

Heather D. Wilber

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY PhD, Applied Mathematics May 2021
Advisor: Prof. Alex Townsend

DISSERTATION: [Computing numerically with rational functions.](#)
(Awarded [AWM Dissertation Prize](#) 2022, [Householder Prize](#) 2022)

Boise State Univ., Boise, ID M.S., Mathematics Aug 2016
Advisor: Prof. Grady Wright

THESIS: [Numerical computing with functions on the sphere and disk.](#)
(Selected as [Distinguished Thesis](#) in STEM for 2016-2017)

Boise State Univ., Boise, ID B.S., Mathematics Dec 2007
Boise State Univ., Boise, ID B.A., English-Linguistics Dec 2007

PREVIOUS POSITION

Oden Institute, University of Texas at Austin: NSF postdoctoral fellow, July 2021-July 2023

CURRENT POSITION

Dept. of Applied Mathematics, University of Washington: Assistant Professor, July 2023-present

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

7. Wilber, H., Epperly, E., Barnett, A. [A superfast direct inversion method for the nonuniform discrete Fourier transform.](#) submitted to SISC (2024).
6. Wilber, H., Damle, A., Townsend, A. [Data-driven algorithms for signal processing with trigonometric rational functions.](#) SIAM J. Sci. Comput., 44-3, C185-C209 (2022).
5. Rubin, D., Townsend, A., Wilber, H. [Bounding Zolotarev numbers using Faber rational functions.](#) Constructive Approx., 56, 1-26. (2022)
4. Quinn, K., Wilber, H., Townsend, A., Sethna, J.P. [Chebyshev approximation and the global geometry of model predictions.](#) Phy. Rev. Let., 122(15), 158302 (2019).
3. Townsend, A., Wilber, H. [On the singular values of matrices with high displacement rank.](#) Linear Alg. Appl., V. 548, 19-41 (2018).
2. Wilber, H., Townsend, A., Wright, G. [Computing with functions in spherical and polar geometries II. The disk.](#) SIAM J. Sci. Comput., 39-3, C238-C262 (2017).
1. Townsend, A., Wilber, H., Wright, G. [Computing with functions in spherical and polar geometries I. The sphere.](#) SIAM J. Sci. Comput., 38-4, C403-C425 (2016).

INVITED TALKS

17. SIAM CONF ON APPLIED LINEAR ALGEBRA (Paris, France)
Plenary talk: Superfast direct inversion methods for highly structured matrices (May 2024)
16. COLLOQUIUM SALIENTIA (Portland State University, Portland, OR)
Talk: Designing Specialized Low Rank Methods (March 2024)
15. DOMAIN DECOMPOSITION 28 (KAUST, Saudi Arabia)
Plenary talk: Superfast inversion methods for highly structured matrices (Feb. 2024)
14. APPLIED MATH SEMINAR (University of Washington, Seattle, WA)
Talk: Adventures in structured matrix approximation methods (Nov. 2023)
13. 4TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF SIAM PACIFIC NORTHWEST (Western Washington Univ., Bellingham, WA)
Plenary Talk: Three big ideas in rational approximation (Oct. 2023)
12. NUMERICAL ANALYSIS IN THE 21ST CENTURY (University of Oxford, Oxford, UK)

Plenary Talk: What can the square root approximation teach us? (Aug. 2023)

