

Lực Đinh-Khuong Ta

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh

Mathematics Ph.D. student, Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences

Pittsburgh, PA
Aug 2025 – present

- **Selected coursework:** Algebraic Groups (in progress), Introduction to Langlands (in progress)

Yale University

B.A. Mathematics (intensive track) & Ethnicity, Race, and Migration; GPA: 3.82

New Haven, CT
Aug 2021 – May 2025

- **Graduate coursework:** Representation Theory, Flavors of Hyperbolicity in Geometric Group Theory, Commutative Algebra and Category Theory, Algebraic Topology, Quantum Invariants of Knots and 3-Manifolds
- Conducted bachelor's thesis research advised by Prof. Sam Raskin; see [6]

Budapest Semesters in Mathematics

Study abroad; GPA: 4.0

Budapest, Hungary
Jun 2023 – Aug 2023

PUBLICATIONS

PREPRINTS

- [1] *Distinguishing power of 4-Legendrian permutation racks*, with Peyton Phinehas Wood. [arXiv:2510.26619](https://arxiv.org/abs/2510.26619), 2025. 13 pages.
- [2] *Groups versus quandle-like invariants of 3-manifolds*. [arXiv:2509.24098](https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.24098), 2025. 11 pages. Submitted.
- [3] *Good involutions of twisted conjugation subquandles and Alexander quandles*. [arXiv:2508.16772](https://arxiv.org/abs/2508.16772), 2025. 18 pages. Submitted.
- [4] *Good involutions of conjugation subquandles*. [arXiv:2505.08090](https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.08090), 2025. 32 pages. Submitted.
- [5] *Graph quandles: Generalized Cayley graphs of racks and right quasigroups*. [arXiv:2506.04437](https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.04437), 2025. 19 pages.
- [6] *Classification and structure of generalized Legendrian racks*. [arXiv:2504.12671](https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.12671), 2025. 29 pages. Submitted.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE

- [7] *Constructions of and bounds on the toric mosaic number*, with Kendall Heiney, Margaret Kipe, Samantha Pezzimenti, and Kaelyn Pontes. *Topology Appl.* **377** (2026), Paper No. 109657, [doi:10.1016/j.topol.2025.109657](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.topol.2025.109657). 17 pages. (Preprint available on [arXiv](https://arxiv.org/abs/2510.26619).)
- [8] *Enumeration of virtual quandles up to isomorphism*. *J. Integer Seq.* **28** (2025), no. 8, Article 25.8.4, <https://cs.uwaterloo.ca/journals/JIS/VOL28/Ta/ta3.html>. 11 pages. (Preprint available on [arXiv](https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.08090).)
- [9] *Bounds on the mosaic number of Legendrian knots*, with Margaret Kipe, Samantha Pezzimenti, Leif Schaumann, and Tony W. H. Wong. *J. Knot Theory Ramifications* **34** (2025), no. 12, Paper No. 2550055, [doi:10.1142/S0218216525500555](https://doi.org/10.1142/S0218216525500555). 52 pages. (Preprint available on [arXiv](https://arxiv.org/abs/2504.12671).)

EDITOR-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [10] Integer sequences [A383144](#)–[A383146](#), [A383828](#)–[A383831](#), [A385040](#)–[A385041](#), [A386231](#)–[A386234](#), and [A387317](#) related to various topics in group theory and nonassociative algebra (see [3–6]) and [A375353](#)–[A375357](#), [A375392](#), [A375619](#), and [A376155](#) related to combinatorics. *On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences (OEIS)*, 2025.
- [11] Integer sequences [A374939](#), [A374942](#)–[A374947](#), and [A375354](#) related to Legendrian knot mosaics (see [9]), with Margaret Kipe, Samantha Pezzimenti, Leif Schaumann, and Wing Hong Tony Wong. *On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences (OEIS)*, 2024.

