



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences  
**Annual Research Day 2025**  
16 April 2025

## Programme

	<b>Talks take place in the Human Biology Building HBB-G019</b> <b>Coffee, lunch, posters, and reception take place in the HBB Atrium</b>
9:20–9:30	<b>Cathal Seoighe</b> , Head of School: Opening Remarks
9:30–10:00	<b>Joshua Maglione</b> , (University of Galway) <i>Zeta functions and hyperplane arrangements</i>
10:00–10:30	<b>Yueyun Zhu</b> (University of Galway) <i>Derivative multivariate functional principal component analysis and its application to coronary artery disease</i>
10:30–11:00	<b>Frances Fahy</b> (Ryan Institute) <i>Interrelations between mathematics and environmental research: the Role of the Ryan Institute</i>
<b>11:00–11:30</b>	<b>Tea and coffee</b>
11:30–12:00	<b>Griffen Small</b> (University of Galway) <i>Modelling the Non-Linear Viscoelastic Behaviour of Brain Tissue in Torsion</i>
12:00–13:00	<b>Lightning talks</b> John Andrew • Mehak Chopra • David Cormican • Anna Großbach Aisling Mac Aree • Vikrant Pratap • Noah Shore • Janhavi Tarale
<b>13:00–14:10</b>	<b>Lunch and Poster Session</b>
14:10–14:40	<b>Lars Jermiin</b> (University of Galway) <i>A new phylogenetic protocol: dealing with model misspecification and confirmation bias</i>
14:45–15:30	<b>Eimear Byrne</b> (UCD) <i>Codes and Matroids</i>
<b>15:30–17:00</b>	<b>Poster session, reception, and prizes</b>

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# 1 Introduction

Ba mhaith liom fáilte mhór a chuir romhaibh go dtí Lá Taighde Scoil na nEolaíochtaí Matamaitice agus Staitistice!

Welcome to the Research Day of the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. The Research Day is an opportunity to celebrate the research we do and our research achievements and to learn about the research of colleagues. There has been more to celebrate in the past year than I have space to mention (for a more comprehensive list, refer to the excellent monthly research updates kindly coordinated by Harold Benjamin). Although subject rankings are not without their detractors, our School's strong showing in the QS subject rankings this year is an encouraging development in light of the University's current strategic focus on improving its position in international rankings. Research in the School will also soon undergo a much more detailed evaluation as the institutional review of research performance (IRRP) is due to take place in our School in the coming academic year and so we are at a point in time where we consider also how our research activities are perceived outside the School. There were several funding successes over the past year for our School, including the COGENT MSCA Doctoral Network, as well as multiple Research Ireland funded projects to the Statistics group. These and other awards have resulted in a large increase in the number of postdoctoral researchers and other research staff joining the School. I would like to wish these new research staff a particular welcome today and to acknowledge the important contribution they make to our research community. Also welcome back to Paul Wilson, a familiar face, who has rejoined our School on a 3-year contract and to Michel Destrade who rejoins us in September from his secondment to the European Research Council.

Researchers across all disciplines in the School collaborate with colleagues both within and outside the university. The Research Institutions of the University help to coordinate collaborative research and the establishment of the new Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation (IHDI) is a welcome development in that regard for many in our School. The selection of Andrew Simpkin to lead the Innovation Pillar of IHDI is a testament to the significance, in turn, of our research to IHDI. Of course, many of our collaborations are with colleagues in other universities across the world, some of which may impact on the lives of people elsewhere. Current examples include research on improving human health in Ghana and Uganda (Nicola Fitz-Simon) and in Malawi (Patrick Staunton). Other highlights of note are the upcoming Women in the Mathematical Sciences Conference taking place on May 12 (with funding from the Royal Irish Academy), the first ever Féile Eolaíochta - a science festival in Irish, organized by Fintan Hegarty and an exciting line-up of national and international conferences taking place here over the coming year. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing high-profile and prolific research output and funding successes of our (nominally!) retired staff over the past year.

If you flick through the pages of this booklet, you may be struck by the diversity of what we do. But across our various fields with their distinct cultures we all strive to do research that is as good and as impactful as we can make it. I use the word impact deliberately because good research changes things. In some cases the change may be within an aspect of the research field itself, making progress on open questions or achieving new scientific insights. Good research can also impact how things are done in the wider world, sometimes yielding concrete improvements in people's lives. The full spectrum of pure and applied research is on show today; however, these two familiar categories are sometimes not as far apart as they may seem. Research on fundamental or abstract topics can have unanticipated applications in the future and even very applied research may require many years and much further research to translate into real-world applications. The key, in my view, to interacting with research that may be very different in nature and intent to my own is to approach it with curiosity, respect and an openness to understanding its intrinsic value

and its interest on its own terms. The supportive atmosphere and openness to different types of research is something I have always appreciated about our Research Day. As we are once again treated to a diverse range of fascinating posters and talks, many presented by researchers who are taking the first steps on their research journey, I look forward to seeing that support for colleagues and curiosity and openness to the research of others on display again this year.

Lastly, I would like to thank and congratulate the organizers of this important event – Niall Madden (who also produced this booklet), Pilib Ó Broin, Davood Roshan, Mark Howard, Mary Kelly, Collette McLoughlin, and Jim Cruickshank, as well as our external speakers Frances Fahy and Eimear Byrne.

I wish everyone a very enjoyable and stimulating Research Day and fair winds for your research over the year ahead.

Guím gach rath ar bhur gcuid taighde don bhliain amach romhainn!

Cathal Seoighe

Head of School

## 2 Abstracts of invited talks

Eimear Byrne (University College Dublin)

*Codes and Matroids*

Matroid theory goes back to the Whitney's work of the 1930s. It has evolved from ideas in graph theory, geometry, and lattice theory. There are also well-known connections to linear codes. When viewed as a rank function on a lattice, matroids have traditionally been studied in the Boolean lattice. More recently, the  $q$ -analogue of a matroid (a  $q$ -matroid) has been studied, wherein the Boolean lattice is replaced with the lattice of subspaces of a vector space over a finite field. Similar to matroids,  $q$ -matroids have strong connections to codes, namely to rank-metric codes. In this talk we will give an introduction to this topic and mention some recent results in the area.

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Lars Jermin (University of Galway and Australian National University)

*A new phylogenetic protocol: dealing with model misspecification and confirmation bias*

Molecular phylogenetics is a scientific discipline that relies on the mathematical, statistical, and computational sciences and delivers solutions to the life sciences. It plays a key role in comparative genomics and has an increasingly significant impact on industry, government, public health, and society. Here I argue that a widely used phylogenetic protocol is missing two essential steps, and that this absence allows model misspecification and confirmation bias to unduly influence phylogenetic estimates. Building on this, I outline a range of steps that I have taken to improve the accuracy of phylogenetic estimates.

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Joshua Maglione (University of Galway)

*Zeta functions and hyperplane arrangements*

We define a class of multivariate rational functions associated with hyperplane arrangements called flag Hilbert–Poincaré series. We show how these rational functions are connected to local Igusa zeta functions and class counting zeta functions for certain graphical group schemes studied by Rossmann and Voll. We report on a general self-reciprocity result and a non-negativity result of the numerator polynomial under a coarsening, and we explore other connections within algebraic combinatorics. We report on joint works with Christopher Voll and with Galen Dorpalen-Barry and Christian Stump.

