

Cameron Musco

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Academic Employment

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Assistant Professor, College of Information and Computer Sciences

Amherst, MA
September 2019-Present

Microsoft Research New England

Postdoctoral Researcher

Cambridge, MA
July 2018-July 2019

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research/Teaching Assistant, Theory of Computation Group

Cambridge, MA
September 2013-June 2018

IBM Research – Almaden

Research Intern (Mentor: David Woodruff)

San Jose, CA
May 2016-August 2016

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ph.D. Computer Science (Advisor: Nancy Lynch)

Thesis: The Power of Randomized Algorithms: From Numerical Linear Algebra to Biological Systems

Cambridge, MA
2013 – 2018

Yale University

B.S. Computer Science, B.S. Applied Mathematics

New Haven, CT
2008 – 2012

Research Interests

I study the algorithmic foundations of data science and machine learning, focusing on simple, randomized methods that adapt to modern computational environments. I am especially interested in applying randomized methods to linear algebraic problems and in understanding randomized computation and algorithmic robustness by studying computation in biological systems.

Publications

Toward a Characterization of Loss Functions for Distribution Learning. Nika Haghtalab, Cameron Musco, Bo Waggoner. *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* 2019.

Learning to Prune: Speeding up Repeated Computations. Daniel Alabi, Adam Tauman Kalai, Katrina Ligett, Cameron Musco, Christos Tzamos, Ellen Vitercik. *Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)* 2019.

A Universal Sampling Method for Reconstructing Signals with Simple Fourier Transforms. Haim Avron, Michael Kapralov, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Ameya Velingker, Amir Zandieh. *ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC)* 2019.

Learning Networks from Random Walk-Based Node Similarities. Jeremy Hoskins, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Charalampos Tsourakakis. *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* 2018.

Eigenvector Computation and Community Detection in Asynchronous Gossip Models. Frederik Mallmann-Trenn, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco. *International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP)* 2018.

Minimizing Polarization and Disagreement in Social Networks. Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Charalampos Tsourakakis. *The Web Conference (WWW)*, 2018.

Spectrum Approximation Beyond Fast Matrix Multiplication: Algorithms and Hardness. Cameron Musco, Praneeth Netrapalli, Aaron Sidford, Shashanka Ubaru, David P. Woodruff. *Innovations in*

Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS) 2018.

Stability of the Lanczos Method for Matrix Function Approximation. Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Aaron Sidford. *ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA)* 2018.

Recursive Sampling for the Nyström Method. Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco. *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* 2017.

Is Input Sparsity Time Possible for Kernel Low-Rank Approximation? Cameron Musco, David P. Woodruff. *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* 2017.

Sublinear Time Low-Rank Approximation of Positive Semidefinite Matrices. Cameron Musco, David P. Woodruff. *IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS)* 2017.

Neuro-RAM Unit with Applications to Similarity Testing and Compression in Spiking Neural Networks. Nancy Lynch, Cameron Musco, Merav Parter. *International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC)* 2017.

Random Fourier Features for Kernel Ridge Regression: Approximation Bounds and Statistical Guarantees. Haim Avron, Michael Kapralov, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Ameya Velingker, Amir Zandieh. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)* 2017.

Spiking Neural Networks: An Algorithmic Perspective. Nancy Lynch, Cameron Musco, Merav Parter. *Workshop on Biological Distributed Algorithms (BDA)* 2017.

New Perspectives on Algorithmic Robustness Inspired by Ant Colony House-Hunting. Tsvetomira Radeva, Cameron Musco, Nancy Lynch. *Workshop on Biological Distributed Algorithms (BDA)* 2017.

Input Sparsity Time Low-Rank Approximation via Ridge Leverage Score Sampling. Michael B. Cohen, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco. *ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA)* 2017.

Computational Tradeoffs in Biological Neural Networks: Self-Stabilizing Winner-Take-All. Nancy Lynch, Cameron Musco, Merav Parter. *Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS)* 2017.

Ant-Inspired Density Estimation via Random Walks. Cameron Musco, Hsin-Hao Su, Nancy Lynch. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* 2017. An extended abstract initially appeared in *ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC)* 2016.

