CURRICULUM VITAE
Vaidehi Srinivas
Email: vaidehi@u.northwestern.edu
Web: vaidehi8913.github.io

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science
Sep. 2021 – present
Advisor: Aravindan Vijayaraghavan
Area: Algorithms, Machine Learning Theory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Fulbright Visiting Student
Sep. 2020 – May 2021
Host: Christian Schulz
Theory and Application of Algorithms group
University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria

B.S. in Computer Science, minor in German Studies
Aug. 2016 – May 2020
University and college honors
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

PUBLICATIONS

The Burer-Monteiro SDP method can fail even above the Barvinok-Pataki bound [arXiv]
with Liam O'Carroll and Aravindan Vijayaraghavan,
36th conference of Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2022.
The Burer-Monteiro method is a practical and popular heuristic for solving semidefinite programs (SDPs). We provide a family of instances that have spurious local minima for high rank (so Burer-Monteiro could indeed fail), which justifies the use of beyond-worst-case paradigms like smoothed analysis to obtain guarantees.

Memory Bounds for the Experts Problem [arXiv] [talk]
with David P. Woodruff, Ziyu Xu, and Samson Zhou,
54th Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC) 2022.
We initiate the study of the online learning with expert advice problem in the streaming (low memory) setting. Our upper and lower bounds give a smooth tradeoff between memory and regret.

Simpler Approximations for the Network Steiner-tree Problem [pdf]
advised by Anupam Gupta,
Undergraduate Honors Thesis 2020.
The 11/6 and 1.55-approximation algorithms given by Zelikovsky ('93) and Robins and Zelikovsky ('05) are classic results in approximation algorithms. They are also notorious for their very technical analyses. We provide a simple modular analysis by reducing to submodular function optimization under knapsack constraints (idea due to Deeparnab Chakrabarty).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship
Fall 2023 – Summer 2025
Evanston, Illinois

Northwestern University Computer Science Department PhD Student Research Award
2022-2023 Academic Year
Evanston, Illinois

Peter and Adrienne Barris Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Fall 2022
Northwestern University CS Department, Evanston, Illinois

Todd M. and Ruth Warren Fellowship
Fall 2021 – Spring 2022
Northwestern University CS Department, Evanston, Illinois

Fulbright Combined Award for Austria
Sep. 2020 – Jun. 2021
Vienna, Austria

Andrew Carnegie Society Scholar
2020 Graduation Year
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Phi Beta Kappa
2020 Graduation Year
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

INTERNSHIPS

IDEAL Summer Exchange Program
June 2023 – Sep. 2023
Toyota Technological Institute (TTIC), Chicago, Illinois
Research intern hosted by Avrim Blum at TTIC, and funded by the Institute for Data, Econometrics, Algorithms, and Learning

News Engineering Intern at Apple
May 2018 – Aug. 2018
Cupertino, California

Software Engineering Intern at BlueJeans Network
Jun. 2017 – Aug. 2017
Mountain View, California

INVITED TALKS

McCormick School of Engineering Advisory Council, Evanston, Illinois, Nov. 2023
Google Research, Mountain View, California, Nov. 2023
INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, Oct. 2023
IDEAL NSF Site Visit, Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 2023
University of Chicago Theory Lunch, Chicago, Illinois, Apr. 2023
Capital Area Theory Seminar @ University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, Apr. 2023

CONFERENCE/JOURNAL REVIEWS

Served as a (sub)reviewer for conferences: STOC 2023, ICML 2023, FOCS 2023, SODA 2024, ITCS 2024, STOC 2024. Served as a reviewer for journal: SICOMP (2023).

TEACHING

TA for CS 396/496: Foundations of Quantum Computing and Quantum Information
Winter 2024
Northwestern University

TA for CS 212: Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science
Fall 2022
Northwestern University
Peter and Adrienne Barris Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for Fall 2022

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant
Oct. 2020 – May 2021
Vienna, Austria

TA for 15-451: Algorithms
Spring 2020
Carnegie Mellon University

TA for 15-354: Computational Discrete Math
Fall 2019
Carnegie Mellon University

(Head) TA for 15-251: Great Ideas in Theoretical Computer Science
Spring 2018, Fall 2018, (Head TA) Spring 2019
Carnegie Mellon University

OUTREACH

Books and Breakfast
Jan. 2022 – present
Evanston, Illinois

Math Circles of Chicago
Sep. 2022 – present
Chicago, Illinois

Calico Youth Services
May 2020 – August 2020
Palo Alto, California

FORGE
Aug. 2019 – May 2020
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

LEADERSHIP

Northwestern CS PhD Advisory Council
2022 - present
Northwestern University

IDEAL Student Event Planning
2022
Northwestern University

Women@SCS and SCS-4-ALL
Jan. 2018 – May 2020
Carnegie Mellon University