

# Justin Yirka

B.S. in Computer Science and B.S. in Mathematics  
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## Education

### Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

B.S. in Computer Science

B.S. in Mathematical Sciences, GPA: 3.98 out of 4.0

Specialization in Data Science — Concentration in Pure Math — Minor in Physics  
Supported by VCU Presidential Scholarship

Richmond, VA

May 2018

Dual degrees

## Research

## Experience

### Graph Theory Computational Discovery Lab, VCU

Research Assistant

Summer 2018

**Supervisor:** Craig Larson, Ph.D.

**Topic:** Automated conjecturing and graph Hamiltonicity. Implemented algorithms for graph properties, improved open-source project structure for future use, and evaluated graph Hamiltonicity conjectures.

### Joint Center for Quantum Information and Computer Science (QuICS), University of Maryland (UMD)

NSF REU Undergraduate Researcher

Summer 2017

**Supervisor:** Andrew Childs, Ph.D.

**Support:** NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU). P.I.: William Gasarch, Ph.D.

**Topic:** Quantum pure-state tomography. Investigated Pauli observables using group theory (e.g. Clifford group) and bounds from study of hypergraphs.

### Quantum Computing Lab, VCU

Undergraduate Research Assistant

2015–2016

**Supervisor:** Sevag Gharibian, Ph.D.

**Topic:** Quantum computational complexity. Studied quantum oracle classes (e.g.  $P^{QMA[log]}$ ) characterized by local physical problems and partially developed “quantum Toda’s Theorem” ( $QCPH \subseteq P^{PP^{PP}}$ ).

## Preprints

Sevag Gharibian, Stephen Piddock, and **Justin Yirka**. “Oracle complexity classes and local measurements on physical Hamiltonians”. Preprint available soon.

Sevag Gharibian, Miklos Santha, Aarthi Sundaram, and **Justin Yirka**. “Quantum generalizations of the polynomial hierarchy with applications to QMA(2)”. Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.11139>. Apr. 2018.

Sevag Gharibian and **Justin Yirka**. “The complexity of simulating local measurements on quantum systems”. Available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.05626>. May 2016.

## Conference Presentations

Sevag Gharibian, Stephen Piddock, and **Justin Yirka**. *Oracle complexity classes and local measurements on physical Hamiltonians*. **Contributed talk by J. Yirka** at 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Quantum Information Science Conference (AQIS). Nagoya, Japan, Sept. 2018.

Sevag Gharibian, Miklos Santha, Aarthi Sundaram, and **Justin Yirka**. *Quantum generalizations of the polynomial hierarchy with applications to QMA(2)*. Contributed “long”/plenary talk by A. Sundaram at 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Quantum Information Science Conference (AQIS). Nagoya, Japan, Sept. 2018.

Sevag Gharibian, Miklos Santha, Aarthi Sundaram, and **Justin Yirka**. *Quantum generalizations of the polynomial hierarchy with applications to QMA(2)*. Contributed talk by A. Sundaram at 43<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science (MFCS). Liverpool, UK, Aug. 2018.

Sevag Gharibian and **Justin Yirka**. *The complexity of simulating local measurements on quantum systems*. Contributed talk by S. Gharibian at 12<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication, and Cryptography (TQC). Paris, France, 2017.

Sevag Gharibian and **Justin Yirka**. *The complexity of estimating local physical quantities*. **Poster by J. Yirka** at 20<sup>th</sup> Conference on Quantum Information Processing (QIP). Seattle, USA, 2017.

## Programming Experience

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**Languages:** Java, C, Python, Sage, Perl, Wolfram Language, Lua

**Software:** LaTeX, git and GitHub, Unix, Android, Mathematica, Weka, AutoCAD

**Software Engineering coursework:** Software Engineering (Agile, Android), Algorithm Analysis, Programming Languages (C, Python, Racket), Intro. to Operating Systems, Object Oriented Programming (Java)

**Applications coursework:** Convex Optimization (graduate course), Introduction to Natural Language Processing (assignments in Perl), Introduction to Data Science (Weka), Artificial Intelligence (neural networks), Graphs and Algorithms, Visualization of Physics with Mathematica

**Projects**.....

**www.JustinYirka.com — Personal website**

*Web design — hosted on Github; designed using Markdown.* 2018–present

**Graph Brains Project — Graph Theory Computational Discovery Lab, VCU**

*Python* Summer 2018

Implement functions for calculating graph properties. Manage known examples and properties in Python and SQL.  
Improve project structure, documentation, and usability.

**Campus Bluetooth tag network — Senior project**

*Java, Swift, Python, Android, iOS, Raspberry Pi / Unix, Google Firebase* (2 semesters) 2017–May 2018

Team project developing campus item-tracking system implementing Android, iOS, and Raspberry Pi programs to locate users' items tagged with BLE beacons.

**GeoViewer Android app — Software Engineering course project**

*Java, Android, Amazon AWS* Fall 2016

Team project with focus on Agile development. Implemented Android app for sharing geocached photos.

**Run Planner Mathematica program — RamHacks hackathon**

*Wolfram Language, Mathematica* 2016

Developed program utilizing opensource GPS data to take as input a starting location and a distance goal and output a jogging route of that distance along the city road network.

**GroupMe Stats Android app — VTHacks hackathon**

*Java, Android* 2016

Team project developing app to use GroupMe API to provide interesting statistics to a user.

## Extracurricular Experience

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**Founder and President**

*RamDev: Software Development at VCU* 2016–May 2018

- o Coordinated 46 weekly seminars including 9 corporate speakers.
- o Secured and managed \$2400 in funding and resources.
- o Increased weekly attendance to 20 students, becoming largest C.S. organization at VCU.

## Awards and Honors

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**VCU Presidential Scholarship**

*\$110,000, Virginia Commonwealth University* 2014–May 2018

Full cost of 4-year tuition, room, and board.  
Awarded to 0.6% of students.

**Mark A. Sternheimer Capstone Design Award**

*VCU School of Engineering* 2017

For “innovation and entrepreneurship” of senior project developing mobile app. Included grant of \$660.

**Launch Award for Outstanding Research Poster**

*VCU Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creativity* 2015