

Andrew Tupper — PhD Biochemistry

☎ +1 (315) 212-7308 • ✉ andrew.s.tupper@gmail.com

Education

McMaster University

PhD Biochemistry and Astrobiology

Hamilton, ON (Canada)

2015–2020

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

BS Interdisciplinary Science – summa cum laude

Troy, NY (USA)

2011–2015

Technical Skills

Programming.....

- Proficient in Python, C, C++, R, and Bash. Basic knowledge of HTML, CSS, and javascript
- Parallel programming paradigms: MPI (MPICH and openMPI), threading (POSIX and openMP), and GPU (NVIDIA-CUDA)
- Python libraries: ApacheBeam, NumPy, SciPy, SymPy, Scikit-learn, and PyMC3 (Bayesian)
- Code development on Unix clusters: Docker and Conda, job scheduling with SLURM and SGE
- Dedicated to software development best practices: Agile, GitHub, test-driven development
- Server admin for the USDA, deployment and maintenance of databases and R-shiny websites
- Coded exclusively in VIM for 1-2 years

Problem Solving.....

- Numerical analysis of stiff and ordinary differential equations using Runge-Kutta methods
- Monte-Carlo and Gillespie based simulations of chemical kinetics and thermodynamics
- Surface and lattice based models of nearest-neighbor stochastic processes

Problem Solving (Cont.).....

- Kmer based algorithms for the analysis of genomic and population genetic data
- Development of CRISPR-based diagnostic assays of pathogens using SHERLOCK protocol

Communication.....

- Proficient in scientific writing and presentations
- Author of 8 published papers (4 as first author)
- Awarded best PhD seminar twice, best poster once
- Mentored 5 graduate and 4 undergraduate students
- Led research lab during final year of PhD

Relevant Coursework.....

- SHARCNET Advanced Research Computing
- Software Design and Documentation
- Machine Learning
- Parallel Programming
- Numerical Computing
- Statistical mechanics
- Mathematical biology
- Mechanisms of enzyme action
- Metabolism and regulation
- Drug discovery

Professional Experience

BenchSci

Bioinformatics Software Engineer (remote)

Potsdam, NY (USA)

2022–present

- Development of ETL pipelines using Apache beam, Bigquery, and Google cloud infrastructure
- Extraction and analysis of large scale biological and chemical databases
- Knowledge graph modeling of biological and chemical entities

Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory

Research Associate with Dr. Niklaus J. Grünwald

Corvallis, OR (USA)

2020–2021

- Development of python software packages for CRISPR-based diagnostic assays
- System administrator for the 'oomy' compute cluster and web server
- Population genetics of *P. ramorum*, causal agent of sudden oak death

McMaster University

Graduate Researcher with Dr. Paul G. Higgs

Hamilton, ON (Canada)

2015–2020

- Software development of massively parallel programs for high performance computing
- Designing computational models of non-enzymatic and enzymatic RNA replication
- Lipid-catalyzed polymerization of unactivated RNA monomers in the 'Planet Simulator' - Origins lab

Professional Experience (continued)

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, NY (USA)

Undergraduate Researcher with Dr. James P. Ferris

2012–2013

- Clay-catalyzed polymerization of activated RNA monomers
- Banin protocol - Quantitative ion exchange of clay minerals
- Data analysis of chemical experiments

Publications

- Foster, Z. S., **Tupper**, A. S., Press, C. M., & Grunwald, N. J. (2023). Krisp: A python package for designing crispr and amplification-based diagnostic assays from whole genome data. *bioRxiv*, 2023–11.
- Tupper**, A. S., & Higgs, P. G. (2021). Rolling-circle and strand-displacement mechanisms for non-enzymatic rna replication at the time of the origin of life. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 110822.
- Cauret, C. M., Gansauge, M.-T., **Tupper**, A. S., Furman, B. L., Knytl, M., Song, X.-Y., Greenbaum, E., Meyer, M., & Evans, B. J. (2020). Developmental systems drift and the drivers of sex chromosome evolution. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 37(3), 799–810.
- Tupper**, A. S., Pudritz, R. E., & Higgs, P. G. (2019). Can the RNA world still function without cytidine? *Molecular biology and evolution*.
- Shah, V., de Bouter, J., *Pauli, Q., **Tupper**, A. S., & Higgs, P. G. (2019). Survival of RNA replicators is much easier in protocells than in surface-based, spatial systems. *Life*, 9(3), 65.
- Pearce, B. K., **Tupper**, A. S., Pudritz, R. E., & Higgs, P. G. (2018). Constraining the time interval for the origin of life on earth. *Astrobiology*, 18(3), 343–364.
- Tupper**, A. S., & Higgs, P. G. (2017). Error thresholds for RNA replication in the presence of both point mutations and premature termination errors. *Journal of theoretical biology*, 428, 34–42.
- Tupper**, A., *Shi, K., & Higgs, P. (2017). The role of templating in the emergence of RNA from the prebiotic chemical mixture. *Life*, 7(4), 41.

* mentored undergraduate student

Select Conferences

Gordon Research Conference for the Origins of Life

Galveston, TX (USA)

Poster Presentation

2020

Non-enzymatic Rolling-circle Replication in an RNA World

- Andrew S. Tupper & Paul G. Higgs

Astrobiology Science Conference (AbSciCon)

Bellevue, WA (USA)

Poster Presentation

2019

Can the RNA World still function without cytidine?

- Andrew S. Tupper, Ralph E. Pudritz & Paul G. Higgs

Science of Early Life Conference

Hamilton, ON (Canada)

Poster Presentation

2018

Assessing the Plausibility of an AUG Alphabet for RNA Secondary Structure Formation and Replication

- Andrew S. Tupper, Ralph E. Pudritz, & Paul G. Higgs

Astrobiology Science Conference (AbSciCon)

Mesa, AZ (USA)

Oral Presentation

2017

Error thresholds for RNA replication in the presence of point mutations and premature termination errors

- Andrew S. Tupper & Paul G. Higgs

Astrobiology Science Conference (AbSciCon)

Mesa, AZ (USA)

Oral Presentation – By Supervisor

2017

The role of templating in the emergence of RNA from the prebiotic chemical mixture

- Andrew S. Tupper, Kevin Shi, & Paul G. Higgs