PRESENTATIONS

Legendrian Knots and Rack-Theoretic Coloring Invariants SIAM Conference PD25, Contributed Presentation Session 9	Pittsburgh, PA Apr 2025
From Groups to Nonassociative Knot Invariants Graduate Student Seminar University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA Sep 2025
Why Knot? Algebraic Coloring Invariants of Legendrian Knots Mellon Forum (general audience), Grace Hopper College, Yale University	New Haven, CT Apr 2025
Generalized Legendrian Racks: Knot Coloring Invariants & Algebraic Classification Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference, Union College	Schenectady, NY Apr 2025
Computing the Mosaic Numbers of Legendrian Knots Joint Mathematical Meetings, Spectra Special Session on Research by LGBTQ+ Mathematicians	Seattle, WA Jan 2025
Thrown for a Loop: A Survey of Knot Theory (half expository, half research talk) Pizza Seminar Series, Yale Undergraduate Mathematics Society, Yale University	New Haven, CT Sep 2024
Toric Knot Mosaics (with Kendall Heiney) UnKnot V Conference, Seattle University, Department of Mathematics	Seattle, WA Jul 2024
Legendrian Knot Mosaics (with Margaret Kipe and Leif Schaumann) REU Symposium, Gettysburg College, Department of Mathematics	Gettysburg, PA Jun 2024

TEACHING

Lie Groups, Lie Algebras, and Representation Theory Mentor, Directed Reading Program	University of Pittsburgh Sep 2025 – present
– Hold weekly one-on-one meetings to mentor an undergraduate student studying Lie theory, culminating in an end-of-term project and colloquium presentation	
– Developed an original syllabus using the book <i>Lie Groups, Lie Algebras, and Representations</i> by Brian Hall	
Preparation for Scientific Calculus Substitute Teaching Assistant	University of Pittsburgh Sep 2025
– Led semiweekly practice sessions and administered exams for 30 precalculus students	
Fields and Galois Theory Undergraduate Learning Assistant	Yale University Jan 2025 – May 2025
– Served as one of two TAs for 22 students; held regular office hours, small group tutoring sessions, and review sessions; designed original exam review materials; held regular one-on-one tutoring sessions; graded assignments	
Introduction to Abstract Algebra Undergraduate Learning Assistant	Yale University Aug 2024 – Dec 2024
– Served as one of two TAs for 41 students; held regular office hours and interactive exam review sessions; designed original exam review materials	
Analysis II: Lebesgue Integration and Complex Fourier Series Undergraduate Learning Assistant	Yale University Jan 2024 – May 2024
– Created and distributed original exam review materials; designed and conducted multiple interactive exam review sessions and collected student feedback throughout the term; held regular office hours	
– Served as the only on-campus ULA for all 40 students; wrote and provided solution sets to assist the off-campus ULA	
Real Analysis Undergraduate Learning Assistant	Yale University Aug 2023 – Dec 2023
– Designed and led weekly proof-writing workshops to introduce 44 students to set-theoretic concepts, proof techniques, and mathematical writing; conducted interactive midterm and final exam review sessions; held regular office hours	

Introduction to Functions and Calculus I-II
Undergraduate Learning Assistant and Peer Tutor

Yale University
Aug 2022 – May 2023

- Designed and led semiweekly interactive practice workshops; organized and conducted weekly small-group review sessions; created original practice problems for all 88 students and solution sets for other ULA's to consult during workshops

EMPLOYMENT

Web Developer
Yale University Bands

New Haven, CT
Aug 2023 – May 2025

- Applied HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to oversee web development for Yale's concert, jazz, and marching bands

Undergraduate Learning Assistant
Yale University, Department of Mathematics

New Haven, CT
Aug 2022 – May 2025

- Hired after a highly selective interview and teaching evaluation process with mathematics faculty
- For further information, please refer to the “Teaching” section above.

Mathematics Tutor
Self-employed

New Haven, CT and remote
Aug 2021 – present

- Work one-on-one with students of all ages to develop and reinforce mathematical confidence, review material for courses and standardized testing, and nurture mathematical curiosity by exploring connections to higher mathematics

Event Assistant
“Crossroads of Algebra, Geometry, and Physics” Conference at Yale University

New Haven, CT
May 2022

- Worked alongside mathematics faculty and staff to facilitate and usher for a Yale mathematics conference
- Took advantage of the opportunity to attend presentations and explore algebraic geometry as a future research interest

SERVICE

Co-Secretary, Graduate Student Organization
University of Pittsburgh, Department of Mathematics

Pittsburgh, PA
Sep 2025 – present

- Elected to take notes at meetings, share meeting minutes with the department, and maintain student resources for graduate students

Organizer, Scheme Theory Reading Group
University of Pittsburgh, Department of Mathematics

Pittsburgh, PA
Sep 2025 – present

- Organize weekly meetings to discuss the algebraic geometry book *The Rising Sea* by Ravi Vakil (currently on Ch. 9), advised by Prof. Roman Fedorov