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Griffen Small (University of Galway)

*Modelling the Non-Linear Viscoelastic Behaviour of Brain Tissue in Torsion*

Brain tissue accommodates non-linear deformations and exhibits time-dependent mechanical behaviour. The latter is one of the most pronounced features of brain tissue, manifesting itself primarily through so-called viscoelastic effects. One key effect is stress relaxation, where the stress decreases over time when brain tissue is deformed and then held in place. While the literature is

replete with non-linear viscoelastic models, they are generally cumbersome and computationally expensive, making model fitting and the estimation of brain tissue's material parameters difficult. The modified quasi-linear viscoelastic (MQLV) model, recently reappraised by De Pascalis et al. [1] and Balbi et al. [2], offers a simpler alternative for modelling brain tissue's viscoelastic behaviour but remains underutilised and has yet to be validated with experiments.

Torsion is one of the most robust deformation modes for measuring brain tissue's mechanical properties. It can be readily implemented using a rotational rheometer, which measures both the torque and normal force required to twist a cylindrical sample [3]. However, previous studies on brain tissue's viscoelasticity have focused on measuring only on torque, overlooking the additional insights provided by normal force measurements [4].

In this presentation, we present a novel protocol for characterising the viscoelastic properties of brain tissue, based on the torsion deformation mode and the MQLV model. We performed ramp-and-hold relaxation tests on freshly slaughtered cylindrical ovine brain samples (25 mm diameter and 10 mm height). The tests were conducted using a commercial rheometer at varying twist rates of  $\{40, 240, 400\}$   $\text{rad m}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ , with a fixed twist of  $88 \text{ rad m}^{-1}$ . The viscoelastic material parameters were estimated by simultaneously fitting the measured torque and normal force to the MQLV model's analytical predictions [5]. The model's predictions were further validated through finite element simulations of the experiments using the open-source software FEniCS [6]. Our results demonstrate that the model accurately fits the experimental data, with the estimated elastic material parameters aligning well with those reported in previous studies on brain samples under torsion [3]. By allowing us to obtain two independent datasets (torque and normal force) from a single test, our proposed protocol provides us with a much more efficient and accessible alternative to traditional multi-mode protocols, which often rely on expensive, custom-made experimental rings or multiple testing devices; in contrast, our protocol can be easily implemented in any commercially available rheometer.

Beyond advancing brain tissue's mechanical characterisation and validating the efficacy of the MQLV model, our results have broader implications. When coupled with bespoke finite element models, the material parameters estimated in this study could enhance our understanding of the forces and deformations associated with traumatic brain injury, which could contribute to the design of improved headgear for sports such as boxing and motorsports. Additionally, our novel protocol offers new insights into the mechanical behaviour of soft tissues beyond the brain.

This work has emanated from research jointly funded by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland under grant number GOIPG/2024/3552 (Griffen Small), and by the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Galway under the Millennium Fund scheme for the project “Modelling Brain Mechanics” (Valentina Balbi).

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Yueyun Zhu (University of Galway)

*Derivative multivariate functional principal component analysis and its application to coronary artery disease*

With the development of wearable monitoring devices and sensors, increasingly large and complex datasets are being recorded. Such data often exhibit non-linear patterns and estimating the rate of change (i.e, derivatives) is particularly informative for understanding the underlying dynamics. Functional principal component analysis (FPCA) is a powerful tool, which represents the infinite-dimensional functional data into the Karhunen-Loève expansion with a set of orthogonal functional principal components (FPCs) and functional principal component scores (FPC-scores). Multivariate FPCA (MFPCA) is an extension of FPCA to accommodate multiple correlated features. The multivariate FPCs (MFPCs) capture the joint variation between different features and the associated multivariate FPC-scores (MFPC-scores) summarize this variation as numerical values.

To estimate the derivatives of multivariate functional data, we proposed a new method, namely the derivative of multivariate functional principal component analysis (DMFPCA). Analogously to MFPCA, the derivative MFPCs (DMFPCs) capture the joint variation for the derivatives of different features and the derivative MFPC-scores (DMFPC-scores) summarize this joint variation as numerical values.

We applied MFPCA and DMFPCA to the quantitative flow ratio (QFR) and vessel diameter obtained from angiograms. MFPCA was employed to estimate MFPC-scores, which were used as predictors in a penalized logistic regression to classify physiological patterns of coronary artery disease. DMFPCA was employed to investigate the underlying dynamics between diameter and QFR, providing guidance for selecting the optimal stent location during percutaneous coronary intervention.

### 3 Abstracts of lightning talks

#### Fatigue prediction in outdoor running using Functional Data Analysis

**John Andrew**

Supervisor: Prof. Andrew J. Simpkin

Fatigue affects athletes' performance so, monitoring it is vital in elite sports. Assessing fatigue helps optimise athletes' performance and their readiness to train. Objective assessment of fatigue is usually done in specialised laboratories that are expensive (facilities, personnel, etc.). Low-cost lightweight sensors offer a compelling alternative, but the high-throughput data they collect are complex and functional in nature. In this study, we aim to predict fatigue onset during running using data from wearable sensors.

Data were available from 19 athletes running 400M under normal conditions (healthy) and again under fatigued conditions with a sensor mounted on their lumbar spine. The running involved three segments, running under healthy condition followed by fatiguing protocol, and later finished by running when fatigued. In all three segments, the sensor captured six signals 256 times per second: the accelerometer in three directions (X, Y, Z) and the gyroscope in three directions (X, Y, Z). We broke the long, time series signals into individual strides forming a series of functional strides arising longitudinally. We use multilevel functional principal component analysis (mFPCA) [1], a functional data analysis (FDA) approach for dimensional reduction and use the low dimension representation as the predictors to predict fatigue. FDA frameworks enable us to use all the collected data over the run and hence avoid wasting of information. We analysed acceleration signals in the X, Y and Z directions, and compared the fatigue prediction performance of each direction separately. The acceleration in the Y direction seems to be the best predictor when compared to acceleration in X, in Z. Our approach achieves an average accuracy of 94% (SD = 0.05) on external datasets when using acceleration in Y direction. These findings may serve as a foundation in creating a fatigue mon-

itoring and assessment tool using wearable sensor technology.

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#### Impact of cell-type specific variations and age on aortic distensibility

**Mehak Chopra**

Supervisors: Niamh Hynes, Cathal Seoighe

#### Background

Aortic distensibility is the ability of arteries to expand with pulse pressure induced by the cardiac cycle, and it often diminishes with age [1][2]. Previous genome-wide association (GWA) studies have identified SNPs linked to distensibility. Despite the established genetic associations, the mechanisms driving changes in distensibility remain unclear. This study aims to illuminate factors influencing distensibility using existing gene expression data, focusing on age related changes in aortic cellular composition, alongside associated genetic variations and cell type-specific gene expression (CT-GE).

#### Methods:

We applied a deep-learning model to segment 62,497 CMRI images from UK Biobank and calculated aortic distensibility [3]. GWA was conducted on 56,765 participants using BOLT-LMM [4]. We utilized CIBERSORTx to perform gene expression deconvolution on 432 GTE participants with aortic gene expression data, analyzing changes in cell composition and CT-GE associated with age and GWA hits [5].

#### Results:

Distensibility was calculated for 56,765 subjects. None of the 33 independent SNPs across 12 loci from the GWA showed an association

with inferred cellular proportions, following fdr correction. Cellular proportions of Pericytes and Fibroblast-I declined with age, whereas vascular smooth muscle cells-II (VSMC) tended to increase. Further, CT-GE analysis revealed associations of GWA SNPs with *SRR* gene expression in VSMC-I, VSMC-II, and Fibroblast-I cells and with expression of *CDH13* in VSMC-II.

