Matthew T. Pham (He/Him/His)

Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering

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Profiles & Links Linkedin

Google Scholar GitHub

Personal Website

Education

2021 - Present Ph.D. Molecular Engineering – University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

(Expected 2026) Advisors: Dr. Marco Govoni and Professor Giulia Galli

2017 - 2021 B.S. Physics – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

Magna Cum Laude Cumulative GPA: 3.87/4.0 Major GPA: 3.97/4.0

2016 - 2017 High School Dual Enrollment – Scott Community College, Riverdale, Iowa

Transfer GPA: 3.93/4.0 Total Credit Hours: 29

2013 - 2017 High School Diploma – Assumption High School, Davenport, Iowa

Summa Cum Laude Cumulative GPA: 3.95/4.0

Experience

Mar. 2022 - Computational Materials Group - Argonne National Laboratory

Present Graduate Student Researcher

Advised by Dr. Marco Govoni and Professor Giullia Galli. Utilized density functional theory to study materials and defects for applications in quantum information science.

Oct. 2020 - Davit Potoyan Group - Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University

Sep. 2021 *Undergraduate Research*

Studied properties of liquid-liquid phase separated protein-RNA condensates using molecular dynamics simulations (HOOMD-Blue). Developed Python libraries for designing, running, and analyzing simulations to better understand the formation, stability, and dynamic properties of biomolecular condensates.

May 2019 - Alex Travesset Group - Department of Physics & Astronomy, Iowa State University

Dec. 2020 Undergraduate Research

Studied substrate supported gold nanoparticles capped with hydrocarbon ligands. Analyzed the role of nanoparticle-nanoparticle and nanoparticle-substrate interactions in superlattice self-assembly.

May 2020 - U.S. DOE Ames National Laboratory SULI Summer 2020 Internship

July 2020 Summer Research Internship

Advised by Alex Travesset. Extended research of nanoparticle-substrate interactions by focusing on many nanoparticle systems. Analyzed many-body effects of substrate supported nanoparticle pairs, clusters, and superlattices relative to free-floating assemblies. Compared the effects of core anisotropy in nanoparticle orientation in presence and absence of supporting substrate.

Publications

- 3. Laghmach, R., Alshareedah, I., **Pham, M.**, Raju, M., Banerjee, P.R., Potoyan, D.A. "RNA chain length and stoichiometry govern surface tension and stability of protein-RNA condensates." *iScience*. (2022). DOI:10.1016/j.isci.2022.104105
- 2. Alshareedah, I., Moosa, M.M., **Pham, M.**, Potoyan, D.A., Banerjee, P.R. "Programmable viscoelasticity in protein-RNA condensates with disordered sticker-spacer polypeptides." *Nature Communications.* **12**, 6620 (2021). DOI: 10.1038/s41467-021-26733-7
- 1. **Pham, M.** and Travesset, A. "Ligand Structure and Adsorption Free Energy of Nanocrystals on Solid Substrates." *Journal of Chemical Physics.* **153**, 204701 (2020). DOI: 10.1063/5.0030529

Presentations & Conferences

29 July 2020 *Many-Body Effects of Substrate Supported Nanoparticles (Poster/Virtual)*

Ames, Iowa U.S. DOE Ames Lab SULI Summer Poster Presentations

4 March 2020 Ligand Structure and Free Energy of Nanoparticles on Substrates

Denver, Colorado American Physical Socity (APS) March Meeting 2020

Teaching Experience

Jan. 2021 - Teaching Assistant - Department of Physics & Astronomy, Iowa State University

May 2021 Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Teaching assistant and grader for PHYS 481: Quantum Mechanics II taught by Professor Mayly Sanchez at Iowa State University during Spring of 2021. Hosted weekly office hours and graded homework assignments.

Software, Tools, & Applications

Programming Languages: Python, C++, & R

Operating Systems: Linux (Ubuntu, Manjaro/Arch, RedHat/CentOS) & Windows

Software & Tools: MatLab, Mathematica, Git, Inkscape, Lagar & Overleaf

Honors & Awards

Spring 2021 Lassahn Scholarship in Physics

Department of Physics & Astronomy – Iowa State University

Spring 2020 Danielson Award for Academic Excellence

Department of Physics & Astronomy - Iowa State University

Spring 2020 ΦBK − Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Induction

Zeta Chapter – Iowa State University

2017 - 2021 *LAS Dean's List (8 semesters)*

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences - Iowa State University

Fall 2017 George Washington Carver Scholar (Full Tuition Scholarship)

Multicultural Student Association – Iowa State University

Academic & Professional Societies

2019 - Present American Physical Society (APS)

Division of Soft Matter (DSOFT)

2020 - Present ΦBK – Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Extracurriculars

2018 - 2021 Senior Public Relations Char

Ames Collegiate Chess Club – Iowa State University

Helped organize outreach and fundraising events including pizza sales, informational presentations, and state-open tournaments. Annually ran four chess tournaments, two United States Chess Federation (USCF) rated tournaments and two casual unrated tournaments. Coordinated with the Iowa State Chess Association (IASCA) and other chess clubs associated with universities in Iowa to setup tournaments to be included in the state championship qualifier other and collegiate events.

Certificates

January 2022 Introduction to Machine Learning

Issuer: Coursera

Certificate ID: P529MV4M3DR7

Coursework

† — Graduate Course

■ Computer/Data Science, Computation, & Applications

MENG 35620 † – Applied Artificial Intelligence for Materials Science & Engineering MSE 582X † – Machine Learning & Data Analytics for Materials Research STAT 31100 † – Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations IE 420 – Engineering Problem Solving with R COM S 227 – Object Oriented Programming

■ Molecular Engineering

MENG 35500^{\dagger} – Classical Materials & Molecular Modeling MENG 31200^{\dagger} – Thermodynamics & Statistical Mechanics MENG 31300^{\dagger} – Transport Phenomena MENG 31100^{\dagger} – Math Methods in Molecular Engineering MENG 35100^{\dagger} – Introduction to Polymer Science

Physics

PHYS 528^{\dagger} – Mathematical Methods for Physical Sciences PHYS 511^{\dagger} – Condensed Matter Physics PHYS 480/481 – Quantum Mechanics I & II PHYS 364/365 – Electricity & Magnetism I & II PHYS 361/362 – Classical/Intermediate Mechanics PHYS 304 – Thermal Physics PHYS 321/322 – Modern Physics I & II with Labs PHYS 311 – Independent Intermediate Lab (Sonoluminescence) PHYS 310 – Electronic Instrumentation & Lab

Mathematics

MATH 385 – Partial Differential Equations MATH 267 – Differential Equations & Laplace Transforms MATH 265 – Calculus III MATH 207 – Matrices & Linear Algebra

■ Chemistry & Biology

CHEM 331 – Organic Chemistry & Lab CHEM 301 – Inorganic Chemistry BIO 314 – Molecular Cell Biology BIO 255/256 – Human Anatomy & Physiology with Labs

Communication

ENG 314 – Technical Communication SP CM 104 – Public Speaking