

# TRAVIS AARON HOPPE

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Federal Resume  
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PhD Physics  
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Chief Data Scientist

CDC / National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

September 2020 - Present

40 hours per week

Title 42 (GS-14/5 equivalent) \$138,866/year base compensation and high-performance bonus

- Lead for NCHS Data Modernization Initiative: *Increase Use, Discoverability, and Access to NCHS Data*. Established pilot projects and worked with stakeholders to create statements of work and business needs.
- Developed and led two key organizations (NCHS Innovation & NCHS Data Science Community of Practice) to build community, foster inter-divisional communication, and develop innovative practices across the Center.
- Served on CDC's response to the Executive Order on AI and the NCHS Data Science Strategic Plan. Presented to Board of Scientific Council, NCHS All-Hands, and delivered subject matter talks on Bias in AI, advances in Natural Language Processing, bibliometrics, and more.
- Organized Center-wide metadata standards and built a custom ontology using evidence based sources: publications, web searches, and market research.
- Developed new methodology to study free text responses from the Research and Development Survey (RANDS), including non-response detection and zero-shot learning objectives.
- Implemented PII detection processes for restricted microlevel data.

### Senior Data Scientist / Portfolio Analyst

NIH / DPCPSI / OPA contracted under Lexical Intelligence

February 2016 - February 2020

40 hours per week

\$135,000/year base compensation, yearly bonus \$1,000 to \$4,000

- Scientific team leader for a novel inter-agency government blockchain to detect grant duplication with minimal shared data. Coordinated research, oversaw design, and developed protocols within the NIH and NSF teams.
- Developed new analytic tools to process the text of NIH grants and publications using distributional embeddings (word2vec) and transformers (BERT). Tools were deployed for analysis presented to NIH senior leadership, Congress, and publications in high-ranking journals.
- Architected and productionized machine learning models for classification, regression, outlier detection, and language modeling. Creator and maintainer of several open-source tools used internationally in the scientific community.

- Trained and mentored junior staff in natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning.
- Analyzed grant and publication portfolios, evaluating metrics such as clinical impact, technological impact, and award rates to build quantitative comparisons between various populations.
- Restored historical texts from books and generated new structured data from free text. Expanded NIH grant coverage by thirty years from archival documents. Cross-linked publications to an NIH application's biographical sketch and literature cited. Data used internally with the NIH for analysis on racial disparity, topic analysis, mentorship, and grant efficacy.

### **Postdoctoral Fellowship (IRTA) at National Institutes of Health**

Research Scientist

April 2014 - February 2016

40 hours per week

\$48,000/year

- Researched novel integration schemes for molecular dynamics simulations (MDS). Developed protein models for tertiary structure prediction from primary sequence.
- Designed and managed high-performance computing models on the NIH supercomputer, Biowulf. First to investigate containerized solutions for MDS using a graphics processing card.
- Worked in collaboration with experimentalists to test and validate models.

### **Postdoctoral Fellowship at National Institutes of Health**

Research Scientist

August 2011 - April 2014

40 hours per week

\$46,167/year

- Developed multi-scale theoretical and computational models to study protein folding, structure, and protein-protein. Derived hard-sphere models to account for crowding in biomolecular simulations and potentials to model anisotropic charge distributions.
- Managed large-scale parallel projects (1000+ cores) to simulate the cellular environment.

### **Teaching Assistantship / Curriculum Designer**

September 2005 - May 2011

35 hours per week

\$28,000/year

Teaching Assistant (Drexel)

- Organized, taught, and ran 22 undergraduate courses.
- Personally restructured the entire computational component for physics majors by transitioning from FORTRAN to Python.

## EDUCATION

- 2011 **Doctor of Philosophy, Physics**  
Drexel University  
*On the Role of Entropy in the Protein Folding Process, Thesis.*
- 2008 **Master of Science, Physics**  
Drexel University
- 2005 **Bachelor of Science, Physics**  
University of Nevada
- 2005 **Bachelor of Science, Mathematics**  
University of Nevada

## COMMITTEES SERVED

- 2021 **National Science and Technology Council (NSTC): Epidemic Modeling and Forecasting Fast Track Action Committee**  
*Contributor: Plan to Advance Data Innovation*
- 2021 **Health and Human Services (HHS): Open Data Task Force**  
*Member-at-large*
- 2021 **CDC: Information Technology and Data Governance (ITDG)**  
*Member-at-large*

## SKILLS & CLEARANCE

**Machine learning:** Natural Language Processing (NLP), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), Transformers (BERT, GPT), Tensorflow, pyTorch, word2vec.

