

THOMAS MACHON

David Rittenhouse Laboratory
University of Pennsylvania
209 S. 33rd St., Philadelphia, PA
19104, USA

machon@sas.upenn.edu
tmachon.com
+1 267-206-4107

Employment

- May 2016 – Present **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania
Supervised by Randall. D. Kamien
- Oct 2015 – Apr 2016 **Early Career Fellow**
Institute for Advanced Study, University of Warwick
Independent research fellowship.

Education

- 2016 **PhD**, Physics and Complexity Science, University of Warwick, UK
Thesis: *Aspects of Geometry and Topology in Liquid Crystalline Order*
Supervisors: Gareth P. Alexander and Miha Ravnik (University of Ljubljana).
Science Faculty PhD Thesis Prize
- 2013 **MSc**, Complexity Science, University of Warwick, UK (Distinction)
Theses: *Swarming and phase transitions in Danio Rerio*
and *Knotted Defects in Nematic Liquid Crystals*.
- 2011 **MPhys**, Physics, University of Warwick, UK (1st class)
Highest mark in graduating class.

Awards and Prizes

- 2016 Science Faculty PhD Thesis Prize, University of Warwick, UK.
- 2015 IAS Early Career Fellowship, University of Warwick, UK (£3,000).
- 2012 Chancellor's International Scholarship, University of Warwick, UK (£50,000).
- 2011 Jersey Bursary, States of Jersey, Channel Islands (£10,000).
- 2011 Styles Prize for Excellence (ranked 1st in graduating class), Department of Physics, University of Warwick, UK.

Teaching Experience

- 2012-2015 Department of Physics, University of Warwick.
Teaching Assistant: PX149, Mathematics for Physicists.
- 2014 Department of Physics & Institute of Mathematics, University of Warwick.
Co-supervised Masters students' final year projects.
- 2013-2014 Institute of Mathematics, University of Warwick.
Supervisions (small group tutorials covering all first year courses).

Publications & Preprints

8. H. Aharoni, T. Machon and R.D. Kamien, *Composite Dislocations in Smectic Liquid Crystals*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **118**, 257801 (2017).
7. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Global Defect Topology in Nematic Liquid Crystals*, Proc. R. Soc. A **472**, 20160265 (2016).
6. T. Machon, R.E. Goldstein, A.I. Pesci and G.P. Alexander, *Instabilities and Solitons in Minimal Strips*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 017801 (2016).
5. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Umbilic Lines in Orientational Order*, Phys. Rev. X **6**, 011033 (2016).
4. D.A. Beller, T. Machon, S. Copar, D.M. Sussman, G.P. Alexander, R.D. Kamien and R.A. Mosna, *Geometry of the Cholesteric Phase*, Phys. Rev. X **4**, 031050 (2014).
3. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Knotted Defects in Nematic Liquid Crystals*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **113**, 027801 (2014).
2. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Knotted Nematics*, arXiv:1307.6819 (2013).
1. T. Machon and G.P. Alexander, *Knots and non-orientable surfaces in chiral nematics*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **110**, 14174 (2013).
Also featured in Liquid Crystals Today **22**, 72 (2013).

Manuscripts in Preparation

Boltzmann Learning and a duality for non-equilibrium critical points (with S.A. Ridout).
Singularity Theory and the Structure of Defects in Smectics (with H. Aharoni, Y. Hu and R.D. Kamien).
Contact Topology and the Structure and Dynamics of Cholesteric Liquid Crystals.
Nematic Chainmail and the Abelian Sandpile Model (with G.P. Alexander).

Invited Presentations

July 2017	SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry <i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i>
July 2017	Seminar <i>Department of Physics, University of Bristol</i>
October 2016	Topology Workshop <i>Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania</i>
October 2015	Applied Topology Seminar <i>Department of Physics, University of Bristol</i>
September 2014	CECAM Workshop on Knots in Soft Condensed Matter <i>University of Vienna</i>
May 2013	Physics Seminar <i>Department of Physics, University of Ljubljana</i>

Contributed Presentations

June 2017	GRC on Liquid Crystals (poster) <i>University of New England, Maine</i>
March 2017	APS March Meeting <i>New Orleans</i>
September 2016	Knots and Links in Biological and Soft Matter Systems (poster) <i>ICTP</i>

- April 2014 The Physics of Soft and Biological Matter Conference
 Homerton College, University of Cambridge
- May 2013 The Mathematics of Liquid Crystals Workshop (poster)
 Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge

References

Randall D. Kamien

University of Pennsylvania
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, 209 S. 33rd St., Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA
kamien@physics.upenn.edu (Phone: +1 215 898 5940)

Gareth P. Alexander

University of Warwick
Dept. of Physics and Centre for Complexity Science, Zeeman Building, Coventry, CV4 7AL
g.p.alexander@warwick.ac.uk