11. FLUID MECHANICS AND WAVES SEMINAR (New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ)
Talk: Hierarchical solvers for special linear systems (April 2023)
10. MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM (Temple University, Philadelphia, PA)
Talk: Designing low rank methods via rational functions (Dec. 2022)
9. APPLIED MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM (Univ. Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO)
Talk: Rational functions in computational mathematics (Nov. 2022)
8. MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM (Baylor University, Waco, TX)
Talk: Zolotarev rational functions in computational mathematics (Oct. 2022)
7. BABUŠKA FORUM SERIES (Univ. Texas at Austin, Austin, TX)
Talk: Computing with rational approximations to the square root (Oct. 2022)
6. HOUSEHOLDER XXI: HOUSEHOLDER PRIZE PLENARY LECTURE (Bari, Italy)
Plenary Talk: The low rank properties of structured matrices: a rational explanation (June 2022)
5. [CAVID:COMPLEX ANALYSIS VIDEO SEMINAR SERIES](#) (virtual)
Talk: Low rank numerical methods via rational function approximation (June 2022)
4. UNIV. DELAWARE NUMERICAL ANALYSIS AND PDE SEMINAR (virtual)
Talk: Low rank methods for structured matrices. (May 2022)
3. UNIV. TEXAS LIBRARIES NATIONAL POETRY MONTH EVENT (virtual)
Talk: [The poetry of math and the math of poems](#) (April 2022)
1. BOISE STATE UNIV. MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM (Boise State Univ., Boise, ID)
Talk: Low rank methods for structured matrices. (Feb. 2022)
1. CCM SEMINAR SERIES, FLATIRON INSTITUTE (virtual)
Talk: Designing low rank methods for matrices with displacement structure. (May 2021)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

19. 4TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF SIAM PACIFIC NORTHWEST (Western Washington Univ., Bellingham, WA)
Talk: A fast direct method for the nonuniform discrete Fourier transform (Oct. 2023)
18. COMPLEX ANALYSIS: TECHNIQUES, APPLICATIONS, AND COMPUTATIONS
(Cambridge University, Cambridge UK)
Talk: Zolotarev numbers and inverse nonuniform discrete Fourier transforms. (July 2023)
17. SIAM ANNUAL MEETING 2022 (Pittsburgh, PA)
Poster: [Data-driven computing with trigonometric rational functions](#) (July 2022)
16. [RISING STARS](#) 2022 (Sandia Labs, Albuquerque, NM)
Talk: Data-driven computing with trigonometric rational functions (April 2022)
15. 2021 CONFERENCE ON FAST DIRECT SOLVERS (virtual)
Talk: Designing low rank methods for matrices with displacement structure. (Oct. 2021)
14. GAMM 2021 (virtual)
Talk: Compression properties and rank-structured solvers for Toeplitz, Vandermonde and related linear systems (March 2021)
13. SIAM ANNUAL MEETING (virtual)
Talk: Computing with rational approximations with applications in signal processing (July 2020)
12. 27th BIENNIAL NUMERICAL ANALYSIS CONFERENCE (Univ. of Strathclyde, Strathclyde, UK)
Talk: Compression properties in rank-structured solvers for Toeplitz linear systems (June 2019)
awarded SIAM UKIE prize: Best student presentation
11. APPROXIMATION THEORY 16 (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN)
Talk: Rational approximation in superfast rank-structured solvers (May 2019)
10. EPFL Numerical Analysis Group (EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland)
Talk: Numerical computing in polar and spherical geometries (Dec. 2018)
9. EPFL Numerical Analysis Group (EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland)
Talk: On the singular values of matrices with high displacement rank (Nov. 2018)
8. ICOSAHOM (Imperial College London, UK)
Talk: A low rank and spectrally accurate elliptic PDE solver (July 2018)
7. SIAM CONF. ON COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (Atlanta, GA)
Talk: A factored ADI method for Sylvester equations with high-rank right-hand sides (Feb. 2017)
6. SIAM CONF. ON COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (Atlanta, GA)

- Poster: Numerical computing with functions in spherical and polar geometries (Feb. 2017)*
5. WORKSHOP ON FAST DIRECT SOLVERS (Purdue Univ., Lafayette, IN)
Talk: Numerical computing with functions on the sphere and disk (Nov. 2016)
 4. SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING AND NUM. ANALY. SEMINAR (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY)
Talk: Numerical computing with functions on the sphere and disk (Sept. 2016)
 3. SIAM ANNUAL MEETING (Boston, MA)
Talk: Numerical computing in polar and spherical geometries (July 2016)
 2. OXFORD NUM. ANALYS. GROUP SEMINAR (University of Oxford, Oxford, UK)
Talk: Computing with functions on the sphere and disk (July 2016)
 1. PACIFIC NORTHWEST NUMERICAL ANALYSIS SEMINAR
Poster: [Computing with functions on the sphere and disk](#) (Oct. 2015)

