# Silvia Sellán

# **University of Toronto Department of Computer Science**

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# Education

University of Toronto 2019 - 2024 (expected)

PhD in Computer Science — Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

University of Oviedo 2014 - 2019

BSc in Mathematics and BSc in Physics

**Experience** 

Yale University Winter 2022

Research Consultant — Supervised by Prof. Theodore Kim

Adobe Research Summer 2020

Research Intern — Mentored by Dr. Noam Aigerman and Supervised by Dr. Jovan Popovic

Adobe Research Summer 2019

Research Intern — Mentored by Dr. Noam Aigerman and Supervised by Dr. Jovan Popovic

Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences

Summer 2018

Undergraduate Research Intern — Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences

Summer 2017

Undergraduate Research Intern — Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

ICMAT (Institute of Mathematical Sciences)

Summer 2017

Grant Programme Severo Ochoa - Introduction to Research — Supervised by Prof. Javier Parcet

# **Publications**

# Bayes' Rays: Tangency-Aware Surface Reconstruction of SDFs

Lily Goli, Cody Reading, **Silvia Sellán**, Alec Jacobson, Andrea Tagliasacchi *TBD* 

# Reach for the Spheres: Tangency-Aware Surface Reconstruction of SDFs

Silvia Sellán, Christopher Batty, Oded Stein

SIGGRAPH Asia 2023

#### **Neural Stochastic Screened Poisson Reconstruction**

Silvia Sellán, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2023

## Constructive Solid Geometry on Neural Signed Distance Fields

Zoë Marschner, **Silvia Sellán**, Hsueh-Ti Derek Liu, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2023

# **Stochastic Poisson Surface Reconstruction**

Silvia Sellán, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2022

## Breaking Bad: A Dataset for Geometric Fracture and Reassembly

Silvia Sellán\*, Yun-Chun Chen\*, Ziyi Wu\*, Animesh Garg, Alec Jacobson (\*joint first authors)

NeurIPS 2022

#### **Breaking Good: Fracture Modes for Realtime Destruction**

Silvia Sellán, Jack Luong, Leticia Mattos Da Silva, Aravind Ramakrishnan, Yuchuan Yang, Alec Jacobson SIGGRAPH Asia 2022

## Sex and Gender in the Computer Graphics Research Literature

Ana Dodik\*, Silvia Sellán\*, Amanda Phillips, Theodore Kim

SIGGRAPH Talk 2022

## **Swept Volumes via Spacetime Numerical Continuation**

**Silvia Sellán**, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson *SIGGRAPH 2021* 

#### **Opening and Closing Surfaces**

Silvia Sellán, Jacob Kesten, Yan Sheng Ang, Alec Jacobson SIGGRAPH Asia 2020

#### Developability of Heightfields via Rank Minimization

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH 2020

#### **Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains**

Silvia Sellán, Herng Yi Cheng, Yuming Ma, Mitchell Dembowski, Alec Jacobson

ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing 2019

# **Other Publications**

# **Geometry Synthesis for Critical Applications**

Silvia Sellán

SIGGRAPH Asia Doctoral Consortium, 2023

#### **Efficient and Robust Swept Volumes**

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

Vector Institute Research Symposium poster, 2021

# **Applications of Geometry Processing to Computer Graphics**

Silvia Sellán

B.Sc. in Mathematics thesis co-supervised by Profs. Alec Jacobson and Carlos Fernández García

#### An Introduction to Primal Inflation

Silvia Sellán

BSc in Physics thesis supervised by Prof. Luigi Toffolatti

# **Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains**

Silvia Sellán, Herng Yi Cheng, Yuming Ma, Mitchell Dembowski, Alec Jacobson

ACM / Eurographics SGP Poster, 2018

# **Patents**

#### **Swept Volume Determination Techniques**

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

Filed by Adobe Inc. in 2021

# Generating Developable Depth Images Using Rank Minimization

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

United States Patent No. 11080819, 2021

## Software

# **Gpytoolbox:** A Python geometry processing toolbox

Silvia Sellán, Oded Stein

A library of general geometry processing Python research utility functions, including basic procedural meshes, differential geometric operators, bounding volume hierarchies and surface reconstruction from point clouds and SDFs.

# **Awards**

## Vanier Canada Doctoral Scholarship

2021-2024

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) - 150,000 CAD Awarded to 166 graduate students across all of Canada and all academic disciplines.

## Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students

2019 - 2024

University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies  $\,-\,$  50,000 CAD

EECS Rising Stars  Academic Career Workshop in EECS — Travel Funding	
HLF Ernst Abbe Grant	2023
Heidelberg Laureate Forum — Travel Funding	2023
Beatrice "Trixie" Worsley Graduate Scholarship in Computer Science University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 8,000 CAD Awarded to a student who has taken an active role in promoting women in Computer Science.	2021, 2023
Adobe PhD Fellowship Adobe Inc. — 10,000 USD	2022
<b>Dean's Doctoral Excellence Scholarship</b> University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science — 25,000 CAD  Awarded to a single doctoral student across all the University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science disciplines.	2021
Adobe Research Fellowship Adobe Inc. — Honorable mention	2020 - 2021
<b>50th Anniversary Graduate Scholarship</b> University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 2,000 CAD	2020
<b>Graduate Program Award</b> University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 10,000 CAD	2019 - 2020
Recognition of Excellence Award University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 10,000 CAD	2019 - 2020
Adobe Women in Technology Scholarship  Adobe Inc. — Honorable Mention	2019
SenseTime Fellowship  MIT — Granted but declined	2019
Scholarship for Academic Excellence María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Foundation — 50,000 EUR	2014 - 2019
Academic Service	
Summer Geometry Initiative Steering Committee Member	2023 - Present
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) Graduate School Chair	2024
ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community Group Executive Committee Member	2022 - 2023
SIGGRAPH Research Career Development Committee Committee Member (in Undergraduate Mentorship Subcommittee)	2021 - 2023
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) Session Chair: Representation and Learning	2023
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) International Program Committee Member	2023
CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Organizing Committee Member	2023
Women in Computer Graphics Research (WiGRAPH)  Executive Committee Member	2020 - 2022
CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Organizing Committee Member	2022
ICCV Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Program Committee Member	2021

#### Referee Service **ACM SIGGRAPH Asia Technical Papers** 2023 ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) 2023 **ACM SIGGRAPH Technical Papers** 2022 - 2023 **Eurographics Technical Papers** 2021 - 2023 **ACM Transactions on Graphics (ToG)** 2021 - 2023 IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence 2023 The Visual Computer (TVCJ) 2023 **CVPR DLGC Technical Papers** 2022 **International Symposium on Robotics Research** 2022 Computer Aided Design Journal (CAD-J) 2022 **ACM SIGGRAPH Posters** 2021 - 2022 **ICCV DLGC Technical Papers** 2021 Journal of Computer Graphics Techniques (JCGT) 2021 **Departmental Service** Faculty of Arts and Science Graduate Diversity Working Group 2022 Invited Member Dean's Advisory Search Committee - Department Chair, Computer Science 2021 - 2022 Invited Member DGP Working Group on Fostering a Safe and Inclusive Workplace 2021 - 2022 Member DCS Grad program talk for Ukranian undergraduate visiting students 2022 Panelist **Graduate Applications Triager** 2021 16 hours of paid work on processing graduate school applications **Talks** Uncertainty Quantification in 3D Geometric Synthesis Brown University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Daniel Ritchie Virtual - October 2023 Banff International Research Station 3D Generative Modeling Workshop — Invited talk Banff (Canada) - July 2023 **Geometry +: Uncertain Surface Reconstruction** École polytechnique Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Maks Ovsjanikov Paris (France) — July 2023 Nancy (France) - June 2023 INRIA seminar — hosted by Profs. Bruno Lévy and Sylvain Lefebvre CNRS seminar — hosted by Dr. Julie Digne Lyon (France) — June 2023 University of Navarra Graphics and Vision seminar — hosted by Prof. Asier Marzo Pamplona (Navarra) — June 2023 University of Edinburgh Geometry seminar — hosted by Prof. Amir Vaxman Edinburgh (Scotland) - June 2023 Adobe Research seminar — hosted by Dr. Valentin Deschaintre London (England) - June 2023 University College London Vision seminar — hosted by Prof. Kaan Akşit London (England) — June 2023 University of British Columbia Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Alla Sheffer Vancouver (Canada) - June 2023 Simon Fraser University Vision seminar — hosted by Prof. Andrea Tagliasacchi Vancouver (Canada) - June 2023 EPFL Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Mark Pauly Lausanne (Switzerland) - May 2023 ETH Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Olga Sorkine-Hornung Zürich (Switzerland) - May 2023 Waterloo (Canada) — April 2023 University of Waterloo Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Craig Kaplan University of Montreal Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Mikhail Bessmeltsev Montréal (Québec) — November 2022 Johns Hopkins Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Misha Kazhdan Baltimore (United States) — November 2022 New York City (United States) — November 2022 Columbia University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Changxi Zheng New York University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Daniele Panozzo New York City (United States) — November 2022 MIT Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Justin Solomon Cambridge (United States) — November 2022 Hanover (United States) — November 2022 Dartmouth Graphics and Rendering seminar — hosted by Prof. Wojciech Jarosz

