Kole Butterer

kolebutterer2023@u.northwestern.edu

EDUCATION Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

September 2019 - June 2023

Bachelor of Arts

Major: Mathematics; Major: Statistics

RESEARCH Neuro-Data Scientist

July 2023 - Present

The Miri Lab at Northwestern University

- Analayze neural time series recorded in rodents during decision-making task
 - Use state-space models to infer neural dynamics governing decision-making
 - o Predict behavioral covariates and trial type from neural data
- Code corresponding visuals in Python and MATLAB
- Present results weekly to Principal Investigator Dr. Andrew Miri and Postdoctorate Michaël Elbaz

MATH PROJECTS Mixing Times for Random Walks on Groups

Fall 2021

Independent Study with Dr. Ursula Porod

- Studied and presented probabilistic and spectral techniques for evaluating mixing times for random walks on groups
- Completed exercises for bounding mixing times on hypercubes, toruses, binary trees, permutations, discrete cycle
- Read research papers on mixing times for card-shuffling techniques and cut-off phenomenon

Ergodic Theory Spring 2023

Directed Reading Program with Dr. Christian Gorski

- Proved Poincaré recurrence theorem, Von Neumann ergodic theorem, equivalencies of ergodicity, and $\mathcal{L}^2(\mu)$ as metric and vector space
- Proved existence of limiting transition probability for recurrent Markov chains using ergodic theorem
- Presented isomorphism between interval [0, 1) and $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ using binary expansions to Math Department

Brownian Motion and Dirichlet Problem

Fall 2020

Directed Reading Program with PhD Candidate Nick Lohr

- Used Fourier series to solve heat equation on interval with Dirichlet and Von Neumann boundary conditions
- Solved Laplace's equation on disc using Fourier series and Poisson kernel
- Constructed Brownian motion as limit of simple random walk
- Coded and presented simulations solving Laplace's equation on disc using Brownian motion to Math Department

Independent Statistical Work

Fall 2021 - Present

GitHub Page

• Coded and created graphics for Markov chain Monte Carlo methods on Ising model, cryptography cipher, and traveling salesman problem

- Coded and created graphics for sequential Monte Carlo particle filter on neural state-space model
- Coded and created graphics for multiple imputation algorithm

COURSEWORK

Notable Statistics Courses

- Bayesian Statistics: conjugate and non-informative priors, hierarchical models, Laplace approximations, Markov chain Monte Carlo
- Computational Statistics: importance and rejection sampling, bootstrap and jackknife resampling, mixture models and EM algorithm, Monte Carlo integration
- Graduate Bioinformatics: single cell RNA-seq, dendrograms, hidden Markov models, Viterbi algorithm, t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding
- Nonparametric Statistics: kernel density and regression estimation

Notable Mathematics Courses

- Graduate Measure Theoretic Probability: measurable spaces/functions, Borel-Cantelli lemmas, weak and strong law of large numbers, characteristic functions, central limit theorem
- Honors Probability and Stochastic Processes II, III: discrete and continuous time Markov chains, diffusion processes, martingales
- Advanced Linear Algebra: vector spaces, linear maps, eigenvectors and eigenvalues, spectral theory, singular value decomposition
- Math Models in Finance: Brownian motion, Black-Scholes equation

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Statistics Department Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022, Winter 2023

Evanston, IL

• Held office hours and graded homeworks for STAT 201 and 202

PROGRAMMING SKILLS Python, R, MATLAB, Bash, LaTeX