

# Tiago da Silva

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## Education

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### MSc in Applied Mathematics

2024/03 – 2025/03

School of Applied Mathematics, Brazil

- Research focused on probabilistic methods for Machine Learning. Received a fully-funded scholarship.
- Advisor: [Prof. Diego Mesquita](#).

### BSc in Data Science

2020/03 – 2023/12

School of Applied Mathematics, Brazil

- GPA: 9.9/10.0 (lowest passing grade of 6.0). 1st in class and 1st in the entrance exam. Receive a fully-funded scholarship.

## Selected Publications

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### 1. Streaming Bayes GFlowNets

NeurIPS 2024

- [da Silva, T.](#), Souza, D., and Mesquita, D.
- TL;DR: We design a method to update GFlowNets trained on a streaming Bayesian posterior. Experiments show a drastic reduction in training time when compared against learning from scratch a model based on the entire dataset.

### 2. On Divergence Measures for Training GFlowNets

NeurIPS 2024

- [da Silva, T.](#), Silva, E., and Mesquita, D.
- TL;DR: We empirically show that the inefficacy of divergence-based objectives for GFlowNets is due to their large gradient variance. We then develop variance reduction techniques that significantly accelerate training convergence.

### 3. Embarrassingly Parallel GFlowNets

ICML 2024

- [da Silva, T.](#), Souza, A., Carvalho, L., Kaski, S., and Mesquita, D.
- TL;DR: We propose a divide-and-conquer approach to train a log-pool of GFlowNets in an embarrassingly parallel fashion. Results show a significant speed up in learning when the unnormalized target is expensive to evaluate.

## Research Projects

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### 1. When do GFlowNets (not) learn the right distribution?

GFlowNets have demonstrated exceptional performance in, e.g., NLP and combinatorial optimization. However, an understanding of the limitations of GFlowNets and a sound procedure for assessing the closeness of a trained model to its learning objective are notably absent from the literature. In this project, we aim to address questions such as: given a parametric model, which distributions can a GFlowNet learn? How to measure the closeness of the sampling distribution to the target?

### 2. Do GFlowNets generalize?

Generalization is at the core of GFlowNet learning: during training, only a portion of the state space is explored and can be used for risk minimization. In this context, we ask: can we obtain (the first) non-vacuous statistical certificates for GFlowNets? Also, which algorithmic changes would (provably) boost the generalization performance of GFlowNets?

## Research Experience

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### Green AI Lab, Brazil

2022/08 – ongoing

Working with probabilistic ML. My recent efforts were mostly directed towards leveraging GFlowNets for asynchronous and approximate Bayesian inference. I have also worked on geometric deep learning, learning theory, variational autoencoders, diffusion probabilistic models, and PINNs. Our current research led to publications at [ICML](#) and [NeurIPS](#).

### Aalto University, Finland

2024/07 – 2024/10

I was a visiting scholar on the Probabilistic Machine Learning group under the supervision of Prof. Vikas Garg and Prof. Sami Kaski. I worked on developing (non-vacuous) statistical guarantees for GFlowNets and geometric deep learning.

### Visual Data Science Lab, Brazil

2020/08 – 2023/01

Research assistant supervised by Prof. Jorge Poco. I assisted the development of a framework for reverse engineering of visualizations (see the open-source library [REV](#)) and of a platform for image-based literature search (see our [C&G paper](#)).

## Honors & Awards

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<b>Award for Academic Excellence</b> , Brazilian Society of Applied and Computational Mathematics.	2023
<b>First place</b> , School of Applied Mathematics entrance exam.	2020
I was awarded with <u>19 prizes in scientific competitions</u> during high school, including:	
<b>William Glenn Whitley Prize</b> for achieving the highest score on the State Mathematical Olympiad.	2019
<b>Top score in the country</b> , Brazilian Mathematical Olympiad of Public Schools.	2019
<b>Top score in the country</b> , Brazilian Mathematical Olympiad of Public Schools.	2018
<b>Gold medal</b> , Brazilian Chemistry Olympiad.	2018
<b>Gold medal</b> , Brazilian Mathematical Olympiad of Public Schools.	2017
<b>Gold medals</b> , State Chemistry Olympiad. Highest score in 2019.	2016-2019

## Employment

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**Rei do Pitaco** (largest fantasy sports company in Brazil) 2023/01 – 2023/07

- Data Science intern.
  - Designed predictive models to define the opening lines of bets on the outcomes of sport events (bookmaking).
  - Deployed and upheld the created models within applications serving thousands of concurrent users.

## Teaching

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I have worked as a teaching assistant (TA) for over three years in the School of Applied Mathematics. I was a TA in the courses of Exploratory Data Analysis (2021.1), Linear Algebra (2021.2), Probability (2022.1), Statistical Inference (2022.2), Machine Learning (2023.1), Time Series (2023.2, 2024.2), and in the graduate-level course of Machine Learning (2024.1). I assisted the professors with preparing and grading both homework and exams, and held office hours to support students.

## Languages

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Portuguese (Native), English

## Skills

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Computer languages: Proficient with Python and SQL. Competent with R and Stan. Familiar with C++ and JavaScript.

Scientific computing frameworks: PyTorch, PyTorch Geometric, GPyTorch, NumPy, SciPy.

Data visualization: Matplotlib, Altair, Vega-lite, D3.

Computer vision libraries: OpenCV, YOLOv5, SAM.