

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

PhD in Computer Science

Supervisor: Alec Jacobson

2019 - 2024 (*expected*)

University of Oviedo

Bachelor's Degree in Physics

2015 - 2019

University of Oviedo

Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics

2014 - 2019

EXPERIENCE

Yale University

Consultant

Supervised by Prof. Theodore Kim

Winter 2022

Adobe Inc.

Research Intern

Mentored by Noam Aigerman and managed by Jovan Popovic

May 2020 - December 2020

Adobe Inc.

Research Intern

Mentored by Noam Aigerman and managed by Jovan Popovic

July 2019 - October 2019

Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences

Undergraduate Research Intern

Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

Summer 2018

Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences

Undergraduate Research Intern

Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

Summer 2017

ICMAT (Institute of Mathematical Sciences)

Grant Programme Severo Ochoa - Introduction to Research

Supervised by Prof. Javier Parcet

2017 - 2018

JOURNAL & CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Breaking Bad: A Dataset for Geometric Fracture and Reassembly

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

Submitted to NeurIPS

2022

Breaking Good: Fracture Modes for Realtime Destruction

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

Accepted to TBD Journal

2022

Sex and Gender in the Computer Graphics Literature

Ana Dodik*, Silvia Sellán*, Theodore Kim, Amanda Philips (**joint first authors*)

SIGGRAPH Talk

2022

Swept Volumes via Spacetime Numerical Continuation Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson <i>ACM Transactions On Graphics (Proc. SIGGRAPH)</i>	2021
Opening and Closing Surfaces Silvia Sellán, Jacob Kesten, Ang Yan Sheng, Alec Jacobson <i>ACM Transactions On Graphics (Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia)</i>	2020
Developability of Heightfields via Rank Minimization Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson <i>ACM Transactions On Graphics (Proc. SIGGRAPH)</i>	2020
Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains Silvia Sellán, Heng Yi Cheng, Yuming Ma, Mitchell Dembowski, Alec Jacobson <i>Computer Graphics Forum (presented at Eurographics SGP 2019)</i>	2019

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Blender for Geometry Processing Academic Papers Silvia Sellán <i>Course to be presented at the Symposium on Geometry processing (SGP)</i>	2022
An introduction to GP programming in MATLAB with gptoolbox Hsueh-Ti Derek Liu*, Silvia Sellán*, Oded Stein* (*joint first authors) <i>Course presented at the Symposium on Geometry processing (SGP)</i>	2021
Efficient and Robust Swept Volumes Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson <i>Poster presented at the Vector Institute Research Symposium</i>	2021
Applications of Geometry Processing to Computer Graphics Silvia Sellán <i>B.Sc. in Mathematics thesis co-supervised by Alec Jacobson and Carlos Fernández García</i>	2019
An Introduction to Primal Inflation Silvia Sellán <i>B.Sc. in Physics thesis supervised by Luigi Toffolatti</i>	2019
Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains Silvia Sellán, Heng Yi Cheng, Yuming Ma, Mitchell Dembowski, Alec Jacobson <i>Poster presented at Eurographics SGP 2018</i>	2018
Solving PDEs on Overlapping Domains Silvia Sellán, Heng Yi Cheng, Yuming Ma, Mitchell Dembowski, Alec Jacobson <i>Extended abstract published by Review of Undergraduate Computer Science</i>	2018

PATENTS

Swept Volume Determination Techniques Inventors: Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson <i>Patent filed by Adobe Inc.</i>	2021
Generating Developable Depth Images Using Rank Minimization Inventors: Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson <i>United States Patent 11080819</i>	2021

SOFTWARE

gptoolbox - Geometry Processing Toolbox

Contributor and coauthor of the *gptoolbox* tutorial

gpytoolbox - A Python Geometry Processing Toolbox

Author

libigl - A simple C++ geometry processing library

Contributor

*Open-source code is **available on my website** for all journal publications listed above.*

AWARDS AND HONORS

Vanier Canada Doctoral Scholarship

2021-2024

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)

150,000 CAD award given only to 166 graduate students across all of Canada and all academic disciplines.

Adobe PhD Fellowship

2022

Adobe Inc.

10,000 USD award given only to ten graduate students worldwide.

Dean's Doctoral Excellence Scholarship

2021

University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science

25,000 CAD given to one single doctoral student across all the University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science disciplines.

Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students

2021

University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies

10,000 CAD

Beatrice "Trixie" Worsley Graduate Scholarship in Computer Science

2021

University of Toronto Department of Computer Science

4,000 CAD given yearly to a student who has taken an active role in promoting women in Computer Science.

Adobe Research Fellowship

2021

Adobe Inc.

Honorable Mention

Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students

2020

University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies

10,000 CAD

50th Anniversary Graduate Scholarship

2020

University of Toronto Department of Computer Science

2,000 CAD

Graduate Program Award

2020

University of Toronto Department of Computer Science

5,000 CAD

Program-level Fellowship

2020

University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Sciences

1,000 CAD

Adobe Research Fellowship

2020

Adobe Inc.

Honorable Mention

Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students

2019

University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies

10,000 CAD

Recognition of Excellence Award University of Toronto Department of Computer Science 5,000 CAD	2019
Graduate Program Award University of Toronto Department of Computer Science 5,000 CAD	2019
Program-level Fellowship University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Sciences 1,000 CAD	2019
Adobe Women in Technology Scholarship Adobe Inc. <i>Honorable Mention</i>	2019
SenseTime Fellowship MIT <i>Granted but declined</i>	2019
Scholarship for Academic Excellence María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Foundation 50,000 EUR	2014-2019

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE SERVICE

ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community Group Executive Committee Member	2022 - Present
SIGGRAPH Research Career Development Committee Committee member (in undergraduate mentorship subcommittee)	2021 - Present
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

CVPR DLGC Technical Papers	2022
ACM SIGGRAPH Technical Papers	2022
ACM SIGGRAPH Posters	2022
International Symposium on Robotics Research	2022
Computer Aided Design Journal (CAD-J)	2022
Eurographics Technical Papers	2021
ACM Transactions on Graphics (ToG)	2021
ICCV DLGC Technical Papers	2021
Journal of Computer Graphics Techniques (JCGT)	2021
ACM SIGGRAPH Posters	2021

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Dean's Advisory Search Committee - Department Chair, Computer Science Invited Member	2021 - 2022
DGP Working Group on Fostering a Safe and Inclusive Workplace Member	2021 - 2022
Graduate Applications Triager 16 hours of paid work on processing graduate school applications	2021

TALKS GIVEN

Sex and Gender in the Computer Graphics Literature SIGGRAPH Talk	August 2022 Virtual
Mesh Math and Beyond: An introduction to shape representations Day-long tutorial at the MIT-ran Summer Geometry Institute (SGI)	July 2022 Virtual
Blender for Geometry Processing Academic Papers Graduate school course at SGP 2022	July 2022 Virtual
Sweeping Volumes University of Toronto Undergraduate Graphics Club	March 2022 Toronto, Canada
Uncertain Geometry Processing Technical presentation at TomatoGRAPH 2021	December 2021 Toronto, Canada
Swept Volumes via Spacetime Numerical Continuation Technical Paper presentation at SIGGRAPH 2021	August 2021 Virtual (originally Los Angeles, U.S.)
Mesh Math and Beyond: An introduction to shape representations Day-long tutorial at the MIT-ran Summer Geometry Institute (SGI)	July 2021 Virtual
An Introduction to GP Programming in MATLAB with GPTOOLBOX Graduate school course at SGP 2021	July 2021 Virtual (originally Toronto, Canada)
A deep dive into implicit swept volumes INRIA MFX research seminar, hosted by Prof. Sylvain Lefebvre	June 2021 Virtual
A deep dive into implicit swept volumes MIT Vision and Graphics research seminar, hosted by Prof. Justin Solomon	June 2021 Virtual
Seamless Integration of Virtual and Real World Doctoral Consortium presentation at Eurographics 2021	May 2021 Virtual (originally Vienna, Austria)
Differential Geometry: The Building Blocks of Computer Graphics Research seminar at the Lancaster University Pure Mathematics Postgraduate Forum	March 2021 Virtual
Developable Surfaces: A Case Study in Discrete Differential Geometry Research seminar at the Technion hosted by Prof. Mirela Ben-Chen	December 2020 Virtual
Efficient and Robust Swept Volumes Technical presentation at GRAPHQUON 2020 <i>Second best presentation award</i>	December 2020 Virtual
Opening and Closing Surfaces Technical Paper presentation at SIGGRAPH Asia 2020	December 2020 Virtual (originally Daegu, S. Korea)
Morphological operations as geometric flows on surfaces Research talk at Epic Games, Inc. hosted by Dr. Ryan Schmidt	November 2020 Virtual