### Conclusions:

This study contributes to the understanding of variation in aortic distensibility associated with age and genotype. Examining variation in aortic distensibility through the lens of gene expression in the relevant tissue suggested that variation in the expression of *SRR* in VSMC-II and Fibroblast-I, and *CDH13* in VSMC-II could contribute to the observed genetic associations.

This research has emanated with the financial support of Science Foundation Ireland under Grant number [18/CRT/6214 ].

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## ASK Zeta Functions of Unitary Lie Algebras over $p$ -adic Integers

**David Cormican**

Supervisor: Tobias Rossmann

We consider a module  $M$  of  $d \times e$  matrices over a commutative ring  $R$ , or equivalently a submodule of  $\text{Hom}(R^d, R^e)$  where  $R^k$  is the free module of rank  $k$  over  $R$ . Suppose  $R$  is a discrete valuation ring (DVR) with a unique maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{p}$  of finite index. We define  $M_n$  to be the image of  $M$  under the reduction of matrix entries modulo  $\mathfrak{p}^n$  and further define the average size of kernel (ASK) zeta function of  $M$  to be:

$$Z_M^{\text{ask}} = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n T^n$$

where  $a_n = \frac{1}{|M_n|} \sum_{a \in M_n} |\text{Ker}(a)|$  is the average size of kernel of entries in  $M_n$

The  $p$ -adic integers,  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  are a DVR in which the maximal ideal,  $p\mathbb{Z}_p$  has index  $p$ . Earlier work [1] has found closed form expressions for the ASK zeta functions of the classical Lie algebras over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . Here we present new results for the general and special unitary Lie algebras,  $\mathfrak{gu}_d(\mathcal{O}_K/\mathbb{Z}_p)$  and  $\mathfrak{su}_d(\mathcal{O}_K/\mathbb{Z}_p)$ , where  $K$  is a quadratic extension of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  with ring of integers  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . Specifically, we show for both of these cases that the ASK zeta function is equal to that of the special orthogonal Lie algebra in

dimension  $2d$ , giving the following formulae:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\mathfrak{gu}_d(\mathcal{O}_K/\mathbb{Z}_p)}^{\text{ask}}(T) &= \\ Z_{\mathfrak{su}_d(\mathcal{O}_K/\mathbb{Z}_p)}^{\text{ask}}(T) &= \\ Z_{\mathfrak{so}_{2d}(\mathbb{Z}_p)}^{\text{ask}}(T) &= \frac{1 - p^{1-2d}T}{(1-T)(1-pT)} \end{aligned}$$

Supported by the University of Galway through the Hardiman scholarship programme.

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## Genetic Determinants of DNA Methylation Across Early Development: Insights from a Longitudinal South African Cohort

Anna Großbach

Supervisor: **AJ Simpkin**

Co-authors: **AA Lussier, EC Dunn**

Epigenetic mechanisms, such as DNA methylation (DNAm), play a key role in genomic regulation and can shape various phenotypic outcomes. DNAm patterns are influenced by both genetic architecture and environmental exposures. Understanding the genetic contribution is essential for unraveling the complex interactions with environmental factors, particularly during early childhood - a period marked by rapid developmental changes and heightened susceptibility to environmental influences. Central to the genetic-epigenetic interplay are methylation quantitative trait loci (mQTLs) - genetic loci influencing DNAm states, either locally (*cis*-mQTL) or across larger genomic distances (*trans*-mQTL). While previous large cohort studies have mostly identified stable *cis*-mQTL effects across different life stages, the dynamic nature of mQTLs, especially *trans*-mQTLs, during early development remains underexplored due to limited longitudinal cohort data and the analytical

challenges of large-scale association studies.

In this study, we investigated the dynamics of *cis*- and *trans*-mQTLs during early childhood using data from the Drakenstein Child Health Study (DCHS; n=1,143), a longitudinal South African birth cohort. DCHS provides genetic information from over 6 million loci and DNAm data from 900k CpG sites across whole blood samples collected at ages 1, 3, and 5. Using linear regression, we analysed the additive effects of each SNP on average DNAm at each CpG site, separately, for each time point. To validate our findings and explore ancestry-specific associations, we replicated our results across four large-scale mQTL databases, across different age-groups and ancestries. Additionally, we characterized the functional properties of mQTL groups using enrichment analyses.

Our results showed a substantial overlap of *cis*-mQTLs across all three time points, indicating mostly stable *cis*-mQTL effects. However, we also observed nearly 50% age-specific *trans*-mQTLs effects during early childhood, marking a novel discovery in the field. These age-specific mQTLs were enriched in regions associated with transcriptional control and gene regulation. Replication results showed a large overlap in *cis*-mQTLs across ancestries, while *trans*-mQTLs exhibited more ancestry-specific effects.

These results suggest that genetic influences on DNAm are dynamic, evolving across development to regulate age-sensitive processes. This highlights the complex interplay between genetics and epigenetics in developmental trajectories, which may have key implications for later disease susceptibility. Ultimately, our findings provide valuable insights for future studies aiming to identify genetic causal anchors for DNAm in childhood and observational research, particularly in historically underrepresented populations.

Supported by Research Ireland through the Research Ireland Centre for Research Training in Genomics Data Science under Grant number 18/CRT/6214 and the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program un-

der the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2019-945385.

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## Constructing Fault-Tolerant Sets of Logical Operators for Quantum Stabilizer Codes

Aisling Mac Aree

Supervisor: Dr. Mark Howard

A quantum code protects  $k$  logical qubits by embedding them into a system of  $n$  physical qubits. When constructing a quantum code, it is advantageous to determine which logical operations can be performed *fault-tolerantly* on the codespace.

It is well known that a certain class of quantum error correcting codes, known as *stabilizer codes*, can be represented as classical codes over  $GF(4)$  [1]. By exploiting this representation, we observe that the automorphism group of a classical  $GF(4)$  code corresponds to a set of operations which preserve the codespace of the associated quantum code. Consequently, this automorphism group describes a set of fault-tolerant logical operators for the corresponding quantum stabilizer code.

This talk aims to explore how the group-theoretic structure of classical  $GF(4)$  codes can be exploited for the purpose of constructing *desirable* sets of logical operators for quantum codes.

Supported by the College of Science and Engineering, University of Galway.

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## Modelling Higher-Order Hyperelasticity in Soft Solids using Physics Informed Neural Networks without Labelled Data

Vikrant Pratap

Supervisor: Dr Bharat B Tripathi

### Background, Motivation & Objective:

Mild traumatic brain injury can result from shear shock wave formation in the brain due to impacts in contact sports, road accidents, and similar scenarios [1]. These highly nonlinear deformations are best represented by a fourth-order Landau hyperelastic model, rather than lower-order models like Neo-Hookean or Mooney-Rivlin. While conventional finite element solvers provide robust and accurate estimates, their high computational cost limits real-time applications. PINNs have emerged as a promising alternative for real-time brain deformation modelling by solving PDEs through a neural network that minimises system residuals while enforcing boundary conditions [2].

**Statement of Contribution:** This study presents the first attempt to model fourth-order deformations in soft solids using PINNs [3]. The proposed Causal-Marching Physics-Informed Neural Networks (CMPINNs) introduces multinet for multimaterial deformation with novel enforcement of incompressibility mitigating floating point errors. The automated optimal model selection is implemented across load steps using the lowest training loss. It introduces a hyperparameter optimization strategy for the CMPINNs framework, specifically designed for modelling hyperelasticity.