TomatoGRAPH − Technical Talk Toronto (Canada) — December 2021 Mesh Math and Beyond: An introduction to shape representations Summer Geometry Initiative — Full-day tutorial Virtual - July 2023 Summer Geometry Initiative - Full-day tutorial Virtual — July 2022 Summer Geometry Initiative — Full-day tutorial Virtual — July 2021 **Blender for Academic Papers** Graphics Interface — Invited Course Victoria (Canada) — June 2023 Geometry and Architecture Summit — *Invited Talk* Toronto (Canada) — October 2022 ACM / Eurographics SGP — Invited Course Virtual — June 2022 Geometry +: Moving Fast, Breaking Things and Putting Them Back Together University of Southern California Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Oded Stein Los Angeles (United States) — April 2023 McGill University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Oded Stein Montréal (Québec) — November 2022 Ubisoft research seminar — hosted by the LaForge team Montréal (Québec) — November 2022 Yale University Rising Stars seminar — hosted by Prof. Theodore Kim New Haven (United States) - November 2022 Engineering and Applied Science Forum — hosted by the EASF team Virtual — November 2022 **Uncertain Surface Reconstruction** Virtual — March 2023 UCLA and CalTech's Grundfest Memorial Lecture — hosted by Profs. Achuta Kadambi and Katie Bouman **Research in Geometry Processing** University of Toronto Undergraduate Graphics Club — Invited Talk Toronto (Canada) — February 2023 **Stochastic Poisson Surface Reconstruction** Daegu (South Korea)  $\,-\,$  December 2022 ACM SIGGRAPH Asia — Technical Paper presentation **Breaking Good: Fracture Modes for Realtime Destruction** ACM SIGGRAPH Asia — Technical Paper presentation Daegu (South Korea) — December 2022 **Breaking Bad: A Dataset for Geometric Fracture Reassembly** NeurIPS — Featured (oral) paper presentation New Orleans (United States) — November 2022 Virtual Bodies that Matter: A Trans Researcher's Career in Computer Graphics Georgetown's Gender and Media Seminar — hosted by Prof. Amanda Phillips Washington, D.C. (United States) — November 2022 Sex and Gender in the Computer Graphics Literature Queer in AI @ NeurIPS workshop — *Invited Talk* New Orleans (United States) — November 2022 UNC Chapel Hill — hosted by Prof. Roni Sengupta New Orleans (United States) — November 2022 Vancouver (Canada) — August 2022 ACM SIGGRAPH - Talk presentation A Deep Dive into Implicit Swept Volumes University of Toronto Undergraduate Graphics Club — *Invited Talk* Toronto (Canada) — March 2022 INRIA MFX research seminar — hosted by Prof. Sylvain Lefebvre Virtual — June 2021 MIT Graphics research seminar — hosted by Prof. Justin Solomon Virtual — June 2021 GraphQUON — Technical presentation Virtual — December 2020 **Swept Volumes via Spacetime Numerical Continuation** ACM SIGGRAPH — Technical Paper presentation Virtual (originally Los Angeles) — August 2021 An Introduction to GP Programming in MATLAB with Gptoolbox ACM / Eurographics SGP — Invited Course Virtual - July 2021 Developable Surfaces: A Case Study in Discrete Differential Geometry

Lancaster University Pure Mathematics Postgraduate Forum - Invited Talk Virtual - March 2021 Technion research seminar - hosted by Prof. Mirela Ben-Chen Virtual - December 2020 Carnegie Mellon University Geometry seminar - hosted by Prof. Keenan Crane Virtual - November 2020

Seamless Integration of Virtual and Real World

Eurographics 2021 — Doctoral Consortium talk University of Toronto — PhD Qualifying Exam Virtual (originally Vienna) — May 2021 Toronto (Canada) — September 2020

**Opening and Closing Surfaces** 

ACM SIGGRAPH Asia — Technical Paper presentation Virtual (originally Daegu) — December 2020