Online Row Sampling. Michael B. Cohen, Cameron Musco, Jakub Pachocki. *International Workshop on Approximation Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization Problems (APPROX)* 2016. **Invited to special issue of Theory of Computing.**

Principal Component Projection Without Principal Component Analysis. Roy Frostig, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Aaron Sidford. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)* 2016.

Faster Eigenvector Computation via Shift-and-Invert Preconditioning. Daniel Garber, Elad Hazan, Chi Jin, Sham M. Kakade, Cameron Musco, Praneeth Netrapalli, Aaron Sidford. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)* 2016.

Randomized Block Krylov Methods for Stronger and Faster Approximate Singular Value Decomposition. Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco. *Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* 2015. **Full oral presentation (1 of 15 out of 403 accepted papers).**

Distributed House-Hunting in Ant Colonies. Mohsen Ghaffari, Cameron Musco, Tsvetomira Radeva, Nancy Lynch. *ACM Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing (PODC)* 2015.

Dimensionality Reduction for k -Means Clustering and Low Rank Approximation. Michael B. Cohen, Samuel Elder, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Madalina Persu. *ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC)* 2015.

Uniform Sampling for Matrix Approximation. Michael B. Cohen, Yin Tat Lee, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Richard Peng, Aaron Sidford. *Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS)* 2015.

Single Pass Spectral Sparsification in Dynamic Streams. Michael Kapralov, Yin Tat Lee, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, Aaron Sidford. *IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS)* 2014. In **Special Issue of SIAM Journal on Computing, 2017.**

Submitted Manuscripts

Sample Efficient Toeplitz Covariance Estimation. Yonina Eldar, Jerry Li, Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco. 2019.

Low-Rank Approximation from Communication Complexity. Cameron Musco, Christopher Musco, David P. Woodruff. 2019.

Talks and Presentations

The Sample Complexity of Toeplitz Covariance Estimation

Cornell CS Theory Seminar *April 2019*

A Universal Sampling Method for Reconstructing Signals with Simple Fourier Transforms

Cornell Scientific Computing and Numerics Seminar *April 2019*

Importance Sampling for Infinite Dimensional Optimization

INFORMS Annual Meeting *November 2018*

Recent Advances in Positive Semidefinite Matrix Approximation

Simons Workshop on Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra *September 2018*

Spectrum Approximation Beyond Fast Matrix Multiplication: Algorithms and Hardness

Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS) *January 2018*

Low-Rank Approximation of Positive Semidefinite Matrices

Guest Lecture, Harvard CS 226/MIT 6.889, Sketching for Big Data *November 2017*

Low-Rank Approximation and Clustering Via Sketching

Guest Lecture, Harvard CS 226/MIT 6.889, Sketching for Big Data *November 2017*

Sublinear Time Low-Rank Approximation of Positive Semidefinite Matrices

Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS) *October 2017*

Boston University Theory Seminar *October 2017*

UMass Amherst Theory Seminar *October 2017*

Random Fourier Features for Kernel Ridge Regression

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) *August 2017*

Spiking Neural Networks: An Algorithmic Perspective

Workshop on Biological Distributed Algorithms (BDA) *July 2017*

Input Sparsity Time Low-Rank Approximation via Ridge Leverage Score Sampling

Symposium on Discrete Algorithms (SODA) *January 2017*

Computational Tradeoffs in Biological Neural Networks: Self-Stabilizing WTA

Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science (ITCS) *January 2017*

MIT Theory of Distributed Systems Seminar *October 2016*

Dimensionality Reduction and Linear Sketching for Large Scale Data Analysis

BigData@CSAIL Annual Meeting, Poster Session *November 2016*

CSAIL Industry Alliance Program Annual Meeting, Poster Session *June 2015*

Fast Low-Rank Approximation and PCA: Beyond Sketching

NII Shonan Meeting on Recent Advances in RandNLA *July 2016*

Algorithms for Modern Massive Data Sets (MMDS) *June 2016*

IBM Research – Almaden, Intern Research Presentation *June 2016*

Ant-Inspired Density Estimation via Random Walks

MIT Theory of Distributed Systems Seminar *April 2016*

MIT Theoretical Computer Science Group Theory Lunch *February 2016*

Randomized Block Krylov Methods for Stronger and Faster Approximate SVD

Copper Mountain Conference on Iterative Methods *March 2016*

University of Utah Data Group Meeting *January 2016*

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Oral Presentation *December 2015*