**Results, Discussions & Conclusions:** The accuracy of CMPINNs is evaluated for solving the Neo-Hookean hyperelastic model under soft and hard-constrained boundary conditions [4]. The CMPINNs model is developed for fourth-order hyperelastic models undergoing isotropic incompressible deformations, including uniaxial and biaxial tension/compression, simple shear, and pure shear. Additionally, three test cases involving spatially varying material properties and inhomogeneous deformations are conducted to evaluate the efficiency of multinet CMPINNs, with results benchmarked against numerical solutions. CMPINNs exhibit a significantly higher level of accuracy, outperforming vanilla PINNs in their ability to capture nonlinear deformations.

Supported by *College of Science and Engineering, University of Galway*.

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## Dynamic Time-Frequency Decompositions as Unique Fingerprints for Time-Series Feature Extraction

Noah Shore

Supervisor: Michael Mc Gettrick

This presentation will highlight research done on the use of wavelet transforms serving as unique fingerprints for time series data. Opening with a discussion of the challenges in time-frequency decompositions derived from the uncertainty principle [2] and laying out the motivations for a dynamic mesh resolution in the *transform space*.

The motivation for a dynamic decomposition leads into a discussion of audio data as time series, wavelet transform computation [1], and an overview of wavelet coherence analysis [3], including examples from other domains. The wavelet transform coefficients will be used to show the spectrograms of both recorded Irish music and synthetically generated tunes.

The talk will include a live demonstration of the capabilities of the wavelet coherence model by recording a tune and matching the wavelet transform up against a database of sheet music to, without deep learning or the internet, correctly identify the tune.

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## Modulation of Elastic Instabilities by Strain-Induced Stiffening in Soft Particulate Composites

Janhavi Tarale

Supervisor: Stephan Rudykh

Soft particulate composites, widely used in engineering and biomedical applications, exhibit nonlinear mechanical behavior due to their ability to undergo large deformations. These materials often experience elastic instabilities, which were historically viewed as failure modes. However, recent research has shown that these instabilities can be leveraged to design materials with tunable properties, enabling applications in wave manipulation through tunable phononic bandgaps, auxetic materials, and adaptive metamaterials.

Recently, Li et al. [1] experimentally observed wavy pattern formation in soft particulate composites under large deformations, which was later numerically analyzed by Chen et al. [2] using Bloch-Floquet analysis. However, their study used neo-Hookean material model to undertake the material behavior, which fails to capture the limiting extensibility of polymer chains in soft materials. To address this limitation and investigate the influence of material stiffening caused by particle interactions, we employ the Gent material model [3]. This model effectively captures nonlinear stiffening effects in soft particulate composites through a single locking parameter,  $J_m$ .

Through this study, we find that material stiffening does not universally promote earlier instability in soft particulate composites; rather, its effect is geometry-dependent, sometimes enhancing stability. This leads to a non-monotonic relationship between critical strain and stiffening, mediated by particle interactions. Moreover, we observe a shift in buckling patterns, transitioning from microscopic to macroscopic modes, akin to those in fiber- and laminate-reinforced soft composites. These insights deepen our understanding of instability mechanics in soft composites and open new avenues for designing materials with programmable mechanical responses.

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## 4 Abstracts of posters

### Modelling Composition Response Data with Application to Clot Composition Observed for Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS) Patients

Malak Almutairi

Supervisors: Dr. Emma Holian & Prof. Karen Doyle

Modelling composition response data presents challenges due to the nature of multivariate proportions for multiple elements making up the whole composition of an individual sample. Specifically, the challenges of modeling composition response data include bounded responses, bounded on the continuous scale between 0 and 1, correlation between multivariate responses, and multivariate responses within the sample constrained to sum to 1 being proportions of the composition of the entire sample. To address these challenges, this poster investigates the modelling of composition response data, focusing on thrombotic material extracted from Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS) patients using mechanical thrombectomy, which measures five components making up the clot composition. The aim is to model the composition response considering the effects of factors that may influence changes in clot composition. Given these constraints, using a traditional statistical analysis that assumes a normal error structure, for continuous univariate response data bounded between 0 and 1, can lead to biased and incorrect estimates. Therefore, an appropriate model such as beta regression should be used for reliable parameter estimates rather than normal linear regression. For the multivariate case, Dirichlet regression is an appropriate modeling approach. Through systematic comparison of different modelling approaches across a range of varied dataset features, we assess their performance in scenarios where data show asymmetry or where mass points lie close to the boundaries of the proportion scale in the observed response distributions. These methods are then applied to our cohort of AIS patients to group and model clot composition with candidate predictors, such as the type of extraction device, hospital of procedure, etiology categorization and the use of tPA drug treatment.

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### Intratumoral heterogeneity in microsatellite instability status at single-cell resolution

Harrison Anthony

Supervisor: Prof. Cathal Seoighe

Diversity within a tumor is a critical piece of information for cancer treatment and research. The cumulative diversity is known as intratumoral heterogeneity (ITH), and is important to study because high ITH has been linked to poor patient outcomes [1] and complicates the interpretation of biomarkers[2]. One such biomarker, microsatellite instability, is characterized by large changes in the repeating regions of DNA and is used to help guide immune checkpoint inhibitor treatment. While cancers with high microsatellite instability (MSI-H) are susceptible to this therapy, the response rate can be low [3] and intrinsic treatment resistance is common [4]. It has been hypothesized that these issues could be attributed to ITH, but one area still not addressed is whether MSI itself is a heterogeneous phenomenon. To investigate this, we collected all publicly available single-cell RNA sequencing data that had paired, clinical MSI status and developed a novel computational pipeline to identify MSI-H cells and assess ITH in MSI. In total, we curated a collection of 56 publicly available, single-cell RNA sequencing samples from 32 individuals. All samples were processed with a computational pipeline, which in brief filters and scales the data, identifies clusters of cells, distinguishes cancer cells from normal, and classifies cancer cells as MSI-H or as microsatellite stable (MSS). Heterogeneity is summarized using the analysis of variance F test statistic based on the MSI scores obtained from each cluster of cancer cells. This is complemented by differential gene expression analysis between cancer clusters. Five of the 32 individuals showed evidence of divergence in MSI status between distinct clusters of cancer cells ( $F > 30$ ). The individual with the highest level of heterogeneity ( $F = 75.2$ ) had seven distinct cancer cell clusters comprising a total of 779 cells. In contrast, the F statistic of the individual with the lowest level of heterogeneity was 5.1 (based on 6 cancer cell clusters comprising 470 cells). Tukey HSD analysis showed 17 significantly different cluster pairs for the individual with high heterogeneity whereas only five were found for the individual with low heterogeneity. These results are reinforced by differential gene expression between MSI-H and MSS cells. The individual with high heterogeneity had nine differentially expressed genes, whereas the individual with low heterogeneity only had two. These

results suggest that heterogeneity in MSI is more common than previously reported and imply that multiple, multi-regional tests could be required to improve MSI as a biomarker by accounting for ITH. Further studies are warranted to determine the frequency of heterogeneity in this biomarker at the population level, and whether the presence of both MSI-H and MSS subclones can have clinical impacts, including the potential to result in more rapid evolution of resistance to treatments for which MSI-H is a biomarker.

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## Sensitivity analyses for partially missing binary outcome data in randomised controlled trials.