Epic Games — hosted by Dr. Ryan Schmidt Fields Institute Undergraduate Summer Research Program — End-of-summer research talk University of Toronto DCS Summer Research Program — Mid-summer research talk	Virtual — <i>November 2020</i> Toronto (Canada) — <i>August 2017</i> Toronto (Canada) — <i>July 2017</i>
Developability of Heightfields via Rank MinimizationToronto Geometry Colloquium — Opener talk for Prof. Olga Sorkine-HornungSIGGRAPH 2020 — Technical Paper presentationVirtual (original Virtual)	Virtual — October 2020 inally Washington, D.C.) — August 2020
Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains Stanford University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Doug James ACM / Eurographics SGP — Technical Paper presentation Toronto-Montreal Area Graphics workshop — Technical talk Fields Institute Undergraduate Summer Research Program — End-of-summer research talk University of Toronto DCS Summer Research Program — Mid-summer research talk	Stanford (United States) — October 2019 Milan (Italy) — July 2019 Toronto (Canada) — December 2017 Toronto (Canada) — August 2017 Toronto (Canada) — July 2017
<b>Applications of Geometry Processing to Computer Graphics</b> University of Oviedo — B.Sc. in Mathematics Thesis Defense	Oviedo (Spain) — June 2019
An Introduction to Primal Inflation University of Oviedo — B.Sc. in Physics Thesis Defense	Oviedo (Spain) — June 2019
News	
Computer graphics researcher Silvia Sellán is awarded two prestigious scho A&S News, written by Chris Sasaki	larships July 2021
Silvia Sellán on Virtual Colloquium Planning Q&A with WiGRAPH, written by Kate Salesin	June 2021
Organizing —	
ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community group Undergraduate Outreach Coordinator	2023
CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Workshop Organizing Committee Member	2023
ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community group Event Coordinator: Symposium on Geometry Processing	2022
Toronto Geometry Colloquium Founder, organizer and art director	2020 - 2023
SIGGRAPH Graduate Applications Mentorship Program Founder and organizer	2022
Summer Geometry Institute Admissions committee member and session planner	2022
CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Workshop Organizing Committee Member	2022
Women in Graphics Research Event Coordinator: Symposium on Geometry Processing	2020 - 2021
SIGGRAPH Graduate Applications Mentorship Program Founder and organizer	2021
Summer Geometry Institute Admissions committee member and session planner	2021
Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) Student volunteer working on tech support full time during the conference and in Spanish-la	2021 nguage outreach
Toronto-Montreal-Waterloo Graphics Workshop (TomatoGRAPH) Student volunteer	2021

# **Teaching**

## **Summer Geometry Initiative**

Summer 2021, 2022, 2023

Instructor of a full-day tutorial including lectures, coding demos and exercises

#### **Graphics Interface**

Summer 2023

Lecturer of the course Blender for Academic Papers

#### Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP)

Summer 2022

Lecturer of the SGP course Blender for Academic Papers

#### Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP)

Summer 2021

Co-lecturer of the SGP course An introduction to geometry processing programming in MATLAB with gptoolbox

# CSC165: Mathematical Expression and Reasoning for Computer Science

Winter 2020

Teaching Assistant (120 hours) for Prof. David Liu

#### **Individual High School Tutoring**

2015-2018

Weekly paid mathematics and physics tutoring

# **Teaching Feedback**

#### **Summer Geometry Institute**

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During the summer of 2021, I planned, prepared and conducted a 6-hour long tutorial session on the topic of shape representations for undergraduate students of underrepresented communities, as part of MIT's Summer Geometry Institute (SGI). A representative sample of the anonymous feedback collected by professor Justin Solomon about my teaching is reproduced below, each quotation corresponding to different student.

Silvia Sellán's presentation was idyllic, it gave the feeling of being a duck in a pond being fed delicious crumbs of bread, the students being the duck and Silvia the feeder throwing in one after another the information that we like the ducks devoured. The presentation itself was amazing to go beyond analogy it was clear and concise towards learning the topic, the information did not feel too overwhelming, nor too brief. The exercises as well as giving focus upon them and breaking them apart into which to do at what times, they felt like the perfect amount of material in order to have us learn and test our knowledge of the topics.

I just wanted to say that I really enjoyed Silvia's programme. Cutting out all the formulas definitely made her material really accessible and easy to follow without worrying about the precise details of what is going on. I think leaving these details for us to figure out by doing the exercises is really good for developing understanding, rather than having a perhaps more technical talk which is harder to follow and then not quite knowing how to approach the exercises.

Silvia's lecture was the easiest to follow and the most approachable.

Silvia's tutorial: Lively and engaging, I liked how a narrative that tied in everything together neatly was presented.

I really liked Silvia Sellan's tutorial day because for the presentations she gave us a story illustrating the motivation behind the concepts and theory and the actual coding assignments were very accessible and did not require a lot of background material.

