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Positions

Assistant Professor, 2020–present

Department of Computer Science, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington.

Updated: August 29, 2023

Washington Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, 2018–2020

Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering and Department of Biology University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

RESEARCH

Interests

I am a computational scientist and applied mathematician with an interest in **neural systems** and **networks/graph theory**. These systems are often adaptive, meaning they can learn from their environment and exhibit complex behavior. I enjoy collaborative, interdisciplinary research at the intersection of theory, modeling, and data science, including work in machine learning and analytics.

Publications

- A list of publications including citations and metrics is on Google Scholar.
- 27. GM Chou, NE Bush, RS Phillips, NA Baertsch, KD Harris. Modeling effects of variable preBötzinger complex network topology and cellular properties on opioid-induced respiratory depression and recovery.
- 26. M Xie, S Muscinelli, KD Harris, A Litwin-Kumar. Task-dependent optimal representations for cerebellar learning. In review, eLife.
- 25. S Daetwiler, A Read, J Stillwell, KD Harris. BrainViewer: interacting with spatial connectome data at the mesoscale. Preprint.
- 24. KD Harris, O López, A Read, Y Zhu. Spectral gap-based deterministic tensor completion. In proceedings of SampTA. 2023.
- 23. B Pandey, M Pachitariu, BW Brunton, KD Harris. Structured random receptive fields enable informative sensory encodings. PLoS Comput Biol 18(10): e1010484. 2022.
- 22. KD Harris, Y Zhu. Deterministic tensor completion with hypergraph expanders. SIAM Mathematics of Data Science 3(4), 1117–1140. 2021.
- 21. KD Harris, A Aravkin, R Rao, BW Brunton. Time-varying Autoregression with Low Rank Tensors. SIAM Applied Dynamical Systems 20(4), 2335–2358. 2021.
- 20. G Brito, I Dumitriu, KD Harris. Spectral gap in random bipartite biregular graphs and applications. Combinatorics, Probability, & Computing, 1–39. 2021.
- WS DeWitt, KD Harris, AP Ragsdale, K Harris. Nonparametric coalescent inference of mutation spectrum history and demography. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 118 (21) e2013798118.
 2021.
- 18. SM Hirsh, KD Harris, JN Kutz, BW Brunton. Centering Data Improves the Dynamic Mode Decomposition. SIAM Applied Dynamical Systems 19(3), 1920–1955. 2020.
- 17. KD Harris. Additive function approximation in the brain. Workshop paper: Real Neurons and Hidden Units. Neural Information Processing Systems. 2019.
- 16. P Kürschner, S Dolgov, KD Harris, P Benner. Greedy low-rank algorithm for smooth connectome regression. Journal of Mathematical Neuroscience 9: 9. 2019.
- 15. J Knox, KD Harris, N Graddis, JD Whitesell, H Zeng, JA Harris, E Shea-Brown, S Mihalas. High resolution data-driven model of the mouse connectome. Network Neuroscience 3(1), 217-236. 2019.
- 14. KD Harris, T Dashevskiy, J Mendoza, AJ Garcia III, J-M Ramirez, E Shea-Brown. Different roles for inhibition in the rhythm-generating respiratory network. Journal of Neurophysiology 118(4), 2070–2088. 2017.
- 13. A Litwin-Kumar, KD Harris, R Axel, H Sompolinsky, LF Abbott. Optimal degrees of synaptic connectivity. Neuron 93, 1153–1164. 2017.
- 12. KD Harris, S Mihalas, E Shea-Brown. High resolution neural connectivity from incomplete tracing data using nonnegative spline regression. Neural Information Processing Systems, 2016.