Name Nirdesh Bakshi

Supervisor: Dr. Neil O’Leary

Assumptions about missing outcome data in clinical trials—especially when data may be Missing Not at Random (MNAR)—are inherently untestable. This makes sensitivity analysis essential for assessing the robustness of trial conclusions. However, standard approaches to sensitivity analysis are under-utilized, partly due to a lack of intuitive and systematic methods for exploring alternative missingness assumptions. Enhanced Tipping Point (ETP) displays, originally developed by [1] [2] based on the work of [3], offer a powerful visual framework for this task. These displays map the potential impact of different combinations of missing outcomes across treatment arms on key trial estimates, offering clear insight into the stability of conclusions under varying missingness scenarios.

In this work, we implement two types of ETP displays using the SPHERE study (secondary prevention of heart

disease in general practice: randomised controlled trial) dataset, where the binary outcome indicates whether a participant was hospitalized (1) or not (0) during 12 months of follow-up. Our focus is on estimating the average treatment effect—defined as the difference in hospitalization proportions between treatment and control arms. In this trial the outcome variable was not recorded or missing for 5.48 per cent patients.

The first ETP display replicates the classical tipping-point heatmap, showing how the treatment effect estimate varies across all possible combinations of the binary outcome proportions in the treatment and control groups. The second ETP display contrasts two model-based average treatment effect estimates: one derived from imputing missing outcomes under a Missing at Random (MAR) assumption conditional only on treatment allocation, and another derived using auxiliary covariates in addition to treatment. Auxiliary covariates are fully observed and prognostic for the outcome. The second display reveals how incorporating auxiliary information yields more realistic distribution of imputed values, in contrast to the more optimistic MAR- treatment allocation only imputation. This highlights the importance of model specification in sensitivity analysis and the risks of underestimating uncertainty under naive assumptions .

Finally, our ongoing work is to extend these graphical tools to incorporate  $\delta$ -adjustment techniques—commonly used for sensitivity analysis in continuous outcomes—to binary outcomes via a log-odds scale approach. In contrast to continuous outcomes where  $\delta$ -adjustments can be directly made to imputed values, adjustment of binary outcomes is not straightforward due to their bounded, discrete support. Standard imputation implementations (such as mice in R) do not permit post hoc modification of posterior distributions used for imputation. Our approach addresses this gap by modifying the posterior parameter draws on the log-odds scale before imputing missing values, effectively shifting the underlying imputation model rather than its outputs. This shall enable interpretable and controlled sensitivity analyses for binary data, aligning imputation strategies more closely with the underlying assumptions about missingness. Such  $\delta$ -adjustments also lend themselves to graphical displays in the manner of ETP displays, but with conditional log-odds, rather than counts of events as the sensitivity parameter to be varied. By doing so, our work will extend the  $\delta$ -adjustment framework into a domain where current methods are limited, offering a structured and accessible tool for missingness analysis in trials with binary outcomes.

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## Algebraic and Geometric Structures of Tensors

**Deborah Gonçalves Fabri**  
Supervisor: Dr. Joshua Maglione

The Baer correspondence associates  $p$ -groups of class 2 with alternating bilinear maps (tensors), which can be represented as matrices of linear forms. From these tensors, we construct and analyse algebraic structures like centroids and adjoint algebras that are used to decide tensor isomorphism - closely related to the group isomorphism problem. We have recently begun looking at tensors arising from hyperplane arrangements over finite fields, considering both their geometric and combinatorial properties. An important tool is the geometric analysis of the determinantal (or Pfaffian) hypersurfaces.

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## Regional Structure-Function Coupling in Bipolar Disorder

**Shir Dahan**  
Supervisors: Pilib Ó Broin, Dara M Cannon

MRI studies suggest structural and functional differences in bipolar disorder (BD) compared to healthy controls. Recent studies look at the coupling of structural and functional connectivity (SC-FC coupling) to provides insight on the structural contributions of neural activation coordination. SC-FC coupling was found to vary between regions, whereby unimodal regions such as visual cortex show strong coupling, whereas transmodal regions, such as in the limbic network, show weaker coupling [1]. Disrupted SC-FC coupling has been reported in euthymic BD using a single-subject atlas (AAL90) [2]. We aim, using an expanded sample and atlas, to identify regional alterations in SC-FC coupling involving emotion processing circuitry in euthymic BD.

The study included a BD diagnosis (ICD-10) group and a control group from the UK Biobank. We used the release of structural connectomes from diffusion MRI, using SIFT2 weighted matrices, and regional functional time-series [3]. Parcellation for SC and FC was based

on the cortical 200/500 region Schaefer 7-network and the subcortical 16/54 region Melbourne atlases, resulting in 216 and 554 nodes. Functional matrices were constructed using Pearson’s correlation and partial correlation for comparisons, for each pair of regions. We quantified SC-FC coupling using a multilinear regression with the predicted variable as the vector of functional edges from one region to all others, and the predictors as vectors of structural edges from the same region to all others using sift2 weights, path length, Euclidean distance and communicability. We then calculated the  $R^2$  between predicted and observed functional vectors to estimate the regional SC-FC coupling [1], resulting in 216  $R^2$  values per participant. A gamma GLM (log link) was constructed for each node to identify SC-FC coupling differences between BD and controls. Covariates included age, sex, imaging centre, and diagnosis. The dependent variable was Z-transformed regional SC-FC coupling values. Results were Bonferroni corrected for the number of brain regions.

BD (n=163) and controls (n=326) were age ( $62\pm 7$ ) and sex (52% female) matched. Average network SC-FC coupling was high in the visual ( $R^2=0.21$ ), dorsal attention ( $R^2=0.12$ ) and somatomotor (mean  $R^2=0.12$ ) networks, lower in the limbic network (mean  $R^2=0.07$ ) and lowest across the subcortex (mean  $R^2=0.06$ ). A significant effect of diagnosis was identified with altered coupling in the left temporal pole (b=0.28, p=0.010, Z=4.07), left supramarginal gyrus (b=-0.26, p=0.001, Z=-4.47), left precentral gyrus (b=-0.24, p=0.006, Z=-4.04), right frontal pole (b=-0.20, p=0.038, Z=-3.47).

SC-FC coupling was highest in the visual network and lowest in limbic cortical and subcortical regions, aligning with previous findings supporting the theory that SC-FC coupling reflects an anatomical organization of hierarchies from unimodal to transmodal regions [1]. The subcortex showed the lowest coupling, unlike previous findings on the Human Connectome Project data, where coupling, estimated using Spearman’s correlation, was high in subcortical regions as well as visual regions [4]. Higher SC-FC coupling in BD compared to controls in the temporal pole of the limbic network extends previous demonstrations of altered connectivity within the limbic network as a trait feature of BD persisting into euthymia [5]. Taken with altered coupling of the frontoparietal network (lower coupling in the frontal pole), these findings extend our understanding of integrated structure-function underpinnings of cognitive and emotion processing disruption in euthymic BD.

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## Single-cell transcriptomic profiling of human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells in type 2 diabetes

Nupur Dubey

Supervisors: Cynthia M. Coleman and Pilib Ó Broin

Diabetes is a chronic disorder affecting 540 million people worldwide [1]. It presents a persistent increase in blood glucose levels as a result of ineffective production or utilisation of insulin. Among the three types of diabetes, the most widespread, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), is marked by beta cell dysfunction along with insulin resistance [2]. Diabetic osteopathy, or bone disease, is a significant comorbidity of diabetes and is characterised by changes in bone microarchitecture that lead to increased fracture risk through impaired bone formation and increased bone resorption [3, 4]. Current studies that consider osteopathy as a complication of diabetes, focus on lifestyle changes and pharmacological therapy to control hyperglycemia [5]. Most of the available therapies are reactive, hence the need for therapies with preventative and/or rejuvenating potential.

