

Fred Sunstrum

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS)

Sep. 2023 – Aug. 2025 University of British Columbia

MSc. Genome Science and Technology May. 2019 - Nov 2021

University of British Columbia

BSc. Biology, Minor in Statistics Aug. 2014 – Dec 2018

University of Ottawa Ottawa, ON

SKILLS

Languages: R, C/C++, Java, HTML/CSS

Frameworks/Tools: Git, ggplot2, Tidyverse, RStudio, VS Code

Experience

Research Methodologist II

Feb. 2021 – Aug 2023

University of Ottawa Heart Institute - Cardiovascular Research Methods Center

Ottawa, ON

Vancouver, BC

Vancouver, BC

- Led statistical analysis and writing of systematic litterature reviews on stem cell treatments for COVID-19 and autoimmune disorders.
- Developped a web scraper in R to retrieve clinical trial data.
- Performed reference screening, data extraction, risk-of-bias analysis, drafted protocol registrations, and manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication.

Graduate Research Assistant

May. $2019 - Dec\ 2021$

University of British Columbia - Michael Smith Laboratories

Vancouver, BC

- Discovered genes involved in biosynthesis of an anti-diabetic plant compound (MbA) and used metabolic engineering to produce MbA in wild tobacco.
- Mined a time-series transcriptomic dataset to to identify candidate genes.
- Improved MbA yields 10x in engineered wild tobacco by expressing genes involved in precursor biosynthesis.
- Improved precursor availability 20x through metabolic engineering.
- Published thesis findings in peer-reviewed journals.

Projects

Image Processing Algorithm $\mid C++$

- Implemented a doubly-linked list to manipulate PNG image pixel data, and BFS/DFS flood fill algorithms.
- Represented PNG pixels in a tree data structure allowing fast calculation of color information from rectangular image regions.

The Last Laugh | Godot Game Engine, GDScript

- Worked as a team to create a 2D platformer game using the Godot game engine.
- Implemented projectile flight and collision mechanics triggering animations.

WORDLE clone | Java, JUnit, Java Swing, IntelliJ, JSON

- Developed a WORDLE clone in Java, including word selection, comparison, and robust input handling.
- Created a GUI using Java Swing and used JSON for saving user progress.
- Applied Object Oriented Programming principles and test-driven development.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Improved production of the antidiabetic metabolite montbretin a in nicotiana benthamiana: Discovery, characterization, and use of crocosmia shikimate shunt genes. (2024) - **Second Author (link)**

4-coumaroyl-coa ligases in the biosynthesis of the anti-diabetic metabolite montbretin A. (2021) - First Author (link)

A genetic linkage map in southern-by-spring oat identifies multiple quantitative trait loci for adaptation and rust resistance. (2019) - First Author (link)