

Research Interests

Algorithms, and its connections to learning, optimization, and statistics

My research is focused on the design of fast algorithms for problems ranging from theoretical computer science to machine learning and statistics. My work brings together tools from convex optimization, numerical linear algebra, data-structures, and approximation theory.

Appointments

- 2017 – Present **University of Toronto**
- 2023 – Present Associate Professor (with tenure), Mathematical and Computational Sciences
Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Computer Science
- 2017 – 2023 Assistant Professor, Mathematical and Computational Sciences
Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science
- 2019 – Present **Vector Institute**, Faculty Affiliate
- Fall 2019 **Institute for Advanced Study**, Visitor
- 2016 – 2017 **Google**, Research Scientist
- 2014 – 2016 **Yale University**, Postdoctoral Associate
Supervisor: Prof. Daniel Spielman
- Fall 2013 **UC Berkeley**, Simons Research Fellow

Education

- 2008 – 2013 **Princeton University**
Ph.D., M.A., Department of Computer Science
Advisor: Prof. Sanjeev Arora
- 2004 – 2008 **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**
B.Tech., Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Honors and Awards

- 2023 **Sloan Research Fellowship** (USD 75,000)
- 2023 Invited long-term Participant for Fall 2023, Simons Institute UC Berkeley
- 2023 **Young Alumni Achiever Award**, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)
- 2023 **Invited Plenary Speaker** at SODA 2023
- 2022 **Best Paper Award** at FOCS 2022
- 2022 **Ontario Early Researcher Award 2022-27** (CAD 150,000)
- 2021 **MITACS Accelerate Grant 2021** (CAD 65,000)
- 2018 **NSERC Discovery Grant 2018-2024** (CAD 210,500)
- 2018 Connaught New Researcher Award 2018 (CAD 10,000)
- 2018 **Google Faculty Research Award**, 2017 (USD 43,335)
- 2013 **Simons-Berkeley Research Fellowship**, Fall 2013 (USD 26,466)

- 2013 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (2013-2014, USD 50,000 – declined)
- 2008 **President of India Gold Medal** for topping the class of 2008 (of 500+ students)
- 2008 Jayanti Deshmukh Memorial Gold Medal for being the most outstanding B.Tech. student in the computer science class of 2008 (out of 35 students)
- 2007 Honorable Mention at **ACM ICPC World Finals, Tokyo 2007** representing IIT Bombay
- 2004 **1st all over India** in IIT Entrance Examination 2004 (among 170,000+ students)
- 2004 **Bronze Medalist** at 36th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2004, Kiel, Germany
- 2004 Aditya Birla Scholarship 2004–08, awarded to only 10 engineering students each year.
- 2004 Dhirubai Ambani Scholarship 2004–08, awarded to top 10 students in Maharashtra state
- 2002 Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) fellowship 2002–04. Awarded to around 50 students each year; aimed at promoting research careers in the sciences.

Monographs

- 2014 *Faster Algorithms via Approximation Theory*
S. Sachdeva, N. K. Vishnoi
In Foundations and Trends in Theoretical Computer Science 9.2 (FTTCS) 2014, pp. 125-210