This study aims to identify miRNA-based therapies for T2DM-induced osteopathy. To do this, single-cell transcriptomic profiling of human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hBM-MSCs) will be performed. The analysis of this data will help identify miRNAs that regulate T2DM-induced differentially expressed genes (DEGs). Subsequently, we propose to develop an interactive web-based application that provides a platform for users to upload and visualise single-cell RNA sequencing datasets for miRNA target prediction and study their effects under different disease conditions.

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## Ask zeta functions associated with hypergraphs

Mario Falciatore

Supervisors: Angela Carnevale, Tobias Rossmann

In the study of the average size of kernels of generic matrices with support constraints, hypergraphs can be seen as parameters of a class of modules of matrices over compact discrete valuation rings. A strong uniformity result [1, Thm A] of the ask (Average Size of Kernel) zeta functions allows us to connect a unique rational function  $W_H(X, T)$  to any hypergraph  $H$  that does not depend on the choice of the discrete valuation ring. At this point, several questions arise about the relationship between hypergraphs and rational functions. In particular, although we have an explicit formula for  $W_H(X, T)$  based on the poset of flags of subsets of the set of vertices of  $H$ , this provides candidate factors for the denominator and for the poles of  $W_H(X, T)$ , but it remains unknown how good this prediction is and how we could connect the property of  $W_H(X, T)$  with some invariants of  $H$ . Moreover, less is known about hypergraphs than it is for graphs, which leads us to study properties of hypergraphs, such as the number of hypergraphs with a fixed number of vertices and hyperedges, and the asymptotic behaviour of this number.

Our purpose is to find answers to some of the questions

arising from the study of ask zeta functions of hypergraphs and on some properties of the underlying hypergraphs. An important step in this direction is to create a database of hypergraphs, up to isomorphism, with their ask zeta functions and to derive some properties of them. In this way, using techniques from machine learning, we aim to find patterns that can connect hypergraphs and their ask zeta functions, which are currently hidden from our eyes.

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## 5-Methylcytosine in the Cnidarian *Hydractinia symbiolongicarpus*

**Paula Hillenbrand**

Supervisor: Uri Frank, Lars Jermiin

5-Methylcytosine (5mC) is a key DNA modification that regulates gene expression and is most commonly found in the CpG dinucleotide context in eukaryotes. Recent advances in methylation sequencing have revealed diverse 5mC patterns across the eukaryotic tree of life, challenging previous assumptions of hypermethylated genomes being exclusive to vertebrates. For example, species from the Porifera phylum show up to 80% global methylation, while other invertebrates, such as *Caenorhabditis elegans*, lack 5mC completely [1]. The role of 5mC also varies with genomic context: methylation at gene regulatory elements and transposable elements typically represses transcription, while methylation in gene bodies correlates with active gene expression.

In mammals, 5mC is crucial for tissue homeostasis and development, regulating the expression of key developmental genes. Similar roles for 5mC in invertebrates are emerging [2]. To better understand the gene regulatory functions of 5mC, cell type-specific 5mC maps are required. The cnidarian *Hydractinia symbiolongicarpus* offers a valuable model due to its ability to generate transgenic reporter animals, allowing for cell type-specific methylation analysis. Furthermore, *Hydractinia* maintains a population of pluripotent adult stem cells [3], which can be isolated for methylation sequencing, providing insights into 5mC variation during differentiation.

This poster presents preliminary 5mC data from *Hydractinia*, using bulk nanopore sequencing data and phylogenetic analyses. Initial findings suggest reproducible mosaic DNA methylation patterns and identify the 5mC toolkit in this species. These results provide a foundation for future studies on the functional roles of

5mC in a variety of *Hydractinia* cell types, offering the unique opportunity to study roles of 5mC in stem cell differentiation.

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## Odd inversion sets and their associated Turán graphs

**Michael Joyce Maher**

Supervisor: Dr. Angela Carnevale

Odd analogs of inversion sets for permutations in type A Coxeter groups, called odd inversion sets, were introduced and studied in [1]. These are a close relative of the combinatorial object known as odd diagrams, which were first defined and studied in the same paper. Odd diagrams have some surprising properties, namely, permutations in a group can be partitioned by their odd diagrams, resulting in what we call odd diagram classes. Odd diagram classes were studied in [2] and a particularly surprising result from that paper is that odd diagram classes are Bruhat intervals. It has also been shown in [3] that these odd diagram classes are rank symmetric. In that paper the authors conjectured that the Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomial associated to any odd diagram class is equal to 1, I have proven this conjecture as part of my PhD project.

Inspired by the nice combinatorial properties of odd diagrams, I carried out a further analysis of the structure of odd inversion classes. In this poster we will show that odd inversion classes have some surprising properties of their own.

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## A Bayesian Ranking of the Olympic Medal Table

**Cormac MacDermott**

Supervisors: John Ferguson, Carl Scarrott

The Olympic Games serve as a benchmark to assess sporting success, with 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) competing in Paris 2024 across 329 events in 32 sports and 48 disciplines [2] for the prestige of an Olympic medal. The standard lexicographic medal table ranks NOCs by medal counts, prioritising gold over silver and then bronze. Such rankings inherently favour larger populations, as they have a larger talent pool competing across multiple events.

A common alternative ranking is the per-capita medal count, which normalises medal totals by population size to empirically estimate the probability of any individual winning a medal. While this approach attempts to account for population differences, it is highly sensitive to stochastic variation, particularly for smaller nations where even a single medal can substantially inflate rankings. Not to diminish the outstanding achievement of such athletes, these per-capita rankings often over-emphasise medal-winning performances from countries with small populations which would be highly volatile between games.

Advanced methods have been proposed to rank countries, including [1] which ranks nations based on a value equivalent to a transformed p-value from comparing actual medal counts to an equal-capability reference null model. However, a substantial drawback with p-value-based methods is their sensitivity to sample size [6]. In this context, due to the smaller samples of medal attempts for small NOCs, their p-values cannot attain the level of significance that larger NOCs can attain, and as a result, the ranking will favour larger countries.

We propose a Bayesian ranking algorithm that orders by the “long-run” per-capita medal rate for each NOC, rather than by the observed medal counts. The ranking algorithm utilises hierarchical Bayesian modeling to produce more stable rankings by borrowing information across nations. Its key advantage is to effectively shrink estimates for smaller countries, mitigating the undue influence of stochasticity in their rankings and providing better estimates of long-run performance estimates,

while accounting for population size for larger NOCs with well-established sporting infrastructures.

Our Bayesian model assumes that the number of unique medal-winning athletes follows a Poisson distribution, with the probability of winning multiple medals having a hierarchical structure to share information across NOCs. We implement this framework using Gibbs sampling in JAGS [4, 5], incorporating population data from UN Population Statistics [3] and official Olympic medal data [2].

In this poster, we apply our algorithm to rank country-level performance over the last 6 Olympic cycles. In particular, we will focus on Ireland’s trajectory compared to the best-performing countries, and contrast our results with per-capita rankings.

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## Co-evolutionary models: exploring gene-phenotype associations across mammals

**Sophie Matthews**

Supervisor: Cathal Seoighe

Understanding the coevolution between genes and phenotypic traits is essential for unraveling the underlying evolutionary dynamics across species. Traditional correlation methods fail to capture these associations as they do not account for phylogenetic relatedness, and trait reconstruction can lead to error accumulation as the reconstruction propagates along the tree. While some studies still rely on these basic correlation tests, others have developed coevolutionary models that account for the complexities of phylogenetic data. Coevol (Lartillot and Poujol, 2011) is a probabilistic framework that jointly models molecular substitution rates (dN/dS) and continuous phenotypic traits using a multivariate Brownian diffusion process. It employs Markov Chain Monte

Carlo (MCMC) methods to estimate the covariance between substitution rates and phenotypic traits, providing a robust framework for assessing coevolution. In this study, we apply Coevol to all protein coding genes across over 100 mammalian species, to identify genes whose evolutionary rates are associated with life-history traits lifespan and body size. Additionally, we are developing a new coevolution model that examines whether gene evolution is influenced by phenotypic changes. This study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on gene-phenotype coevolution and the methodologies used to explore these relationships across evolutionary time.

