

Matthew Faw

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Research Interests

Online learning, optimization, domain adaptation, adaptive data analysis, prophet inequalities.

Education

2018–Present **Ph.D. in ECE**, *University of Texas at Austin*, Austin, TX.

Advisors: Sanjay Shakkottai, Constantine Caramanis.

2013–2017 **B.S.E. ECE, B.S. Computer Science, A.B. Math**, *Duke University*, Durham, NC.

Awards + Honors

2020 NXP Foundation Fellowship for the 2020-2021 academic year

2017 Cum Laude Graduation Honors, Duke University

2016 Member, Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu Honor Societies, Duke University

2015 \$6000 Research Grant, SMiF Undergraduate User Program

2014 Gold medal, International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition

Publications + Preprints

Matthew Faw*, Orestis Papadigenopoulos*, Emmanouil Pountourakis, and Constantine Caramanis. Single-sample prophet inequalities revisited. In submission to EC 2021.

Matthew Faw, Rajat Sen, Karthikeyan Shanmugam, Constantine Caramanis, and Sanjay Shakkottai. Mix and match: An optimistic tree-search approach for learning models from mixture distributions. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2020.

Matthew Faw, Karthikeyan Shanmugam, Constantine Caramanis, and Sanjay Shakkottai. Multi-source domain adaptation under sparsity constraints. In submission to ICML 2021.

Seyed Majid Zahedi, Songchun Fan, Matthew Faw, Elijah Cole, and Benjamin C Lee. Computational sprinting: Architecture, dynamics, and strategies. *ACM Transactions on Computer Systems (TOCS)*, 34(4):12, 2017.

Research Experience

May 2020– **Improved Single-Sample Prophet Inequalities**, UT Austin.

Derived *first* single-sample prophet inequality for matchings, and improved best-known inequalities for transversal, graphic, and laminar matroids.

Feb 2019– **New Algorithms and Relaxed Assumptions for Domain Adaptation**, UT Austin.

Proved novel concentration and stability results for iterative hard thresholding and SGD. Used these results to design algorithms for several multi-source domain adaptation problems with provable guarantees.

Jan-Dec 2016 **Datacenter Architecture**, Advisor: *Dr. Benjamin Lee*, Duke University.

Evaluated performance and economic viability of several strategies for system-level computational sprinting for Spark applications. Worked on extensions for co-locating batch and latency-critical workloads.

- Jan-Dec 2015 **Microfluidics**, Advisor: *Dr. Richard Fair*, Duke University.
Designed and fabricated digital microfluidic devices capable of manipulating E.coli using magnetic beads within droplet to conduct small-scale biology experiments.
- May-Nov 2014 **Synthetic Biology**, Advisor: *Dr. Nick Buchler*, Duke University.
Conducted molecular titration experiments to evaluate several CRISPR-based techniques for creating an ultrasensitive response in gene expression. Designed 3D-printed lab equipment to lower financial barriers to biology research.

Industry Experience

- June **Software Engineer**, *Verato*, McLean, VA.
2017-July Co-designed and built a custom continuous integration system using Kubernetes, capable of testing
2018 hundreds of simultaneous builds of the software stack. Designed software to maintain 300M entry Mongo database and Solr search engine.
- May-August **Software Engineering Intern, Stateflow Semantics**, *MathWorks*, Natick, MA.
2016 Co-designed and implemented a proof-of-concept architectural change to the team's code generation process that allowed product extensibility and optimizations that were previously infeasible.

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2018, **EE 460J, Data Science Lab TA**, *UT Austin*.
Spring 2019 Led lab sessions, and graded homeworks and exams
- Spring 2017 **CS 308, Software Design and Implementation TA**, *Duke University*.
Personally mentored 3 undergraduate CS students, conducted code reviews, advised and evaluated design and implementation of 3 software projects.
- Fall 2015 **ECE 280, Signals & Systems TA**, *Duke University*.
Held office hours and graded assignments for 70 undergraduate students.
- Spring 2015 **Synthetic Biology House Course Co-Designer/Instructor**, *Duke University*.
Co-designed and taught the first-offered Duke course on synthetic biology to 10 undergraduates.

Graduate Coursework

- Fall 2018 Probability & Stochastic Processes, Large Scale Optimization I
Spring 2019 Analysis & Design of Communication Networks, Large Scale Optimization II
Fall 2019 Online Learning, Combinatorics & Graph Theory
Spring 2020 Markov Chains & Mixing Times, Theoretical Statistics
Fall 2020 Advanced Probability, Combinatorial Optimization, Sublinear Algorithms

Technical Skills

- Programming Java, Python (PyTorch, Sklearn), C/C++, JavaScript
Infrastructure Kubernetes, AWS, Google Cloud, Mongo, Solr

References

Sanjay Shakkottai, Professor, UT Austin, sanjay.shakkottai@utexas.edu
Constantine Caramanis, Professor, UT Austin, constantine@utexas.edu
Benjamin Lee, Professor, University of Pennsylvania, leebcc@seas.upenn.edu