Developable Surfaces: A Case Study in Discrete Differential Geometry Research seminar at Carnegie Mellon University hosted by Prof. Keenan Crane	November 2020 Virtual
Developability of Heightfields via Rank Minimization Opener talk for Prof. Olga Sorkine-Hornung at the Toronto Geometry Colloquium	October 2020 Virtual
Developability of Heightfields via Rank Minimization Technical Paper presentation at SIGGRAPH 2020	August 2020 Virtual (originally Washington, U.S.)
Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains Research talk at Stanford University hosted by Prof. Doug James	October 2019 Stanford, United States
Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains Technical Paper presentation at Eurographics SGP 2019	July 2019 Milan, Italy
Applications of Geometry Processing to Computer Graphics B.Sc. in Mathematics Thesis Defense	June 2019 Oviedo, Spain
An Introduction to Primal Inflation B.Sc. in Physics Thesis Defense	June 2019 Oviedo, Spain
Morphological Operations as Geometric Flows on Surfaces Fields Institute Undergraduate Summer Research Program	August 2018 Toronto, Canada
Morphological Operations as Geometric Flows on Surfaces Department of Computer Science Undergraduate Summer Research Program	July 2018 Toronto, Canada
Solving PDEs on Overlapping Domains Toronto-Montreal Area Graphics Workshop	December 2017 Toronto, Canada
Solving PDEs on Overlapping Domains Fields Institute Undergraduate Summer Research Program	August 2017 Toronto, Canada
Solving PDEs on Overlapping Domains Department of Computer Science Undergraduate Summer Research Program	July 2017 Toronto, Canada

IN THE NEWS

<i>Computer graphics researcher Silvia Sellán is awarded two prestigious scholarships</i> A&S News, written by Chris Sasaki (click to see archived version)	July 2021
<i>Silvia Sellán on Virtual Colloquium Planning</i> Q & A with WiGRAPH, written by Kate Salesin (click to see archived version)	June 2021

ORGANIZING

ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community group Event Coordinator: Symposium on Geometry Processing.	2022 - Present
Toronto Geometry Colloquium Founder, organizer and art director.	2020 - Present
Summer Geometry Institute Admissions committee member and session planner.	2022
CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing 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-language outreach.	2021
Toronto-Montreal-Waterloo Graphics Workshop (TomatoGRAPH) Student volunteer	2021

TEACHING

Summer Geometry Institute Instructor of a full-day tutorial including lectures, coding demos and exercises <i>Under the supervision of Professor Justin Solomon, MIT</i>	Summer 2022
Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) Lecturer of the SGP course <i>Blender for Academic Papers</i>	Summer 2022
Summer Geometry Institute Instructor of a full-day tutorial including lectures, coding demos and exercises <i>Under the supervision of Professor Justin Solomon, MIT</i>	Summer 2021
Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) Co-lecturer of the SGP course <i>An introduction to geometry processing programming in MATLAB with gptoolbox</i>	Summer 2021
CSC165: Mathematical Expression and Reasoning for Computer Science Teaching Assistant (120 hours) for Prof. David Liu	Winter 2020
Individual High School Tutoring Weekly paid mathematics and physics tutoring	2015-2018

ANONYMOUS TEACHING FEEDBACK

Summer Geometry Institute 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: <i>"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> <i>"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."</i> <i>"Silvia's lecture was the easiest to follow and the most approachable."</i> <i>"Silvia's tutorial: Lively and engaging, I liked how a narrative that tied in everything together neatly was presented."</i> <i>"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>	2021
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"I think a very good example of this was Silvia Sellan'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

Graduate School Applications

2020 - Present

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.

Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program

Summer 2021

Graduate research mentor for a group of undergraduate researchers.

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.

ANONYMOUS MENTORING FEEDBACK

Summer Geometry Institute

2021

During the summer of 2021, I worked as a volunteer mentor for undergraduate students of underrepresented communities, as part of MIT's Summer Geometry Institute. A representative sample of the anonymous feedback about my mentoring collected by professor Justin Solomon is reproduced below, each quotation corresponding to different student:

"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 wiggraph event, sharing your thoughts in grad school event and being accessible.”

NON-ACADEMIC VOLUNTEERING

Reading Partners

August 2020

Translation of documents into Spanish for literacy non-profit

General election worker

April 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.