Session Chair
SIAM Conference PD25

Pittsburgh, PA
Nov 2025

- Selected to serve as chair for Contributed Presentation Session 9

Delegate, Student Advisory Committee
Yale University, Department of Mathematics

New Haven, CT
Feb 2024 – Apr 2025

- Elected by students across mathematics-related majors to bridge the gap between students and faculty
- Advocated in particular for the needs of first-generation and marginalized students at biweekly meetings

Undergraduate Peer Mentor
Yale Undergraduate Mathematics Society

New Haven, CT
Aug 2023 – Apr 2025

- Mentor first-year students interested in studying mathematics, especially other first-generation students
- Engage with Yale's broader mathematics community through various events, seminars, and presentations

Mathematics Advisor, Academic Fair
Yale University, Department of Mathematics

New Haven, CT
Aug 2023, Aug 2024, Apr 2025

- Introduced incoming students to Yale's mathematics department, answering questions about courses and the major

Cofounder and Vice Chair Yale Students for Ranked-Choice Voting	New Haven, CT Aug 2022 – May 2025
– Mentored students interested in statistical and combinatorial research on ranked-choice voting in New Haven	

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

REU: Research Challenges of Computational Methods in Discrete Mathematics Moravian University, Department of Mathematics	Bethlehem, PA May 2024 – Jul 2024
– Supervisors: Profs. Samantha Pezzimenti (Widener University) and Wing Hong Tony Wong (Kutztown University)	
– Conducted [7, 9] using methods from topology, knot theory, algebra, and combinatorics and Python algorithms	
Independent Study of Lie Theory and Representation Theory Yale University, Department of Mathematics	
– Advisor: Prof. Andrew Neitzke	
Directed Project on Commutative Algebra Polymath, Jr. Undergraduate Research Program	
– Advisor: Prof. Ananthnarayan Hariharan (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)	
Science, Technology, and Research Scholars (STARS) Program Yale University, Science and Quantitative Reasoning Center	
– New Haven, CT Jan 2023 – May 2023	
– Remote Jun 2022 – Aug 2022	
– New Haven, CT Aug 2021 – May 2022	

WORKSHOPS

Mathematics REU Panel (Invited panelist) Yale Undergraduate Mathematics Society, Yale University	New Haven, CT Jan 2024
Departmental Town Halls (Organized and led) Yale University, Department of Mathematics	
– Held discussions at two sessions open for all students to provide feedback for the department, especially regarding its climate and potential structural reforms	
– Compiled a report of students' experiences and critiques to share with the Dean of Undergraduate Studies in Mathematics	
Mathematics Career Panel (Organized and led) Yale University, Department of Mathematics	
Mathematics Graduate School Panel (Organized) Yale University, Department of Mathematics	
Mathematics Course Scheduling and Major Planning Workshop (Organized and hosted) Yale University, Department of Mathematics	
– New Haven, CT Nov 2024	
– New Haven, CT Apr 2024	
– New Haven, CT Apr 2024	

HONORS & GRANTS

SREB-State Doctoral Scholar Southern Regional Education Board	Sep 2025
K. Leroy Irvis Fellowship University of Pittsburgh, Office of the Provost	
Prospective Ph.D. Preview Program Scholar (6% acceptance rate) Princeton University, Graduate School Deans and Administration	
Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society (Founding member of Yale chapter) Yale University	
– Jan 2023 – May 2025	

Richter Summer Fellowship	Jun 2023
Paul K. Richter and Evalyn E. Cook Richter Memorial Fund	
International Study Award	Jun 2023
Yale University	
Summer Experience Award	May 2022
Yale University	
Winston T. Townsend Prize for Excellence in English Composition	May 2022
Yale University, Department of English	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- American Mathematical Society (AMS)
- Center for Minorities in the Mathematical Sciences (CMMS)
- Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (oSTEM)
- Sines of Disability
- Spectra, the Association for LGBTQ+ Mathematicians

SKILLS

- **Programming languages:** Python, Java, R, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Wolfram Language
- **Other software:** L^AT_EX, PGF/TikZ, GAP, Mathematica, Singular, KnotPlot, Jupyter Notebook, Git, Logger Pro, Adobe Creative Cloud
- **Human languages:** American Sign Language (advanced), Spanish (intermediate), Vietnamese (conversational), Italian (reading only)