Refereed Journal Publications

- SICOMP 2020 *Graph Sparsification, Spectral Sketches, and Faster Resistance Computation via Short Cycle Decompositions*
T. Chu, Y. Gao, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva, S. Sawlani, J. Wang
SIAM Journal on Computing, FOCS 2018 Special Issue (2020), pp. 85–157
- ORLetters 2016 *The mixing time of the Dikin walk in a polytope – A simple proof*
S. Sachdeva, N. Vishnoi
In Operations Research Letters, 44.5 (September 2016), pp. 630–634
- OJAC 2016 *An Arithmetic Analogue of Fox’s Triangle Removal Argument*
P. Hatami, S. Sachdeva, M. Tulsiani
In Online Journal of Analytic Combinatorics 11 (OJAC) 2016
- Algorithmica 2015 *Provable ICA with Unknown Gaussian Noise, and Implications for Gaussian Mixtures and Autoencoders*
S. Arora, R. Ge, A. Moitra, S. Sachdeva
In Algorithmica 72.1 (May 2015), pp. 215–236
- SIDMA 2015 *Inapproximability of Minimum Vertex Cover on k -Uniform k -Partite Hypergraphs*
V. Guruswami, S. Sachdeva, R. Saket
In SIAM Journal on Discrete Mathematics 29.1 (SIDMA) 2015, pp. 36–58
- CGF 2014 *Greedy Geometric Algorithms for Collection of Balls, with Applications to Geometric Approximation and Molecular Coarse-Graining*
F. Cazals, T. Dreyfus, S. Sachdeva, N. Shah
In Computer Graphics Forum 33–6, 2014
- TCBB 2011 *On the Characterization and Selection of Diverse Conformational Ensembles with Applications to Flexible Docking*
S. Lorient, S. Sachdeva, K. Bastard, C. Prevost, F. Cazals
In Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, IEEE/ACM Transactions on 8.2 (TCBB) 2011, pp. 487–498

Refereed Conference / Workshop Publications

- SPAA 2023 *A Simple and Efficient Parallel Laplacian Solver*
S. Sachdeva, Y. Zhao
- SOSA 2023 *A Simple Framework for Finding Balanced Sparse Cuts via APSP*
L. Chen, R. Kyng, M. Probst Gutenberg, S. Sachdeva
- SODA 2023 *A New Approach to Estimating Effective Resistances & Counting Spanning Trees in Expanders*
L. Li, S. Sachdeva
- FOCS 2022 *Maximum Flow and Minimum-Cost Flow in Almost-Linear Time*
L. Chen, R. Kyng, Y. P. Liu, R. Peng, M. P. Gutenberg, S. Sachdeva
Best Paper Award at FOCS 2022
Invited to **J.ACM**
Invited to **Highlight of Algorithms 2023**
- ICML 2022 *A Convergent and Dimension-Independent Min-Max Optimization Algorithm*
V. Keswani, O. Mangoubi, S. Sachdeva, N. K. Vishnoi
- SODA 2022 *Nested Dissection Meets IPMs: Planar Min-Cost Flow in Nearly Linear Time*
S. Dong, Y. Gao, G. Goranci, Y.T. Lee, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva, G. Ye
- NeurIPS 2021 *Unifying Width-Reduced Methods for Quasi-Self-Concordant Optimization*
D. Adil, B. Bullins, S. Sachdeva
- ICALP 2021 *Almost-linear-time Weighted ℓ_p -norm Solvers in Slightly Dense Graphs via Sparsification.*
D. Adil, B. Bullins, R. Kyng, S. Sachdeva
- NeurIPS 2020 *Regularized linear autoencoders recover the principal components, eventually*
X. Bao, J. Lucas, S. Sachdeva, R. Grosse
- ICML 2020 *Faster Graph Embeddings via Coarsening*
M. Fahrback, G. Goranci, S. Sachdeva, R. Peng, C. Wang
- SODA 2020 *Faster p -norm minimizing flows, via smoothed q -norm problems*
D. Adil, S. Sachdeva
- NeurIPS 2019 *Fast, Provably convergent IRLS Algorithm for p -norm Linear Regression*
D. Adil, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva
- NeurIPS 2019 *Which Algorithmic Choices Matter at Which Batch Sizes? Insights From a Noisy Quadratic Model*
G. Zhang, L. Li, Z. Nado, J. Martens, S. Sachdeva, G. Dahl, C. Shallue, R. Grosse
- STOC 2019 *Flows in Almost Linear Time via Adaptive Preconditioning*
R. Kyng, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva, D. Wang
- AISTATS 2019 *Improved Semi-Supervised Learning with Multiple Graphs*
K. Viswanathan*, S. Sachdeva*, A. Tomkins, S. Ravi (*=equal contribution)
- SODA 2019 *Iterative Refinement for ℓ_p -norm Regression*
D. Adil, R. Kyng, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva
- SODA 2019 *Short Cycles via Low-Diameter Decompositions*
Y. P. Liu, S. Sachdeva, Z. Yu
- FOCS 2018 *Graph Sparsification, Spectral Sketches, and Faster Resistance Computation, via Short Cycle Decompositions*
T. Chu, Y. Gao, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva, S. Sawlani, J. Wang
Invited to SIAM Journal on Computing **Special Issue**
Invited to **Highlights of Algorithms 2019**

