

Tom S. Bertalan

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE IN MIT MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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SKILLS

Software

LIBRARIES, PACKAGES, FRAMEWORKS, & TOOLS

- NumPy+SciPy+Matplotlib
- TensorFlow/Keras
- Linux and shell scripting
- Git and Subversion
- Eclipse+PyDev
- Scikit-Learn
- Python multiprocessing
- Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud
- Apache+MySQL

Languages

PROGRAMMING & MARKUP

- Python
- MATLAB
- \LaTeX
- C/C++
- Java
- HTML+Javascript

Selected Graduate Classes

- Computer Vision
- Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence
- Foundations of Probabilistic Modeling
- Probability Theory
- Mathematical Neuroscience
- Computation and Coding in Microcircuits
- Neuroscience
- Applied Dynamical Systems
- Mathematical Analysis of Massive Data Sets
- Introduction to Nonlinear Dynamics
- Chemical Reactor Engineering
- Mathematical Methods for Engineering Analysis
- Software Engineering for Scientific Computing

Selected Undergraduate Classes

- Mathematical Statistics with Applications
- Process Dynamics & Control
- Introduction to Linear Algebra
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Applied Differential Equations

Teaching

AT PRINCETON; AS ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR

- Chemical & Biological Engineering Lab
- Differential Equations

Other Skills and Interests

- Arduino and Raspberry Pi
- Autonomous robotics with Robot Operating System (ROS)
- Small electronics manufacture
- Solo and orchestral violin performance

PROJECTS

1:10 scale autonomous vehicles (AVs)

Built a series of differential-drive and Ackermann rovers with LIDAR, and depth cameras, wheel encoders, and IMU; building experience in hardware, low-level embedded firmware, Robot Operating System (ROS) driver software, and high-level perception and planning software.

Simulation of circadian rhythms

Contributed to a successful \$1.8MM grant for multi-university research project. Implemented core simulation, coarse-graining, and pseudo-arclength continuation. (Collaboration with Wash. U. St. Louis and U. Mass Amherst.)

Neural approximation of dynamical systems

Recast existing neural differential equation (DE) methods for time series analysis as recurrent networks, including extensions to convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for learning PDEs. Applied an unconventional loss for learning DEs with a conserved quantity. Implemented custom gradients for training neural networks with constraints.

Unsupervised learning (UL) for dynamical systems

Used UL to characterize the slow manifold underlying high-dimensional simulation dynamics. Helped develop a new variational autoencoder and applied it to end-to-end robotic localization (collaboration with Yale and The Technion).

Extraction of an emergent space and partial differential equation (PDE) underlying coupled oscillators

Used UL to obtain an pseudo-spatial ordering for a simulation of coupled biological neurons. Supervised a graduate student in using a CNN to train a PDE to approximate the dynamics.

Course in computer vision and control for AVs

Helped develop and teach a recurring summer course for high school and freshman students on using ROS, OpenCV, and CNNs to follow a road and stop at a traffic sign.

EDUCATION

Princeton University

M.A. AND PH.D

Chemical and Biological Engineering
Advised by Prof. Yannis Kevrekidis

The University of Alabama

B.S., MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Chemical and Biological Engineering, minor in Mathematics
Advised by Prof. Eric Carlson and Prof. Ryan Earley

AWARDS

- Princeton Program in Plasma Science and Technology research and academic fellowship
- National Science Foundation research fellowship
- William R. Schowalter fund for scholarly conferences
- National merit finalist scholarship
- University honors program
- University president's list
- $\Phi\chi\Sigma$, $\Omega\chi\epsilon$, and TBII honor societies

PUBLICATIONS

“Implicit integrators as constrained RNNs for time series learning”

Paper
In preparation

Tom Bertalan, Rob Farber, Yannis Kevrekidis

“Backward-time dynamics of nonlinear systems”

Paper
In preparation

Tianqi Cui, Tom Bertalan, Rob Farber, Yannis Kevrekidis

“Emergent spaces for coupled oscillators”

Paper
2019

FRONTIERS IN COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE (SUBMITTED)

Thomas Thiem, Mahdi Kooshkbaghi, Tom Bertalan, Carlo Laing, and Yannis Kevrekidis

“On Learning Hamiltonian Systems from Data”