**Programming & Database:** Python, C++, JavaScript, SQL, NoSQL (MongoDB, Elasticsearch), Cloud Infrastructure (AWS, Azure, Heroku), Containerization (Docker)

**Programming & Database:** Experience as team leader for analysis, code, design, and project management. Trained and mentored staff.

**Public Trust Clearance:** Level 5, valid from 2018-2022

## PUBLICATIONS

- Data Science*
- 2020 **The Pile: An 800GB Dataset of Diverse Text for Language Modeling**, Leo Gao, Stella Biderman, Travis Hoppe, et al., [arXiv](#).
- Policy*
- 2019 **Topic Choice Contributes to Lower Rate of NIH Awards to African-American/Black Scientists**, Travis Hoppe, Aviva Litovitz, Kristine Willis, Rebecca Meseroll, Matthew Perkins, B. Ian Hutchins, Alison Davis, Michael Lauer, Hannah Valantine, James Anderson, & George Santangelo, [Science Advances](#).

- 2019 **The NIH Open Citation Collection: A public access, broad coverage resource**, Ian Hutchins, Kirk Baker, Matthew Davis, Mario Diwersy, Ehsanul Haque, Robert Harriman, Travis Hoppe, Stephen Leicht, Payam Meyer, George Santangelo, *PLoS Biology*.
- 2017 **Additional support for RCR: A validated article-level measure of scientific influence**, Ian Hutchins, Travis Hoppe, Rebecca Meseroll, James Anderson, & George Santangelo, *PLoS Biology*.
- Protein-Protein Interaction*
- 2019 **Non-specific Interactions Between Macromolecular Solutes in Concentrated Solution: Physico-Chemical Manifestations and Biochemical Consequences**, Travis Hoppe & Allen Minton, *Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences*.
- 2016 **Incorporation of Hard and Soft Protein-Protein Interactions into Models for Crowding Effects in Binary and Ternary Protein Mixtures**, Travis Hoppe & Allen Minton, *Journal of the Physical Chemistry B*.
- 2015 **Dependence of Internal Friction on Folding Mechanism**, Wenwei Zheng, David De Sancho, Travis Hoppe & Robert B. Best, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.
- 2015 **An equilibrium model for the combined effect of macromolecular crowding and surface adsorption on the formation of linear protein fibrils**, Travis Hoppe, Allen Minton, *Biophysical Journal*.
- 2013 **A simplified representation of anisotropic charge distributions in proteins**, Travis Hoppe, *Journal of Chemical Physics*.
- 2013 **Singular Value Decomposition of the Radial Distribution Function for Hard Sphere and Square Well Potentials**, Travis Hoppe, *PLoS ONE*.
- 2010 **Protein Folding with Implicit Crowders: A Study of Conformational States Using the Wang-Landau Method**, Travis Hoppe, Jian-Min Yuan, *Journal of Physical Chemistry B*.
- Protein Topology & Graph theory*
- 2014 **Integer sequence discovery from small graphs**, Travis Hoppe, Anna Petrone, *Discrete Applied Mathematics*.
- 2009 **Entropic flows, crowding effects, and stability of asymmetric proteins**, Travis Hoppe, Jian-Min Yuan, *Physical Review E*.
- Experimental Modeling*
- 2014 **Programmable Nanoscaffolds that Control Ligand Display to a G-Protein Coupled-Receptor in Membranes allow Dissection of Multivalent Effects**, Andrew Dix, Daniel Appella, Travis Hoppe, et al., *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

- 2014 **Quantification of plasma HIV RNA using chemically engineered peptide nucleic acids**, Chao Zhao, Daniel Appella, Travis Hoppe, et al., *Nature Communications*.
- 2008 **The importance of EBIT data for Z-pinch plasma diagnostics**, A S Safronova, Travis Hoppe, et al., *Canadian Journal of Physics*.
- 2006 **Spectroscopic and Imaging Study of Combined W and Mo-pinch generators at 1 MA-pinch Generators**, Alla Safronova, Travis Hoppe, et al., *IEEE Transactions on Plasma Science*.