- 11. PS Dodds, EM Clark, S Desu, MR Frank, AJ Reagan, JR Williams, L Mitchell, KD Harris, IM Kloumann, JP Bagrow, K Megerdoomian, MT McMahon, BF Tivnan, CM Danforth. Human language reveals a universal positivity bias. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 112(8), 2389–2394. 2015.
- 10. KD Harris, PS Dodds, CM Danforth. Dynamical influence processes on networks: General theory and applications to social contagion. Physical Review E 88, 022816. 2013.
- L Mitchell, MR Frank, KD Harris, PS Dodds, CM Danforth. The Geography of Happiness: Connecting Twitter sentiment and expression, demographics, and objective characteristics of place. PLoS ONE 8(5): e64417. 2013.
- 8. PS Dodds, KD Harris, CM Danforth. Limited Imitation Contagion on Random Networks: Chaos, Universality, and Unpredictability. Physical Review Letters 110, 158701. 2013.
- CA Bliss, IM Kloumann, KD Harris, CM Danforth, PS Dodds. Twitter reciprocal reply networks exhibit assortativity with respect to happiness. Journal of Computational Science 3(5), 388–397. 2012.
- 6. KD Harris, E-H Ridouane, DL Hitt, CM Danforth. Predicting flow reversals in chaotic natural convection using data assimilation. Tellus A 64, 17598. 2012.
- 5. N Allgaier, KD Harris, CM Danforth. Empirical Correction of a Toy Climate Model. Physical Review E 85, 026201. 2012.
- 4. IM Kloumann, CM Danforth, KD Harris, CA Bliss, PS Dodds. Positivity of the English language. PLoS ONE 7(1): e29484. 2012.
- 3. PS Dodds, KD Harris, IM Kloumann, CA Bliss, CM Danforth. Temporal patterns of happiness and information in a global social network: Hedonometrics and Twitter. PLoS ONE 6(12): e26752. 2011.
- 2. JL Payne, KD Harris, PS Dodds. Exact solutions for social and biological contagion models on mixed directed and undirected, degree-correlated random networks. Physical Review E 84, 016110. 2011.
- 1. PS Dodds, KD Harris, JL Payne. Direct, physically motivated derivation of the contagion condition for spreading processes on generalized random networks. Physical Review E 83, 056122. 2011.

Grants and Honors

Washington Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 3 yr. grant, 2018–2020

Graduate

- · Boeing Research Award in Applied Mathematics, University of Washington, 2016
- · Big Data for Genomics and Neuroscience Training Grant, University of Washington, 2015–2017
- · Joseph Hammack Research Award in Applied Mathematics, University of Washington, 2014
- · Boeing Fellowship, University of Washington, 3 yrs. funding, 2012–2015
- · John F. Kenney Award for Excellence in Mathematics, University of Vermont, 2012
- · NASA Graduate Research Assistantship, University of Vermont, 2009, 2011

Fulbright Scholar, Chile, 2010

· Worked with transportation engineers to optimize the nighttime bus timetables of Santiago

Undergraduate

- · Vermont Scholar, funded 100% financial need, 2005–2009
- · URECA! NASA-funded undergraduate research grant, 2008–2009
- · Honors College Scholar, Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa
- · Senior Mathematics Award for Research, 2009

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

· Ph.D., Applied Mathematics, December 2017.

Thesis: This Brain Is a Mess: Inference, Random Graphs, and Biophysics to Disentangle Neuronal Networks. Advisor: Eric Shea-Brown

Committee: Ioana Dumitriu, Adrienne Fairhall, Stefan Mihalas, Jan-Marino Ramirez

University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.

 \cdot M.S., Mathematics, October 2012.

Thesis: On-off Threshold Models of Social Contagion.

Advisor: Peter Sheridan Dodds.

· B.A., Mathematics and B.A., Physics, May 2009. Honors College thesis: Predicting Climate Regime Change in Chaotic Convection. Advisor: Christopher M. Danforth.

Other education

- · Methods in Computational Neuroscience. Marine Biological Lab, Woods Hole, MA. 2015.
- · Mining and modeling of neuroscience data. Redwood Center for Theoretical Neuroscience. University of California Berkeley, 2013.
- · Complex Systems Summer School. Santa Fe Institute, 2011.
- · ISEP Exchange Program. Pontifícia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile. 2007.