Paper
2019

CHAOS

Tom Bertalan, Felix Dietrich, Igor Mezic, and Ioannis Kevrekidis

“An Emergent Space for Distributed Data with Hidden Internal Order through Manifold Learning”

Paper
2017

IEEE ACCESS

Felix Kemeth, Sindre Haugland, Felix Dietrich, Tom Bertalan, Kevin Höhle, Qianxiao Li, Erik Bollt, Ronen Talmon, Katharina Krischer, and Ioannis Kevrekidis

“Coarse-grained descriptions of dynamics for networks with both intrinsic and structural heterogeneities”

Paper
2017

FRONTIERS IN COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

Tom Bertalan, Yan Wu, Carlo Laing, C. William Gear, and Ioannis Kevrekidis.

“Dimension reduction in heterogeneous neural networks: Generalized Polynomial Chaos (gPC) and ANalysis-Of-Variance (ANOVA)”

Paper
2016

EUROPEAN PHYSICAL JOURNAL, SPECIAL TOPICS ISSUE

Minseok Choi, Tom Bertalan, Carlo Laing, and Ioannis Kevrekidis.

“OpenMG: a new multigrid implementation in Python”

Paper
2014

NUMERICAL LINEAR ALGEBRA WITH APPLICATIONS

Paper. Tom Bertalan, Akand Islam, Roger Sidje, and Eric Carlson

CONFERENCES

“Recurrent Neural Networks, Numerical Integrators and Nonlinear System Identification”

Talk

October 2018

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS ANNUAL MEETING

Tom Bertalan, Rob Farber, Thomas Thiem, Felix Dietrich, Ioannis Kevrekidis

“Coarse-Scale PDEs from Microscopic Observations Via Machine Learning”

Talk

November 2019

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS ANNUAL MEETING

Seungjoon Lee, Mahdi Kooshkbaghi, Constantinos Siettos, Ioannis Kevrekidis, Tom Bertalan

“When Have Two Networks Learned the Same Task? Data-Driven Transformations between System Representations”

Authored Talk

November 2019

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS ANNUAL MEETING

Tom Bertalan, Felix Dietrich, Thomas Thiem, Ioannis Kevrekidis

“Learning Partial Differential Equations from Discrete Space Time Data: Convolutional and Recurrent Networks, and Their Relations to Traditional Numerical Methods”

Authored Talk

November 2019

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS ANNUAL MEETING

Tom Bertalan, Felix Dietrich, Thomas Thiem, Ioannis Kevrekidis, Rob Farber, Anthony Roberts

“Coarse modeling of circadian rhythms in heterogeneous neural networks”

Poster and Talk

January 2017; November 2016

DYNAMICS DAYS 2017; AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS ANNUAL MEETING

Tom Bertalan, C. William Gear, Yannis G. Kevrekidis, Michael Henson, Erik, and Carlo Laing.

“Coarse-graining of heterogeneous neural dynamics”

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS ANNUAL MEETING

Tom Bertalan, Minseok Choi, Carlo Laing, Ioannis Kevrekidis.

Talk

November 2015

“Heterogeneity and reduction for complex network dynamics”

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS ANNUAL MEETING

Ioannis Kevrekidis, Alexander Holiday, Tom Bertalan, and Carlo Laing.

Talk

November 2014

“Polynomial representations of populations with multiple heterogeneities”

PRINCETON GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Tom Bertalan, Yan Wu, Brianna Hnath, and Yannis Kevrekidis

Poster

October 2014

“OpenMG: a new multigrid implementation in Python”

SCI-PY: SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING WITH PYTHON

Tom Bertalan, Akand Islam, Roger Sidje, and Eric Carlson

Talk

July 2012

“ESIM: a framework for simulation of dominance hierarchy formation in small animal groups”

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM HONORS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Tom Bertalan and Ryan Earley

Poster

April 2012

“An open-source computing cluster for virtual experiments with variable parameters”

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM HONORS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Tom Bertalan and Eric Carlson

Poster

April 2011

REFERENCES

Yannis Kevrekidis: yannisk@jhu.edu Bloomberg Distinguished Professor in Applied Mathematics and Statistics at Johns Hopkins University

Stas Shvartsman: stas@princeton.edu Professor of Chem. and Biol. Engineering at Princeton University and the Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics.

Ryan Earley: rearley@ua.edu Associate Professor of Biological sciences at The University of Alabama.