

**Sutanu Bhattacharya, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Computer Science  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
USA

URL: <http://sutanubh1.github.io/>

Mobile: +1 334 444 5256  
E-Mail: sbhatta4@aum.edu

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**Education**

Ph.D. in Computer Science and Software Engineering Auburn University, USA Advisor: Dr. Debswapna Bhattacharya (Now at Virginia Tech)	Summer 2021
M.Tech in Distributed and Mobile Computing Jadavpur University, India	June 2014
B.Tech in Information Technology Bengal Institute of Technology, India	June 2011

**Employment**

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Computer Science, Auburn University at Montgomery, USA,  
16 August 2022 - ongoing.

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Computer Science, Florida Polytechnic University, USA,  
September 2021 – 15 August 2022.

**Assistant Professor**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Chaibasa Engineering  
College, India, July 2014 – Aug 2017.

**Research Experience**

Ph.D. dissertation research Fall 2017 – Summer 2021  
**Advisor:** Dr. Debswapna Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor (Now at Virginia Tech)  
**Title:** New computational and data-driven methods for protein homology modeling (Publications in Nature Scientific Reports, PROTEINS, PLOS Computational Biology, PLOS ONE, Bioinformatics, Frontiers; as well as Front Cover Article of PROTEINS, Highlight Talk at ACM-BCB, Fellowship Award at ISMB/ECCB, Best Poster Award, and Young Research Excellence Award).  
**Institute:** Auburn University

**Research Interest**

My primary research interests are **computational biology** and applied machine learning with a particular focus on AI-powered molecular modeling. I am also interested in applications of data science in bioinformatics. My recent projects are focused on developing data-driven **machine learning** and **optimization algorithms** (such as **Dynamic Programming**) to elucidate complex relationships between macromolecular sequences, structures, functions, interactions, and pathways.

Protein molecules are essential chemicals in our body. A protein is folded into a unique three-dimensional (3D) shape, which defines the functionalities of the protein. *Determining the 3D structure of a protein is considered one of the hardest challenges in biochemistry in the last 50 years.* However, the experimental determination of protein 3D structures is very time consuming and expensive, resulting in a very large gap (more than 1000 times) between the number of available protein sequences and the number of available protein 3D structures (aka templates) in the Protein Data Bank (PDB). Therefore, there is a need to develop computational approaches to predict the protein 3D structure from its amino-acid sequence, which is still an open problem. My primary research interest revolves around developing computational approaches to enlarge the scope of modellable proteins.

To join my research group, students will only need to have programming experience in **any one** of the following languages: Python, C, C++, Java, and Perl. **Background of biology is not required.** It will initially take time to understand the tools and datasets as well as the research domain. I will also foster a sense of collaboration among my students, encouraging them to take advantage of teamwork. Students will work independently, yet collaborate to achieve their goals. My priority will also be the professional growth of my students. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of my research, students who work with me will develop the skills needed to carry out hypothesis driven research works and to address problems at the intersection of computer science, biology, statistics, and mathematics. Moreover, the data analysis and programming skills used in my research will also be useful in their future career.

## Honors and Awards

- (8) Work has been selected for **Highlight Talk** in the 12<sup>th</sup> ACM-BCB conference (Virtual), Aug 1-4, 2021.
- (7) **Fellowship award** for ISMB/ECCB 2021 conference (Virtual), July 25 – 30, 2021.
- (6) **Best Poster** award in the 11<sup>th</sup> ACM-BCB conference (Virtual), Sept 21-24, 2020.
- (5) Work has been selected for **Highlight Talk** in the 10<sup>th</sup> ACM-BCB conference, Niagara Falls, NY, Sept 7-10, 2019.
- (4) Paper got published as the **Front Cover Article** in the July 2019 issue of Proteins: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics journal.
- (3) Awarded **Young Research Excellence Award** (2nd place) at 16th Annual MCBIOS Conference, Birmingham, USA, 2019.
- (2) Awarded Travel grant to attend 16th Annual MCBIOS Conference, Birmingham, USA, 2019.
- (1) A.I.C.T.E. **National Scholarship** for M.Tech at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India [2012 – 2014].

## Peer-reviewed Publications

### Book Chapter

- (1) **S. Bhattacharya**, R. Roche, M. H. Shuvo, B. Moussad, D. Bhattacharya, “Contact-assisted threading in low-homology protein modeling”, *Methods in Molecular Biology*, by **Springer Nature**, 2022 (Accepted). (*Impact Factor: 10.71*)