Teaching & Mentoring

Instructor

· Computational Neuroscience (CSCI 497V/597V)

· CNeuro2022. Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience Summer School. IOB (Basel, Switzerland) and Tsinghua University (Beijing, China)

Summer 2022 S'22

· Machine Learning I (DATA 371)

F'21, W'22

Analysis of Algorithms II (CSCI 405)
Analysis of Algorithms I (CSCI 305)

WS'21, SF'22, F'23

· Machine Learning (CSCI 471/571)

F'20

F'23

· Data Science for Biologists (UW BIO 419/519)

W'19

S'09

· Introduction to Computational Models in Biology (UW AMATH 422/522)

F'17

Research mentoring

- · Vivian White, CS undergrad & IN-BIC fellow in Montréal. 2022–now.
- · Angus Read, CS grad. 2021–now.
- · Cameron Kaminski, CS undergrad. 2022–now.
- · Suyhun "Michael" Ban, CS undergrad. 2021–2023.
- · Caitlin Bannister, Neuroscience undergrad. 2021–2023.
- · Jessica Stillwell (now: PNNL), CS undergrad. 2020–2022.
- · Grant Chou (now: Tuthill lab research tech), CS undergraduate. 2020–2022.
- · Biraj Pandey, Applied Math PhD student. 2019–2022.
- · Sean McCulloch (now: Allen Institute for Brain Science), WWU CS MSc student. 2020–2021.
- · Seth Hirsh (now: Facebook Reality labs), Physics PhD student. 2018–2020.
- · Satpreet Singh, Electrical & Computer Engineering PhD student. 2018–2019.
- · Yuchen Wang (now: Adobe), CS & Engineering undergrad. 2018–2019.
- · Nathan Lee, Applied Math PhD student. 2018–2019.

· Chaos and Fractals (UVM MATH 266)

- · Joseph Knox (now: Facebook data scientist), Allen Institute for Brain Science. 2017–2018.
- · Nile Graddis, Allen Institute for Brain Science. 2015–2018.
- · Joshua Mendoza (now: PNNL). Applied Math Honors thesis: The effects of network structure in creating a two-phase breathing pattern in the Bötzinger and pre-Bötzinger complexes, 2014–2015. UWIN Postbac Fellowship, 2016.

Teaching assistant

Summer 2016
Summer 2014
Summer 2013
W'13, W'14
F'08
S'07
S'12
F'11
F'16
W'15
F'09
F'09

· UVM Learning Coop "in-house" undergraduate math & physics tutor

· VSAC Tutor Academy training

 $2006 – 2009 \\ 2008$

Ski instructor, Mad River Glen Freeride, students age 11–18

2009-2010

SERVICE

WWU Committees: CS graduate program (2021–now), CS executive (2022–2023).

Conference organizer: DeepMath 2022, 2023

Conference referee: COSYNE (2021, 2022), NeurIPS (2021, 2022), SIAM Workshop on Network

Science (2018)

Referee: Network Neuroscience, NeuroImage, Physical Review Letters, PLOS ONE, PLOS Comp Bio,

Physical Review E, New Media and Society

Volunteer, SIAM Math Fair at Lockwood Elementary School, 2014

Computational neuroscience journal club co-organizer, 2014–2016

SELECTED TALKS

KD Harris. Network geometry for sensing and learning.

- · Advances in Neuro AI conference, Mila. Montréal, QC. 2023.
- · Montréal institute for learning algorithms (Mila) NeuroAI seminar. Montréal, QC. 2023.
- · CAIDA AI seminar, University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC. 2022.
- · NeuroAI in Seattle. Seattle, WA. 2022.

KD Harris. A Random Perspective on Tuning Properties of Sensory Neurons. Center for Integrative Brain Research, Seattle Children's Research Institute, Seattle, WA. 2021.

KD Harris. Rigorous theories of neural nets and kernel methods. Computational Neuroscience Seminar, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. 2021.

KD Harris. Leveraging the lacuna: spectral gaps and tensor recovery. Minisymposium: Latest advances in spectral linear algebra in network science. SIAM Linear Algebra. 2021.