- ITCS 2018 *Convergence Results for Neural Networks via Electrodynamics*
R. Panigrahy, A. Rahimi, S. Sachdeva, Q. Zhang
- SODA 2018 *Near-optimal approximation algorithm for simultaneous Max-Cut*
A. Bhangale, S. Khot, S. Kopparty, S. Sachdeva, D. Thiruvengatachari
- STOC 2017 *Sampling Random Spanning Trees Faster than Matrix Multiplication*
D. Durfee, R. Kyng, J. Peebles, A. B. Rao, S. Sachdeva
- SODA 2017 *A framework for analyzing resparsification algorithms*
R. Kyng, J. Pachocki, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva
- FOCS 2016 *Approximate Gaussian Elimination for Laplacians: Fast, Sparse, and Simple*
R. Kyng, S. Sachdeva
Invited to **Highlights of Algorithms 2017**
- STOC 2016 *Sparsified Cholesky and Multigrid Solvers for Connection Laplacians*
R. Kyng, Y. T. Lee, R. Peng, S. Sachdeva, and D. A. Spielman
- NIPS 2015 *Fast, Provable Algorithms for Isotonic Regression in all ℓ_p -norms*
R. Kyng, A. B. Rao, S. Sachdeva
- COLT 2015 *Algorithms for Lipschitz Learning on Graphs*
R. Kyng, A. B. Rao, S. Sachdeva, D. A. Spielman
- ICALP 2015 *Simultaneous Approximation of Constraint Satisfaction Problems*
A. Bhangale, S. Kopparty, S. Sachdeva
- CCC 2013 *Optimal Inapproximability for Scheduling Problems via Structural Hardness for Hypergraph Vertex Cover*
S. Sachdeva, R. Saket
- STOC 2012 *Approximating the Exponential, the Lanczos Method and an $\tilde{O}(m)$ -Time Spectral Algorithm for Balanced Separator*
L. Orecchia, S. Sachdeva, N. K. Vishnoi
- NIPS 2012 *Provable ICA with Unknown Gaussian Noise, and Implications for Gaussian Mixtures and Autoencoders*
S. Arora, R. Ge, A. Moitra, S. Sachdeva
Invited to **Algorithmica Special Issue for Machine Learning**
- EC 2012 *Finding Overlapping Communities in Social Networks: Towards a Rigorous Approach*
S. Arora, R. Ge, S. Sachdeva, G. Schoenebeck
- RANDOM 2012 *Testing Permanent Oracles — Revisited*
S. Arora, A. Bhattacharyya, R. Manokaran, S. Sachdeva
- APPROX 2011 *Nearly Optimal NP-Hardness of Vertex Cover on k -Uniform k -Partite Hypergraphs*
S. Sachdeva, R. Saket

Theses

- 2013 *New Results in the Theory of Approximation: Fast Graph Algorithms and Inapproximability*
Ph.D. Thesis, Princeton University. Advised by Sanjeev Arora
- 2008 *On the Hardness of Approximating Vertex Cover*
B.Tech. Thesis, IIT Bombay. Advised by Sundar Vishwanathan

Supervision

Graduate students:

Lawrence Li (Ph.D. student, UToronto, 2020–)
Yibin Zhao (Ph.D. student, UToronto, 2020–)
Hantang Li (MScAC student, UToronto, 2023–)
Anthony Rinaldi (MScAC student, UToronto, 2023–)
Deepkamal Kaur Gill (MScAC student, UToronto, 2022–2023)
Hao Zhang (MScAC student, UToronto, 2021–22)
Deeksha Adil (M.Sc. student, UToronto, 2017–2019, Ph.D. student, 2019–2022)

Postdocs:

Gramoz Goranci (2020–2021). Assistant Professor at U. Vienna.

