

Kevin Winner – Curriculum Vitae

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Research Interests

I am interested in using machine learning to model large scale population dynamics of endangered or difficult-to-study species. These ecological problems provide a unique motivation for novel advancements in machine learning and graphical models. My current projects include probabilistic inference for latent variables with countably infinite support (particularly time series of abundance) applied to moth, butterfly and salamander datasets and a continent-scale model of bird migration using Doppler weather radar data. Additionally, I am interested in citizen science, probabilistic graphical models, and inference in graphical models.

Work Experience

Sum 2016 Visiting Researcher
Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

Summer appointment studying statistical methods for animal movement modeling. Animals with GPS collars provided a rich dataset of animal behaviors and movement, from which we were interested in estimating range requirements and interaction dynamics between individuals, populations, and species.

Spr 2016 Visiting Lecturer
Mt Holyoke College

Taught Artificial Intelligence as a senior level undergraduate elective with a class of 15 students.

2013 - present Research Assistant
UMass, MLDS Lab

My supported project with MLDS has been the Birdcast project, a collaborative project with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that aims to model and forecast bird migration in the continental US using the NEXRAD system of Doppler weather radar. I developed a supervised learning system for distinguishing migration events from weather events in the radar datastream. I am also working on a regression technique which can forecast the quantity of nocturnal migrants using a combination of radar measurements and climatological forecasts.

2012 - 2013 Lecturer
University of MD, Baltimore County

In the 2012-2013 academic year, I became a full-time lecturer at UMBC, teaching 4 sections total of the courses described above. In general, I had a lot of freedom over my courses, with a faculty advisor to consult as needed.

2008 - 2012 Research Assistant
UMBC, MAPLE Lab

Worked on several research projects including a natural language grounding project for robotics, a generic error model for machine learning classifiers, and optimization in multi-agent systems. During my time in MAPLE, I also had an advisory role with many undergraduate students working with the lab.

- 2011** Intern
SRA International
 Designed a Hadoop implementation of Particle Swarm Optimization and applied it to a classified data mining application.
- 2007 - 2010** Intern
Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab
 Worked on a graph based wrapper for SQL queries in intelligence analysis we called Graph Query Language (GQL). Also developed ground software for visualizing and controlling systems on board the STEREO satellite mission.

Education

- 2013 - ~2018** University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 MS/PhD in Computer Science (in progress)
- 2006 - 2010** University of MD, Baltimore County
 BSc in Computer Science
 GPA: 3.7
 Honors College
 Cum Laude

Publications

- 2017 Kevin Winner, Debora Sujono, and Daniel Sheldon. Exact inference for integer latent-variable models. In *Proceedings of the 34th International Conference on International Conference on Machine Learning - Volume 39*, 2017. (To appear)
- 2016 Kevin Winner and Daniel Sheldon. Probabilistic inference with generating functions for poisson latent variable models. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 30*, 2016
- 2015 Kevin Winner, Garrett Bernstein, and Dan Sheldon. Inference in a partially observed queuing model with applications in ecology. In *Proceedings of the 32nd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML-15)*, pages 2512–2520. JMLR Workshop and Conference Proceedings, 2015
- 2015 Kevin Winner and Dan Sheldon. Inference in a partially observed queuing model with applications in ecology. In *AAAI 2015 Workshop on Computational Sustainability*, 2015
- 2015 Andrew Farnsworth, Benjamin Mark Van Doren, Wesley M. Hochachka, Daniel Sheldon, Kevin Winner, Jed Irvine, Jeffrey Geevarghese, and Steve Kelling. A characterization of autumn nocturnal migration detected by weather surveillance radars in the northeastern us. *Ecological Applications*, Sept. 2015
- 2015 Frank A. La Sorte, Wesley M. Hochachka, Andrew Farnsworth, Daniel Sheldon, Daniel Fink, Jeffrey Geevarghese, Kevin Winner, Benjamin M. Van Doren, and Steve Kelling. Migration timing and its determinants for nocturnal migratory birds during autumn migration. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, 84(5):1202–1212, 2015
- 2009 Kevin Winner, Don Miner, and Marie desJardins. Controlling particle swarm optimization with learned parameters. In *Self-Adaptive and Self-Organizing Systems, 2009. SASO '09. Third IEEE International Conference on*, pages 288–290, Sept 2009