I think a very good example of this was Silvia Sellán's tutorial day. She approached the advanced topics from a big picture perspective and all of the coding exercises needed "basic" MATLAB and knowledge of calculus and a small amount of linear algebra.

I thoroughly enjoyed Silvia's talk and the associated exercises.

I also found Silvia's talk very valuable, not only for the geometry processing material offered (which was undoubtedly great, well-structured and very accessible), but also for increasing our awareness about potential nefarious uses of geometry processing. Also the brief digressions on true diversity when talking about fonts/letters were in my opinion very welcome -I (unfortunately) tend to think in a very "westernized" way, and it's always good to bring awareness to things outside of our intellectual comfort zone.

I really liked Silvia Sellán's day of the tutorial week. I think she did a really good job of creating presentations and exercises that met me where I am as a student without a formal experience in geometry processing. The mathematics and computer science that she talked as well as exercises she designed were accessible to me as someone who has undergraduate majors in mathematics and computer science as well as had participated in larger projects with programming computer graphics components. I also think she did a really good job of telling and motivating a story, which was really important to staying engaged throughout the day. I also really appreciate that she spoke about ethics in computing and the need to think critically about academic work. It's definitely something that is not spoken enough about and that needs to be spoken about more.

YOU GUYS ARE WONDERFUL! Not gonna lie, I started looking at PhD opportunities to pursue this field after attending this program.

# **Mentoring**

## **Summer Geometry Initiative**

2023

Served as the mentor for two two-week long geometry processing research projects for eight undergraduate students.

#### **Graduate School Applications**

2020 - 2023

Volunteer mentoring of dozens of prospective Computer Graphics students from underrepresented groups with their graduate school application package and decisions. Successful applicant destinations include MIT, UCSD, University of Toronto, UBC and others.

Canada-Wide Science Fair Spring 2022

Mentored grade 11 students with their project as part of University of Toronto's Pursue STEM

Canadian Black Scientists Network Youth Science Fair

Winter 2022

Mentored grade 11 students with their project as part of University of Toronto's Pursue STEM

University of Toronto DCS Graduate Applications Mentorship Program

Fall 2021

 $Mentor\ for\ several\ prospective\ graduate\ students.$ 

**SIGGRAPH Graduate Applications Mentorship Program** 

Fall 2021

Mentor for several prospective graduate students.

Creating a better summer experience: A DEI workshop

Spring 2021

DEI workshop for mentors of undergraduate students, organized by the Center for Minorities in the Mathematical Sciences.

# Creating a better summer experience: A DEI workshop

Spring 2021

DEI workshop for mentors of undergraduate students, organized by the Center for Minorities in the Mathematical Sciences.

#### Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program

2020 - 2021

Graduate research mentor for a group of four undergraduate researchers.

# **Mentoring Feedback**

# **Summer Geometry Institute**

2021, 2023

During the summers of 2021 and 2023 (the latter together with my colleague Ana Dodik), I worked as a mentor for MIT's Summer Geometry Intiative, founded by Professor Justin Solomon. In it, I directed two projects for two groups of undergraduate students from underrepresented communities new to geometry processing. Below is a representative sample of the anonymous feedback collected by Prof. Solomon

Ana and Silvia built a collaborative, safe, open environment for new ideas. Both taught us a lot about how to research and approach problems with different approaches. They are outstanding researchers that I admire even more now.

Ana and Silvia are both absolutely fantastic mentors!

This week has been great! Ana and Silvia are excellent mentors. They created an excellent environment for us to learn and collaborate

I still have no idea what Silvia's role was, but she went above and beyond to help out with everything. She made us all feel welcome in the Slack channel before SGI even started and continued to dole out advice and support throughout the whole of SGI. She also patiently answered my millions of questions almost as quickly as I could ask them.

Silvia ensured we all felt welcome right from the beginning of the Slack channel. When we introduced ourselves, I noticed she found something nice to say to each of us, and it felt very welcoming to have that display of friendliness right from the get-go.

Silvia Sellán, I would like to thank you specifically for the SGP & Siggraph 2021 WiGraph event, sharing your thoughts in grad school event and being accessible.

# Volunteering

General election worker

July 2023

Day-long volunteer helping citizens vote on the day of the Spanish General Elections.

**Reading Partners** 

August 2020

Translation of documents into Spanish for literacy non-profit

General election worker	A	pril 2019

Day-long volunteer helping citizens vote on the day of the Spanish General Elections.

# General election worker June 2016

Day-long volunteer helping citizens vote on the day of the Spanish General Elections.