Undergraduate students:

Sasha Voitovich (UToronto, Winter 2023)
Anvith Thudi (UToronto, 2022–)
Devansh Ranade (UToronto, 2020–2021)
Jack McKinney (UToronto, Summer 2020)
Zejun Yu (UToronto, Summer 2018)

Mentees:

Yang P. Liu (Summer 2018). Graduate student, Stanford.
Joshua Wang (Summer 2017). Research Scientist, Google.
Qiuyi (Richard) Zhang (Fall 2016). Software Engineer, Google.
Xiao Shi (Fall 2015). Software Engineer, Facebook.

Media Coverage

- 2022 Quanta Magazine, [Researchers Achieve ‘Absurdly Fast’ Algorithm for Network Flow](#)
Quanta Science Podcast, — : [Apple](#), [Google](#), [Spotify](#)

Talks

Almost-linear time Algorithms for Max-Flow and More

- Feb 2023 Princeton University, Theory Lunch
Jan 2023 Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA), Invited Plenary talk
Dec 2022 Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, STCS Seminar
Oct 2022 Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
May 2022 Simons Institute for Theory of Computing, 10th Anniversary Symposium
May 2022 University of Toronto, Theory Seminar
Apr 2022 University of Texas Austin, Theory Seminar
Mar 2022 University of Waterloo, Theory Seminar
Mar 2022 IRIF Paris, Algorithms and Complexity Seminar

Improved ℓ_p -norm Optimization via Iterative Refinement

- Apr 2021 University of Washington. Theory seminar
Feb 2021 Carnegie Mellon University, Theory seminar
Sep 2019 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Seminar
Sep 2019 Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Seminar
Feb 2019 Northwestern University, Theory seminar
Feb 2019 University of Chicago / Toyota Technological Institute, Theory Seminar
Feb 2019 Google Mountain View, STOCA Workshop

Faster p -norm minimizing flows, via smoothed q -norm problems

- Jan 2020 Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA)

Fast IRLS Algorithms for p -norm regression

- May 2020 University of Toronto, Fuji Co-creation Lab seminar

- Nov 2019 Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
 Nov 2019 Yale University, Theory Seminar
Graph Sparsifiers via Short-Cycle Decompositions
 Dec 2019 Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
 Jun 2019 Highlights of Algorithms, Copenhagen
Approximate Gaussian Elimination and Applications
 Oct 2018 Laplacian 2.0 Workshop, FOCS 2018
Fast Approximate Gaussian Elimination for Laplacians
 Jun 2018 Dagstuhl Seminar, Germany, High Performance Graph Algorithms
 Jun 2018 Canada Applied and Industrial Mathematics Society (CAIMS), Toronto
 Nov 2017 University of Waterloo, Department Seminar
 Jun 2017 Highlights of Algorithms, Berlin
 Mar 2017 Simons Collaboration on Algorithms & Geometry, New York
 Nov 2016 TOCA-SV, Stanford University
 Sep 2016 TCS Plus Seminar
 Sep 2016 Harvard University, Theory of Computation Seminar
 Sep 2016 Boston University, Theory Lunch
Fast Algorithms for Optimization and Learning on Graphs
 May 2016 Google, New York
 Apr 2016 Computer Science Colloquium, Purdue University
 Mar 2016 Department of Computer Science Lecture, University of Toronto, Canada
 Mar 2016 Computer Science Seminar, University of Colorado Boulder
Regression on Graphs – Lipschitz and Isotonic
 May 2016 University of Texas Austin, Simons Seminar
 Nov 2015 University of Chicago, Scientific and statistical computing seminar
Lipschitz Learning on Graphs
 Nov 2016 Carnegie Mellon University, Theory seminar
 Jul 2015 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, CS department Seminar
 Jul 2015 EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) INF department seminar
 Jul 2015 Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)
 May 2015 University of California San Diego, CS department theory seminar
 Apr 2015 Yale University, Statistics department seminar
Triangle Removal in Groups
 Nov 2013 Simons Institute for Theory of Computing, Real analysis seminar
 Apr 2013 Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) Computer science/discrete mathematics seminar
Generalizations of KKL Theorem and Friedgut’s Junta Theorem
 Aug 2013 Simons Institute for Theory of Computing, UC Berkeley, Real analysis workshop
Hardness for Scheduling Problems
 Jun 2013 Conference on Computational Complexity (CCC)
Near-linear Time Algorithms for Balanced Separator
 Mar 2013 Rutgers University, DIMACS/CS theoretical computer science seminar
 Aug 2012 University of Washington, ETP theory connections
 May 2012 Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC)
 Apr 2012 Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) Computer science/discrete mathematics seminar
Testing Permanent Oracles
 Aug 2012 International Workshop on Randomization and Computation (RANDOM)