### Journals

- (9) R. Roche, **S. Bhattacharya**, M. H. Shuvo, D. Bhattacharya, “rrQNet: protein contact map quality estimation by deep evolutionary reconciliation”, **Proteins: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics**, <https://doi.org/10.1002/prot.26394>, (2022). (*Impact Factor: 3.756*)
- (8) **S. Bhattacharya**, R. Roche, B. Moussad, D. Bhattacharya, “DisCovER: distance- and orientation-based covariational threading for weakly homologous proteins”, **Proteins: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics**, (2021). [**First method to utilize inter-residue orientations to boost protein threading performance**], [**Fellowship Award for 29<sup>th</sup> ISMB/ECCB**]. (*Impact Factor: 3.756*)
- (7) Kryshchuk et al. (2021). Modeling SARS-CoV2 proteins in the CASP-commons experiment. **Proteins: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics**, (2021). (*Impact Factor: 3.756*)
- (6) **S. Bhattacharya**, R. Roche, M. H. Shuvo, D. Bhattacharya, “Recent advances in protein homology detection propelled by inter-residue interaction map threading”, **Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences**, 8, 377 (2021). (*Impact Factor: 4.620*)
- (5) R. Roche, **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Hybridized distance- and contact-based hierarchical structure modeling for folding soluble and membrane proteins”, **PLOS Computational Biology**, 17(2): e1008753, (2021). [**Highlight Talk**]. (*Impact Factor: 4.428*)
- (4) A. McGehee, **S. Bhattacharya**, R. Roche, D. Bhattacharya, “PolyFold: An interactive visual simulator for distance-based protein folding”, **PLOS ONE**, 15(12): e0243331 (2020). [**Best Poster Award**]. (*Impact Factor: 2.740*)
- (3) M. H. Shuvo, **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “QDeep: distance-based protein model quality estimation by residue-level ensemble error classifications using stacked deep residual neural networks”, **ISMB Proceedings, Bioinformatics**, 36(S1): i285-i291 (2020). (*Impact Factor: 5.610*)
- (2) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Evaluating the significance of contact maps in low-homology protein modeling using contact-assisted threading”, **Nature Scientific Reports**, 10(1), 1-13 (2020). (*Impact Factor: 4.379*)
- (1) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Does inclusion of residue-residue contact information boost protein threading?”, **Proteins: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics**, 87(7): 596-606 (2019). [**Front Cover Article**], [**Highlight Talk**], [**Top Downloaded Paper** of 2018-2019 by WILEY]. (*Impact Factor: 3.756*)

### Abstracts

- (3) R. Roche, **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Hybridized distance- and contact-based hierarchical structure modeling for folding soluble and membrane proteins”, **BCB '21: Proceedings**

of the 12th **ACM** International Conference on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology and Health Informatics, USA, August 2021, Pages 1 (2021).

(2) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “How Effective is Contact-assisted protein threading?”, **BCB’19**: Proceedings of the 10th **ACM** International Conference on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology and Health Informatics, September 2019, Pages 553 (2019).

(1) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Contact-assisted protein threading: an evolving new direction”, **BCB’19**: Proceedings of the 10th **ACM** International Conference on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology and Health Informatics, September 2019, Pages 536 (2019).

## Posters

(5) **S. Bhattacharya**, R. Roche, D. Bhattacharya, “DisCovER: distance- and orientation-based covariational threading for weakly homologous proteins”, 29<sup>th</sup> **ISMB/ECCB** conference, Virtual Event, July 25-30, 2021. (**Fellowship Award**)

(4) A. McGehee, **S. Bhattacharya**, R. Roche, D. Bhattacharya, “PolyFold: An interactive visual simulator for distance-based protein folding”, 11<sup>th</sup> **ACM-BCB** Conference, Virtual Event, Sept 21-24, 2020. (**Best Poster Award**)

(3) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Contact-assisted protein threading: an evolving new direction”, 2019 Graduate Engineering Research Showcase, Auburn University, USA, November 7, 2019.

(2) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Contact-assisted protein threading: an evolving new direction”, 10<sup>th</sup> **ACM-BCB** Conference, Niagara Falls, NY, Sept 7-10, 2019. [[pdf of the poster](#)]

(1) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Does inclusion of residue-residue contact information boost protein threading?”, 16th Annual **MCBIOS** Conference, Birmingham, USA, March 28-30, 2019. [[pdf of the poster](#)]

## Oral Presentations

(4) **S. Bhattacharya**, R. Roche, D. Bhattacharya, “DisCovER: distance- and orientation-based covariational threading for weakly homologous proteins”, 29<sup>th</sup> **ISMB/ECCB** conference, Virtual Event, July 25-30, 2021. (**Fellowship Award**)

(3) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “How Effective is Contact-assisted Protein Threading?”, 10th **ACM-BCB** Conference, Niagara Falls, NY, Sept 7-10, 2019. (**Highlight Talk**)

(2) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Does contact information powered by deep learning boost protein threading?”, Student Symposium, Auburn University, USA, April 9, 2019.

(1) **S. Bhattacharya**, D. Bhattacharya, “Does inclusion of residue-residue contact information boost protein threading?”, 16th Annual **MCBIOS** Conference, Birmingham, USA, March 28-30, 2019. (**Won 2nd place in student oral presentation**). [[News](#), [Proceedings](#)]

## Service & Outreach

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| (4) Reviewer of Bioinformatics, BMC Bioinformatics.                 | 2022    |
| (3) Member of the departmental Curriculum Committee at Florida Poly | 2021-22 |
| (2) Reviewer of Nature Scientific Reports.                          | 2021    |
| (1) External reviewer of IEEE-BIBM conference, San Diego, CA, USA.  | 2019    |