MIT Theoretical Computer Science Group Theory Lunch *August 2015*

Chebyshev Polynomials and Approximation Theory in Theoretical Computer Science

MIT Danny Lewin Theory Retreat *October 2015*

Distributed House-Hunting in Ant Colonies

University of Arizona Social Insect Lab *June 2015*

Dimensionality Reduction for k -Means Clustering

MIT Algorithms and Complexity Seminar *April 2015*

Single Pass Spectral Sparsification in Dynamic Streams

CSoI NSF Site Visit, Purdue University, Poster Session *December 2015*

Uniform Sampling for Matrix Approximation

MIT Algorithms and Complexity Seminar *November 2014*

Linear Sketching and Applications to Distributed Computation

MIT Theory of Distributed Systems Seminar *November 2014*

Sparse Recovery Based Sketching for Streaming and Distributed Graph Algorithms

MIT Theoretical Computer Science Group Theory Lunch *June 2014*

■ Teaching and Mentorship Experience

UMass COMPSCI 514: Algorithms for Data Science

Professor *Fall 2019*

Microsoft Research Undergraduate Internship Program

Mentor *Summer 2019*

Mentored Hannah Lawrence, studying optimal sparse ruler design along with randomized methods for signal processing and Toeplitz covariance estimation.

MIT Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

Mentor *Fall 2016*

Mentored undergraduate Brandon Benson, on the research project *Swarm Agent Controllers for Formation and Herding under Locality Constraints*.

MIT 6.852: Distributed Algorithms

Teaching Assistant *Fall 2015*

Yale CS 202: Mathematical Tools for Computer Science

Teaching Assistant *Fall 2010*

■ Other Research Experience

Simons Workshop on Randomized Numerical Linear Algebra

Invited Participant *September 2018*

NII Shonan Meeting on Recent Advances in Randomized Linear Algebra

Invited Participant *July 2016*

SIAM G2S3 Summer School on Randomization in Numerical Linear Algebra

Attendee

June 2015

■ **Service**

Neural Algorithms Reading Group (MIT)

Co-Organizer

Spring 2019

Machine Learning Ideas Reading Group (MSR New England)

Co-Organizer

July 2018-July 2019

Realistic Distributed Algorithms Reading Group (MIT)

Co-Organizer

Spring 2017

MIT CSAIL Algorithms Office Hours

Member

2016-2018

Consulted researchers in various fields who seek advice in tackling algorithmic problems in their work.

External Conference Reviewer: FOCS (2019, 2018, 2017, 2015), STOC (2019, 2017), SODA (2020, 2019, 2018, 2017), NeurIPS (2019, 2018, 2016), ICML (2019), COLT (2019, 2017, 2016), ITCS (2019, 2018), RANDOM (2018, 2017), APPROX (2019, 2018), ICALP (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016), SOSA (2019), ESA (2018), PODC (2017, 2016), DISC (2019, 2018, 2015), ICRA (2018), SPAA (2017), BDA (2018, 2017, 2015), IPDPS (2017), SIROCCO (2016), CSR (2019), ICRA(2019)

External Journal Reviewer: SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications, Journal of Machine Learning Research, PLOS Computational Biology, Science Advances, Distributed Computing, ACM Transactions on Parallel Computing, Computational and Applied Mathematics, Information Processing Letters, Expert Systems

■ **Honors and Awards**

National Science Foundation: Graduate Research Fellowship

2014-2018

Yale University: Computer Science Senior Prize

2012

Yale University: Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

2012

■ **Professional Experience**

Redfin

Software Developer, Data Team

Seattle, WA

2012-2014

Elysium Digital

Summer Technical Litigation Consultant

Cambridge, MA

Summer 2011

Amicus

Software Developer

New Haven, CT

2010-2011