 (ISU)  
Health Informatics search committee 2016 (ISU)  
Author of CS Masters Degree proposal submitted 2018 (ISU)

EXPERT WITNESS

*State of Idaho v. Gabriel L. Moreno and Anthony C. Moreno*, 2018  
Case Nos. CR-2017-8408-FE and CR-2017-8409-FE, District Court, County of Bannock, Idaho  
Nature of Case: Second degree murder.  
Plaintiff alleged malice aforethought in a fistfight resulting in a death. The defendant claimed self-defense. The event was captured on video and posted to Snapchat, which became the primary exhibit. I testified regarding the source and analysis of the video.  
  
*Employment-based immigration petition opinion letters*, 2018-current  
Maystar, LLC  
Review immigration petitions of foreign employees in software engineering positions and provide opinion letters as to the educational requirements for their positions.

COURSES TAUGHT

Data Science Incubator  
Data Visualization  
Graduate Algorithms  
Computer Graphics  
Compilers  
Operating Systems  
Algorithms and Data Structures  
Introductory Programming

STUDENTS

Joseph Ditton (Masters)  
Daniel Marsden (Masters)  
Bishal Sainju (Masters)  
Chetan Birthare (Masters)  
Mason Pachner (Masters)  
Steven Scott (Undergraduate)  
Bo Johnson (Undergraduate)

PAST STUDENTS

Joseph Valentin (Undergraduate, Idaho State University)  
John Motley (Undergraduate, Idaho State University)  
Galen Cochrane (Undergraduate, Idaho State University)  
Jacqueline Ory (Undergraduate, now at IRI)  
Nathan Morrical (Undergraduate, now PhD student at University of Utah)  
Marko Sterbentz (Undergraduate, now Masters student at University of Southern California)  
Jonathan Glines (Undergraduate, now at NVIDIA)  
Nicholas Harrison (Undergraduate, now at Clearwater, Inc.)



Zackary Hall (Undergraduate, now at Clearwater, Inc.)

COLLABORATIONS

Computer Science

Arto Hellas (University of Helsinki)  
Juho Leinonen (University of Helsinki)  
Paul Bodily (Idaho State University)  
Isaac Griffith (Idaho State University)  
Kevin Parker (Idaho State University)  
Jonathan Holmes (Idaho State University)  
Valerio Pascucci (SCI, University of Utah)  
Christopher Johnson (SCI, University of Utah)  
Chandrajit Bajaj (University of Texas)  
Wenping Wang (University of Hong Kong)  
Peer-Timo Bremer (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories)  
Attila Gyulassy (SCI)  
Brian Summa (SCI, University of Utah)  
Josh Johnston (Boise State University)  
Parris Egbert (Brigham Young University)

Other disciplines

Chris Hartwell (Business, Utah State University)  
Tracy Payne (Mathematics, Idaho State University)  
DeWayne Derryberry (Statistics, Idaho State University)  
Teri Peterson (Statistics, Idaho State University)  
Ken Aho (Biology, Idaho State University)  
Justin Stover (History, Idaho State University)  
Steven Shropshire (Physics, Idaho State University)  
Boyd Edwards (Physics, Utah State University)  
Donna Delparte (Geosciences, Idaho State University)  
Andrew Gillette (Mathematics, University of Arizona)  
Terrence Sejnowski (Neuroscience, Salk Institute)  
Tom Bartol (Neuroscience, Salk Institute)  
Kristen Harris (Neuroscience, University of Texas)  
Justin Kinney (Neuroscience, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)  
Daniel Johnston (Neuroscience, University of Texas)