

# Thomas Dybdahl Ahle

## Curriculum Vitae

[thomasahle.com](http://thomasahle.com)

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### Industry and Employment

*Research Scientist at Meta, 2020 - 2022.*

I co-lead the Machine Learning Efficiency group, an internal applied research group focusing on scaling AI across the company. During the first year, we came up with a new hashing-based algorithm that reduced the size of the internal recommendation ad systems by 50%. In another project, we designed a new algorithm for inference in Bayesian Neural Networks that allowed the Integrity team to deploy well-calibrated models directly on customer devices.

*Chief Machine Learning Officer at SupWiz, 2017 - 2018.*

I co-founded an NLP start-up with academics from the University of Copenhagen. At SupWiz, I lead a team of four developing our chatbot software and putting it into production at 3 of the largest Danish IT companies. (Now many more.) Technically we used a combination of classical symbolic AI and modern (at the time) sentence embeddings. In 2019 the chatbot won the most prestigious prize given by Innovation Fund Denmark. I was also responsible for our hiring efforts, interviewing dozens and employing four engineers over five months.

*Software Engineer at Sophion, Palantir XION, 2010 - 2014.*

Through various software engineering jobs, I have gained broad exposure to the different areas of software development. At Sophion Bioscience, I developed internal debugging tools for sifting through gigabytes of data/second on ion channel screening machines. At Palantir, I ported the Metropolis ontological time-series system (now Foundry) to the web, designing data visualization and efficient processing pipelines. At XION, I Developed the most popular Danish TV listings app for Android at the time, based on data scraped (consensually) from hundreds of TV-station websites.

## Education

IT University of Copenhagen.

- Ph.D. in Computer Science, June 2019.
- Advisors: Rasmus Pagh, Erik Price.
- Thesis: *Algorithms for Sets and other High Dimensional Data*.

IT University of Copenhagen & University of Copenhagen.

- Master of Science in Computer Science, 2017.
- Advisors: Rasmus Pagh, Mikkel Thorup.
- Thesis: *Minhash without false negatives*.

University of Oxford.

- Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, 2013.
- Master of Arts in Computer Science, 2019.
- Advisors: Oege de Moor, Samson Abramsky.
- Thesis: *The Donkey and the Monad*.

## Publications

“Clustering Embedding Tables, Without First Learning Them”. By H Tsang, Thomas Dybdahl Ahle – Submitted 2022.

“Fast Variance Operator for Uncertainty Rating”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle, S Karimi, P Tang – Submitted 2022.

“Tiling with Squares and Packing Dominos in Polynomial Time”. By A Aamand, M Abrahamsen, Thomas Dybdahl Ahle, P Rasmussen at Symposium on Computational Geometry (SOCG) 2022.

“Sharp and Simple Bounds for the raw Moments of the Binomial and Poisson Distributions”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle at Statistics Probability Letters (STAT. PROB. LETT.) 2022.

“Similarity Search with Tensor Core Units”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle, F Silvestri at International Conference on Similarity Search and Applications (SISAP) 2020.

“On the Problem of  $p^1$  in Locality-Sensitive Hashing”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle at International Conference on Similarity Search and Applications (SISAP) 2020.

“Subsets and Supermajorities: Optimal Hashing-based Set Similarity Search”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle, J Knudsen at IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS) 2020.

“Oblivious Sketching of High-Degree Polynomial Kernels”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle, M Kapralov, J Knudsen, R Pagh, A Velingker, D Woodruff, A Zandieh at ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA) 2020.

“Optimal Las Vegas Locality Sensitive Data Structures”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle at IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS) 2017.

“Parameter-free Locality-Sensitive Hashing for Spherical Range Reporting”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle, M Aumüller, R Pagh at ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA) 2017.

“On the Complexity of Inner Product Similarity Join”. By Thomas Dybdahl Ahle, R Pagh, I Razenshteyn, F Silvestri at ACM Symposium on Principles of Database Systems (PODS) 2016.

## Open Source Projects

*Project Owner at PyChess, 2006 - current.*

I developed this chess engine and client for Linux desktop, which became the most popular way to play chess on the Free Internet Chess Server. Through the years I have lead a team of 4-8 developers and designers, as well as numerous other contributors. Such as the volunteers who translated it to more than 35 languages. In 2009 we won Les Trophées du Libre in Paris.

*Project Owner at Sunfish, 2012 - current.*

A 111 line python chess engine, which is nevertheless 2000+ rating on the online Lichess server. Because of the simplicity and focus on teaching good AI techniques, it has become a popular project on Github with 2400+ stars and nearly 500 forks. Sunfish was referenced in multiple early applications of neural networks to chess.

## Awards and Scholarships

*Research Travel Award, Stibo-Foundation, 2016.*

Given to just two Danish students a year, to collaborate in research abroad.

*Northwestern Europe Regional Programming Contest, 1st, Association for Computing Machinery, 2014.*

With my team Lambdabamserne, becoming the first ever Danish team to qualify for the ACM world finals.

*Danish National Programming Champion, 1st, Netcompany, 2013, 2014.*

Algorithm competition known as "DM i Programmering"

*Oxford Computer Science Competition, 1st, University of Oxford, 2013.*

For my Numberlink solving software, giving the first fixed parameter polynomial algorithm for the problem.

*Demyship, Magdalen College, 2010, 2011.*

A historic scholarship awarded to the top students each year.

*Les Trophées du Libre, 1st, Free Software Foundation Europe, 2007.*

For my work on the PyChess free software chess suite.

## Media

*Jon Lund. "En ulv i fåreklæder", Prosa, May 2021.* An interview on the use of SimHash in GoogleFLoC system.

*"The Stibo-Foundation supports IT-talents", Stibo, August 2016.* The announcement of my winning the Stibo Travel grant.

*Bidwell, Jonni. "Python: Sunfish chess engine", Linux Format, January 2016.* Article about my Sunfish chess software.

*"The National Team at the Programming World Cup", Computerworld, June 2015.* Coverage of my teams participation in the ICPC World Finals.

*Elkær, Mads. "Denmark's Three Greatest Programmers", Computerworld, October 2013.*

## Contact

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[DBLP List of papers](#)

[Google Scholar List of Papers](#)

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