Evan Ott

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Education

Ph.D. Statistics | University of Texas at Austin, Department of Statistics and Data Sciences — Fall 2022
Dissertation: "Probabilistic Neural Networks," Advisor: Sinead Williamson
Committee Members: José Miguel Hernández-Lobato, James Scott, Mingyuan Zhou
NIH Biomedical Big Data Science Fellow (T32 Grant) 2016–2018, 2020–2021

B.S. Computer Science, B.S. Physics | University of Texas at Austin, College of Natural Sciences — Spring 2015
Turing Scholars Honors Program, Dean's Scholars Honors Program
Undergraduate Thesis: "Estimating Rainfall with Neural Networks and Conditional Random Fields"
Supervisors: Michael Marder and Pradeep Ravikumar

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Nonparametric Posterior Normalizing Flows," **Evan Ott** and Sinead Williamson, ICML workshop on Structured Probabilistic Inference & Generative Modeling, 2023

"Spike-and-Slab Probabilistic Backpropagation: When Smarter Approximations Make No Difference," **Evan Ott** and Sinead Williamson, NeurIPS I Can't Believe It's Not Better Workshop, 2022

Selected Employment Experience

Adjunct Associate Professor | Austin Community College, Department of Mathematics — Spring 2024–Present
MATH 1342, "Elementary Statistics," in-person and synchronous distance learning

Assistant Instructor | University of Texas at Austin — Summer 2020
SDS s302, "Data Analysis for the Health Sciences," supervised two undergraduate teaching assistants
Taught first fully-online version of the course, adapting course material to online setting

Software Engineering Intern | Google — Summer 2016, Summer 2017
Flight Status team: predicted flight delays using machine learning and weather data
Android Location Research team: improved median Wi-Fi-based location error by 6.7%

Presentations

University of Texas at Austin | SDS Seminar Series — November 2, 2018
Seminar on "Bayesian Deep Learning", covering work explored in "Spike-and-Slab Probabilistic Backpropagation"

Wolfram Research | Wolfram Technology Conference — 2015
"Computational Politics: The Wolfram Data Drop Meets Election 2016." See blog or recording for details of work

Certifications

National Council for Mental Wellbeing | Mental Health First Aid USA: Adult — 2023

C.P.R. Resources Inc. | Basic Cardiac Life Support and First Aid — 2022

Awards and Honors

UT Graduate Student Assembly | November 2016 Member of the Month — 2016

Texas Interscholastic League Foundation | "TILF Success Stories: Meet Evan Ott" (bit.ly/1ix0B9D) — 2014

Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honors Society | Lifetime Member — 2013

Extracurricular Activities

Foster Village Austin | On-call Volunteer — 2023–Present

Society of Physics Students | President — 2012–2014
Created Prospective Students Day, led student research initiative

Additional Experience

Assistant Pastor | Hope Chapel 2021–2024
Developed seminar and course on role of household technology usage
Developed user-friendly extensions for website

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Texas at Austin 2015–2016, 2018–2020
SDS 302, "Data Analysis for the Health Sciences," supervised three undergraduate teaching assistants
SDS 321, "Introduction to Probability and Statistics," for computer science undergraduate students
Regularly engaged individual and group questions during discussion sections
Supervised end-of-term student projects and advised on test questions

Senior High Youth Minister | Hope Chapel 2019–2024
Fostered community of young adults, developed teaching curriculum, organized retreats

Student Researcher | Applied Research Laboratories 2013–2014
Developed and implemented distributed system using ØMQ messaging framework

TITANS Technical Intern | Sandia National Laboratories Summer 2013, Summer 2014
Created remote-controlled telescope system for satellite imaging
Constructed API and interface for image processing; added flexibility to multi-agent sensor simulation

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant | University of Texas at Austin Spring 2014
Co-taught and co-created original course on "Introduction to Data Analysis for Physics"
Prepared students for upper-division and research lab work
Co-wrote online textbook and assignments, focusing on Mathematica and data analysis

Software Engineering Intern | TripAdvisor Summer 2012
Created new user interface for internal processing of listing locations, collaborating with end users