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## Predicting acute myeloid leukaemia survival time using deep learning on cross-platform gene expression

Tyler Medina  
Supervisor: Cathal Seoighe

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is an aggressive bone marrow cancer characterized by a high rate of therapy resistance and variable patient outcomes, necessitating accurate prognosis to guide treatment. Machine learning models such as LASSO have been used on AML gene expression data to evaluate prognostic factors including cancer stemness and treatment resistance. However, these models use aggressive feature selection, including *a priori* selection of drug metabolism genes, and do not perform well on some patient cohorts, possibly due in part to mixed use of normalized microarray and RNA-seq training data.[1]

In this study, we propose a custom neural network architecture that accommodates both microarray and RNA-seq gene expression data as input. This architecture features a sparse hidden layer in which each node represents the expression of a gene, each of which is connected to a pair of nodes in the input layer, one for each assay of that gene. Patients are expected to have data from one gene expression assay or the other, but not both. This model avoids normalization or conversion of data between technologies, and instead assumes that each method captures its own representation of the same gene expression. The network can then learn the relationship between these technologies, as well as between gene expression and patient outcomes including survival. In this way, the learned weights of the network essentially supplement patient data in a flexible combined model that is potentially more accurate than using either technology alone.

This cross-platform model is useful in clinical settings where RNA-seq is cost-prohibitive despite its advantages. By training on both RNA-seq and microarrays, we aim to extend the insights of RNA-seq research to resource-limited environments where microarrays remain prevalent. Additionally, this approach can be scaled to include technologies like small targeted gene expression panels as sequencing efforts advance.

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## A Max-Plus Approach to Preconditioning Singularly Perturbed Problem

Jekaterina Mosalska  
Supervisor: Niall Madden

Singularly perturbed problems appear in many areas, such as fluid dynamics, control theory, and engineering. These problems often involve sharp changes (called layers or gradients), which make them difficult to solve using standard numerical methods [4]. When we discretize these problems, we end up with large and ill-conditioned linear systems that are hard to solve efficiently [2]. To deal with this, we need good preconditioners to help iterative solvers work faster [3].

This research explores the use of Max-Plus Algebra to design preconditioners for such systems. Max-Plus methods, based on tropical algebra and graph theory, offer a new way to estimate the size of matrix entries [1]. Using this approach, we develop preconditioners suited for finite element and finite difference methods applied to reaction-diffusion and convection-diffusion equations. Early results show that Max-Plus-based preconditioners improve the convergence and stability of iterative solvers, and often perform better than traditional techniques. This work contributes to more efficient numerical methods for solving multi-scale problems and has potential applications in fields like computational fluid dynamics and large-scale scientific computing.

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## A Series of Mathematical Induction Activities to Promote De-ritualization Processes: A Teaching Experiment

**Latifah Mustofa Lestyanto**  
Supervisor: Dr. Kirsten Pfeiffer

The aim of this poster is to introduce de-ritualization in commognition theory and suggest a series of teaching and learning activities which we developed to advance de-ritualization processes.

Commognition is a theoretical framework that views mathematics as a form of discourse [1]. In this theory, ritualization and de-ritualization are interconnected parts of the same learning process, and both of them are important. Rituals are necessary stepping stones for new discourses, an inevitable presence in the learning, and can later transform into explorations [2]. In ritualization, learners imitate expert performances before they can fully understand the usefulness and success of their own actions. When learners start to actively participate in discourse, making persistent efforts to figure out the purpose and applicability of the discourse, their rituals gradually transform into exploration, which is defined as de-ritualization [2].

Proof by induction is often introduced as a ritualized set of steps followed by tasks for students to copy these steps, and students learn to apply it as a procedure without awareness about its meaning [3]. This tendency indicates an overemphasis on ritualization. We developed a series of teaching and learning activities to provide opportunities for de-ritualization as well as ritualization. In this poster we describe some of the activities and explain how they have the potential to encourage de-ritualization processes.

A teaching experiment will be utilized as the main methodology for this study. The methodology of the teaching experiment is a research approach designed to understand the mathematical learning and reasoning of students through direct interaction and teaching [4]. Last semester, we tested our teaching and learning activities with a group of first-year mathematics undergraduate students at Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia, and gathered data in the form of classroom video recordings, students' written works, and students' interview audio recordings. We are in the process of analyzing these data to identify de-ritualization processes appearing during students' learning.

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## Space Weather and Exoplanet Habitability: Proxima Centauri

**Deirdre Ní Chonchubhair**  
Supervisor: Dr. Aaron Golden

Proxima Centauri, the nearest stellar neighbour to Earth beyond the Sun, at a distance of 1.3pc, is an active M5.5 dwarf star with one confirmed and two candidate exoplanets. Flaring, an outburst of electromagnetic radiation, is common in magnetically active stars including the Sun and can be observed across the electromagnetic spectrum. Flares that produce coronal mass ejections from the Sun can interact with the Earth's magnetic field, causing aurorae around the poles, but can also cause disruption to power lines and satellites. Stellar flares can reach much greater energies than solar flares, which may have a significant impact on exoplanet habitability. Here we present results from high time resolution U-band observations of Proxima Centauri using the Sutherland High Speed Optical Camera (SHOC) on the 1.9m telescope at the South African Astronomical Observatory. These data were taken over seven contiguous nights in April 2019 and coincide with TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) space telescope observations of Proxima Centauri at this epoch. Using SHOC's superior cadence, varying from 0.1 to 3 seconds, and comparing to the 120 second TESS cadence we explore flare incidence and frequency rates compared to that determined from TESS.

## Long-Read Resequencing of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia Single-Cell RNA Sequencing Samples Improves Detection of Malignant Genomic Alterations

Micheál Ó Dálaigh

Supervisors: Eva Szegezdi, Pilib Ó Broin

**Background:** Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is an aggressive cancer, resulting in the accumulation of poorly differentiated white blood cells in the bone marrow. Due to normal and malignant haematopoiesis occurring simultaneously, methods are required to separate these cell populations in bone marrow aspirate samples.

Single cell transcriptomics (scRNA-seq) data have been used in recent years to infer the presence of genomic alterations (single-nucleotide variants, insertions/deletions, fusion genes) which allow cells with cancer-relevant alterations to be identified. One of the most popular scRNA-seq platforms, 10x Genomics, is limited by its use of Illumina short-read sequencing, which biases coverage towards one end of the transcript.

PacBio Kinnex scRNA-seq utilises long-read sequencing to cover entire transcripts and is compatible with existing 10x cDNA libraries. Here, we investigate the ability of Kinnex to identify the malignant cell population in primary, patient-derived AML samples previously sequenced with the 10x 3' workflow by identifying genomic alterations linked to malignant transformation.

**Methods:** 4 patient samples harbouring a range of different genomic alterations relevant to AML (e.g. TET2/DNMT3A point mutations, an NPM1 insertion, and a DEK::NUP214 fusion) were resequenced with the Kinnex scRNA-seq kit and processed with the single-cell Iso-Seq analysis pipeline. CTAT-Mutations and pbfusion were used for variant calling and fusion gene identification respectively. VarTrix was used to assign identified CTAT-Mutations variants to individual cells.