KD Harris. Kernel theories of networks and their use in neuroscience. Computational Neuroscience Seminar, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. 2020.

KD Harris, Y Zhu. *Tensor complexity and completion using hypergraph expanders*. Theory seminar. Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. 2020.

KD Harris. Brain network reconstruction as an inverse problem. Workshop: Inverse Problems in Imaging. SIAM PNW 2019, Seattle, WA. 2019.

KD Harris, I Dumitriu, G Brito. Spectral gap in random bipartite biregular graphs and applications. Theory seminar. Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. 2019.

KD Harris, J Harris, S Mihalas, H Choi, J Whitesell. *The Mouse Mesoscale Connectome: Data-driven Models and Organization of Cortical Networks*. Showcase Symposium team talk. Allen Institute for Brain Science, Seattle, WA. 2018.

KD Harris, A Litwin-Kumar, R Axel, H Sompolinsky, LF Abbott. Connections between dimensionality and network sparsity. Workshop: How does learning reshape dimensionality of collective network activity? Computational Neuroscience (CNS) 2018, Seattle, WA. 2018.

KD Harris. Advances and challenges in connectome inference and analysis.

- · Institute for Disease Modeling, Bellevue, WA. 2017.
- · Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA. 2017.

KD Harris, N Graddis, J Harris, S Mihalas, ET Shea-Brown. Construction of a voxel-based mesoscopic mouse connectome. Synergy Lecture. Allen Institute for Brain Science, Seattle, WA. 2016.

KD Harris, T Dashevskiy, J Mendoza, AJ Garcia III, J-M Ramirez, and ET Shea-Brown. Role and limits of inhibition in an excitatory burst generator. Connecting Network Architecture and Network Computation. BIRS, Banff, AB. 2015.

KD Harris, T Dashevskiy, J-M Ramirez, and ET Shea-Brown. Combined Effects of Connectivity and Inhibition in a Model of Breathing Rhythmogenesis. SIAM Dynamical Systems Conference. Snowbird

Resort, Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT. 2015.

KD Harris, PS Dodds, CM Danforth. Limited Imitation Social Contagion as a Model of Fashions.

- · Dynamics Days 2013. Marriott City Center, Denver, CO. 2013.
- · SIAM Dynamical Systems Conference. Snowbird Resort, Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT. 2013.

KD Harris, M Munizaga, A Gschwender. *Timetable optimization for Transantiago night service—Fulbright studies in Chile*. Transportation Research Center Brown Bag Series. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. 2011.

KD Harris, PS Dodds, CM Danforth, IM Kloumann, CA Bliss. Geographical variation of happiness as expressed by users of Twitter. Student Research Conference. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. 2011.

KD Harris, M Munizaga, A Gschwender. Programación de servicios nocturnos—Proponiendo un horario optimizado para Transantiago (Programming nightly bus service—Proposing an optimized schedule for Transantiago). Seminar "Herramientas avanzadas para la ciudad del futuro." Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile. 2010.

KD Harris, E-H Ridouane, D Hitt, CM Danforth.

Forecasting Flow Reversals in a Chaotic Toy Climate.

- · SIAM Dynamical Systems Conference. Snowbird Resort, Little Cottonwood Canyon, UT. 2011.
- · Applied Mathematics Seminar. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. 2009.
- · Graduate Student Seminar. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. 2009.
- · Student Research Conference. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. 2009.
- · MAA Northeastern Sectional Meeting. St. Michael's College, Burlington, VT. 2008.
- · URECA! Awards Ceremony. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. 2008.

TECHNICAL SKILLS Programming languages: Python (scipy, numpy, networkx, scikit-learn, pandas), MATLAB, C/C++

Data: Experience with PostgreSQL + PostGIS, Hadoop + Pig, R

Computer systems: cluster environments, Linux, LATEX, git

Spoken language: Spanish (fluent), English (native), French (basic)

References

Bingni Wen Brunton

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Eric Shea-Brown

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Ioana Dumitriu

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Christopher M. Danforth

Professor, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Vermont cdanfort@uvm.edu

Peter Dodds

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