Professional Service

Editor:

- 2021 ACM Transactions of Algorithms (TALG) SODA 2021 special issue

2019 SIAM Journal on Computing (SICOMP) STOC 2019 special issue

Program Committee:

2023 Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS) 2024

2023 IEEE Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS) 2023

2022 European Symposium on Algorithms (ESA) 2022

2022 ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC) 2022

2021 ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA) 2021

2019 ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC) 2019

Organizer:

2018 Workshop ‘Laplacians 2.0’, FOCS 2018, Paris, France

Conference Reviewing: STOC (2014–2020), FOCS (2014–2021), SODA (2012–2020), CCC 2020, COLT 2018–2019, ESA 2019, NeurIPS / NIPS (2016–2021), ICML (2018–2020), ITCS (2013, 2020), ICLR 2018,ICALP (2012, 2018–2019), APPROX (2013, 2017), RANDOM (2019, 2014), WADS 2017, SPAA 2017, FSTTCS (2011, 2013), LATIN 2012, QIC 2015

Journal Reviewing: Siam Journal on Discrete Mathematics (SIDMA), Algorithmica, Theory of Computing, Siam Journal on Computing (SICOMP)

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

Fall 2022 *Instructor for CSC 2240H : Graphs, Matrices, and Optimization*

Fall 2022 *Instructor for CSC 373H5 : Algorithm Design and Analysis*

Winter 2021 *Instructor for CSC 2421H : Graphs, Matrices, and Optimization*

Winter 2021 *Instructor for CSC 263H5 : Data Structures and Analysis*

Fall 2020 *Instructor for CSC 373H5 : Algorithm Design and Analysis*

Winter 2020 *Instructor for CSC 263H5 : Data Structures and Analysis*

Winter 2019 *Instructor for CSC 263H5 : Data Structures and Analysis*

Fall 2018 *Instructor for CSC 2421H : Graphs, Matrices, and Optimization*

Winter 2018 *Instructor for CSC 263H5 : Data Structures and Analysis*

Fall 2017 *Instructor for CSC 2421H : Fast Algorithms via Continuous Methods*

Lecturer, Yale University

Spring 2015 *Lecturer for CPSC 665 : An Algorithmist’s toolkit*

Designed and taught a full course on advanced algorithms (2 lectures a week)

55% of students rated the course excellent (highest rating)

Teaching Assistant, Princeton University

Winter 2010 *Assistant in Instruction for COS 433: Cryptography*

Fall 2009 *Assistant in Instruction for COS 340: Reasoning About Computation*

Professional Experience

Summer 2012 **Toyota Technological Institute**, Chicago, IL

Research Intern. Supervisor: Yury Makarychev

Summer 2011 **Microsoft Research India**, Bangalore, India

Research Intern. Supervisor: Nisheeth K. Vishnoi

Summer 2007 **INRIA**, Sophia-Antipolis, France

Research Intern. Supervisor: Frederic Cazals

Summer 2006 **ETH**, Zurich, Switzerland

Research Intern. Supervisor: Riko Jacob