## CONFERENCES

- 2021 **Federal Privacy Summit: Washington DC**  
*Panel Chair: Automated PII detection*
- 2021 **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology: Washington DC**  
*Presentation: Short communication as a medium: Is Engagement a substitute for efficacy?*
- 2021 **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology: Washington DC**  
*Presentation coauthor: Analysis of Open-text Time Reference Web Probes on a COVID-19 Survey*
- 2016 **Biophysical Society: Los Angeles, CA**  
*Poster: Coevolutionary signal enhancement*
- 2015 **Biophysical Society: Baltimore, MD**  
*Seminar: Mean-field lattice-model IDPs, Binding Affinity & Specificity*
- 2014 **Advances in Enhanced Sampling Algorithms: Telluride, CO**  
*Seminar: Topological considerations in the Wang-Landau algorithm*
- 2013 **Biophysical Society: Philadelphia, PA**  
*Seminar: Coarse-grained Electrostatic Models for Protein Solutions*
- 2010 **Biophysical Society: San Francisco, CA**  
*Poster: Wang-Landau Density of States in Crowded Protein Environments*
- 2009 **Drexel University Libraries' Communication Symposium: The Hidden Costs of Scholarly Communication: Philadelphia, PA**  
*Invited Panel Member*
- 2009 **Biophysical Society: Boston, MA**  
*Poster: Exhaustive Properties of Simple Lattice Peptides*

## AWARDS

- 2017 **Office of the Director's Honor Award**  
*Outstanding support for the Grants Support Index & Next Generation Research Initiative Analytical Team*
- 2014 **Top Presentation Award**  
*Institution-wide recognition during the NIDDK Annual Conference.*
- 2010 **Research Assistant Grant**  
*Competitive grant from Drexel Physics Department on the basis of outstanding research and teaching.*
- 2010 **Student Research Achievement Award (SRAA)**  
*Top poster at the Biophysical Society 2010 meeting.*

- 2009 **Department Research Award (Senior Division)**  
*Given by the Drexel Physics Department, this award recognized a high proficiency in both original research and synthesis of results into publications.*
- 2008 **Department Research Award (Junior Division)**  
*Restricted to the first two years of study, the junior division award was awarded for early achievements in research.*
- 2007 **Teaching Assistant of the Year**  
*Recognition by Drexel University as the top Teaching Assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences.*

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE:  
DREXEL**

- 2011 **PHYS 305**, Computational Physics II\*
- 2010 **PHYS 304**, Computational Physics I\*  
**PHYS 160**, Introduction to Scientific Computing\*  
**PHYS 305**, Computational Physics II\*
- 2009 **PHYS 304**, Computational Physics I\*  
**PHYS 160**, Introduction to Scientific Computing\*  
**DSP 099**, Dragon Summer Program: Remedial Mathematics  
**PHYS 100**, Preparation for Engineering Studies  
**PHYS 305**, Computational Physics II\*
- 2008 **PHYS 304**, Computational Physics I\*  
**PHYS 102**, Fundamentals of Physics II\*  
**PHYS 115**, Contemporary Physics III\*  
**PHYS 114**, Contemporary Physics II\*
- 2007 **PHYS 113**, Contemporary Physics I\*  
**PHYS 102**, Fundamentals of Physics II, Lab  
**PHYS 115**, Contemporary Physics III\*  
**PHYS 114**, Contemporary Physics II\*
- 2006 **PHYS 113**, Contemporary Physics I\*  
**TDEC 101**, Fundamentals of Physics I, Lab  
**TDEC 103**, Fundamentals of Physics III\*  
**TDEC 102**, Fundamentals of Physics II\*
- 2005 **TDEC 101**, Fundamentals of Physics I\*

\*Developed new curricula and modernized the Computational Physics, Contemporary Physics and Introduction to Scientific Computing courses at Drexel.