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

- [Structmats](#)
Open-source code for computing with structured matrices
- [REfit](#)
Open-source code for computing with trigonometric rational functions and exponential sums
- [freeLyap](#) Iterative solvers package
Open-source code for solving Sylvester and Lyapunov matrix equations
- [CHEBFUN PROJECT](#)
Spherefun and Diskfun in the open-source project Chebfun

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- [Householder Prize](#) (2022)
- [AWM Dissertation Prize](#) (2022)
- National Science Foundation Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (2021)
- SIAM UKIE prize: Best student presentation, 27th Biennial Numerical Analysis conference (2019)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRF) (2016)
- [Distinguished Thesis Award](#) (2017)
- [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\) Fellowship Award](#) (2015-2016)

ADVISING

- Daniel Dou, Committee chair, M.S. thesis (Autumn 2023--)
- Wietse Vaes, Co-Advisor, Committee Co-chair, PhD dissertation (Spring 2024--)
- Marlena Bannick, GSR, PhD dissertation (Spring 2024)
- Levent Batakci, Advisor for Structmats coding project (Spring 2024—Summer 2024)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Referee (ongoing): App. Math. Letters, SIAM J. Scientific Computing, J. Comp. Physics, IMA J. of Num. Analysis, Arkiv der Matematik, BIT numerical methods, Amer. Math. Soc., Adv. in Comp. Math., Electr. Trans. on Num. Analysis
- Lead Organizer: Banff International Research Institute 2025 proposal for workshop titled “Challenges, opportunities, and new horizons in rational approximation” April 2025
- Minisymposium organizer/co-chair: SIAM LA24, (Paris, France) May 2024
- WAMM mentor faculty advisor Feb 2024-present
- Math Alliance member and F-Gap mentor Nov. 2023-present
- Department of Applied Mathematics DEI committee member Sept. 2023-present
- AWM faculty advisor for UW applied math AWM student chapter Oct. 2023-present
- Minisymposium organizer/co-chair: 4th BIENNIAL MTG SIAM PNW, (Bellingham, WA) July 2022
- Minisymposium organizer/co-chair: SIAM AN2022, (Pittsburgh, PA) July 2022
- Consultant: [X-prize Carbon removal competition](#) with [Ecorestoration Alliance team](#) 2022
- Minisymposium organizer and co-chair: SIAM AN2020, (Virtual) July 2020
- AWM outreach mentor 2019
- Rural schools outreach volunteer with NASA STEM Mathematics Initiative 2015-2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

Sept 2023-current

Instructor

- Spring 2024: Amath 352, Applied Linear Algebra and Introductory Numerical Analysis
- Autumn 2023: Amath 584, Applied Linear Algebra and Introductory Numerical Analysis

University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

August 2022-May 2023

Instructor

- Spring 2023: Sequences, Series and Multivariable Calculus
- Fall 2022: Advanced Calculus with Applications, II

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

August 2020-Dec. 2020

Teaching assistant

- Spring 2021: Teaching Assistant for Prof. Steven Strogatz, Mathematical Explorations
- Fall 2020: Teaching Assistant for Prof. Alex Townsend, Linear Algebra for Engineers

Boise State University

Boise, Idaho

August 2014-May 2015

Instructor

- Spring 2015: Analytic Trigonometry
- Spring 2015: Trigonometry project and assessment design team member
- Fall 2014: Analytic Trigonometry, College Algebra.

Rimrock Jr. Sr. High School

Bruneau, Idaho

August 2013-May 2014

High School Math Teacher

- pre-algebra, algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus and Title-I interventionist