**Results:** Kinnex recovered 29% fewer cells than 10x across the 4 samples. For cells which were sequenced with both technologies, CTAT-Mutations identified approximately 63% more single-nucleotide cancer-relevant variants in the Kinnex data than the 10x. On average, the Kinnex data covered AML mutation hotspot sites in NRAS, TET2, FLT3, DNMT3A, and NPM1 in 1.84x more cells; e.g. in an NPM1 mutated sample, Kinnex data revealed approximately 3x more (1000 vs. 280) mutant NPM1 cells than 10x. The Kinnex data also identified the DEK::NUP214 fusion which was not detectable in the corresponding 10x data.

**Conclusions:** Despite the lower number of cells recovered, the Kinnex data identified more malignant cells with a higher confidence by improving coverage of AML mutation hotspots located distal to the 3' of relevant transcripts. Kinnex scRNA-seq data display a superior ability to detect multiple genomic alterations, highlighting the benefits of using long-read sequencing to characterise cancer samples in single-cell studies.

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## Covariate-Adjusted Adaptive Reference Ranges in Longitudinal Data Monitoring

Forough Pazhuheian

Supervisor: Dr.Davood Roshan

Clinical reference ranges are crucial for interpreting laboratory test results, particularly biomarkers, in medical diagnostics. In particular, in recent years, the introduction of adaptive reference ranges has played a crucial role in personalised monitoring, allowing for the detection of abnormal values while accounting for an individual's biomarker variability over time [1]. However, when tracking biomarkers longitudinally, other clinical and physiological factors may influence biomarker fluctuations. Existing literature on adaptive reference ranges has yet to incorporate such covariates effectively, which is essential for achieving more accurate and reliable diagnoses.

In this presentation, we propose a novel statistical method based on a Mixed Effects Modelling framework to integrate relevant clinical and physiological factors into the generation of adaptive reference ranges, enhancing their diagnostic utility and precision. Specifically, the Expectation-Maximization (EM) algorithm will be employed to estimate model parameters, enabling the derivation of covariate-adjusted adaptive reference ranges.

The proposed method was implemented on real data collected from the longitudinal monitoring of athletes in the sports science domain, considering both constant and time-varying covariates. The results demonstrated that the proposed covariate-adjusted dynamic reference ranges effectively monitor individual biomarkers, particularly when a strong correlation exists between the covariates and the primary biomarker. However, in the absence of such a strong correlation, the covariate-adjusted and regular adaptive reference ranges yielded similar results. We believe, our proposed method strengthens personalized monitoring, offering a more effective tool not only for clinical and sports science applications but also for any domain involving longitudinal monitoring (e.g., environmental monitoring).

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## On the degree of the class-counting polynomial of a graph

Lucrezia Proserpi

Supervisors: Angela Carnevale, Tobias Rossmann

Each graph  $\Gamma$ , along with a choice of commutative ring, defines an associated graphical group. The function that enumerates the conjugacy classes of this graphical group is a polynomial, known as the *class-counting polynomial* of  $\Gamma$ , denoted by  $f_{\Gamma}(X)$ . A central goal of this research is to investigate the degree of this polynomial, which is intrinsically linked to a new graph invariant, denoted by  $\eta$ . This invariant,  $\eta$ , is determined by two factors: the number of connected components of the induced subgraphs of  $\Gamma$ , and the cardinality of the boundary. To further explore this, we define the *class-size polynomial* of  $\Gamma$ ,  $F_{\Gamma}(X, Y)$ , a polynomial in two variables with integer coefficients. This polynomial is directly related to the enumeration of conjugacy classes, and a corollary of the main result in [1] establishes that  $f_{\Gamma}(X) = F_{\Gamma}(X, 1)$ . The degree of the class-counting polynomial is determined directly by the invariant  $\eta$ . In terms of computation, there are two known ways to calculate  $\eta$ . One method involves the dominating sets of the graph, while the other one is defined by running over all the subsets of the vertex set. Both are exponential-time algorithms. We address the challenge of proving that  $\eta$  is an NP-hard problem, or finding a polynomial algorithm to compute it. Furthermore, it remains an open question whether  $\eta$  is related to other graph invariants. Gaining insight into this relationship could provide a deeper understanding of the first problem. To address both challenges, we employ machine learning techniques, which are particularly effective in identifying patterns and relationships that may not be immediately apparent.

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## Cospectrality of Unicyclic Gain Graphs

Yannan Qian

Supervisor: Dr Angela Carnevale

Spectral graph theory is an important theory for studying the nature of graphs via analysing the eigenvalues of the matrix representation (usually adjacency matrix) of the graphs. Gain graphs are graphs whose edges are labelled by elements of a fixed group, with some tame conditions. Given a gain graph, the graph with the same vertices and edges and no weights is called the underlying graph. Spectral methods have been extended to gain graphs by using the representation theory of the corresponding gain groups.  $G$ -cospectrality means two  $G$ -gain graphs are cospectral with any unitary irreducible representation [2]. It can happen for some pairs of gain graphs that they have cospectral underlying graphs. Cyclic graphs  $C_n$  are determined by  $G$ -spectrum as their underlying graphs are determined by their spectrum (switching isomorphism if  $G$ -cospectral) [2]. We extended this result showing that the same is true for any unicyclic gain graphs with the same underlying graph. We find for unicyclic gain graphs with the same underlying graph, they are switching isomorphic if they are  $G$ -cospectral. Lollipop graphs (a path with one end connected to a cycle) are also determined by their spectrum [1], so lollipop gain graphs are determined by  $G$ -spectrum. For many other unicyclic graphs, they are not determined by spectrum. Godsil-McKay switching is a common way to construct cospectral graphs [3]. We proved nonisomorphic cospectral unicyclic graphs cannot be constructed by Godsil-McKay switching. We also tried another method to make cospectral signed graphs by changing the signs of all edges of several nodes by sequence. We proved that this always produces switching isomorphic graphs. This can be extended to some specific groups (e.g. cyclic groups with even order) by generalizing the sign-change operation.

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# *nf-hlamajority*: a Nextflow pipeline for consensus MHC class I genotyping and its application to neoantigen identification in breast and lung cancer stromal cells

Kevin Ryan

Supervisors: Dr Pilib Ó Broin, Dr Laura Barkley (Lambe Institute for Translational Research)

## Introduction

Cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) are a heterogeneous cell type found in the tumour microenvironment. CAFs can support tumour growth and metastasis and contribute to therapeutic resistance, making them a potential therapeutic target. Here, we aim to identify neoantigens resulting from somatic mutations in CAFs. HLA genotyping, a critical step for neoantigen prediction, can be performed using DNA sequencing data with various tools available. Claeys et al. [1] found that a majority voting approach improved HLA typing performance. No end-to-end pipeline exists to apply this approach, making it difficult for non-informaticians to implement. The objectives of this study were to: 1) develop a Nextflow pipeline implementing majority voting for MHC class I typing from DNA sequencing, and 2) use HLA calls from this pipeline to identify neoantigens in CAFs.

## Methods

CAFs and corresponding tumour-associated normal fibroblasts (TANs) were cultured from the tissue of 11 patients with breast cancer (10 Luminal A, one triple-negative) and 10 patients with lung cancer (six adenocarcinoma, two squamous cell carcinoma, two of unknown subtype). Whole-exome sequencing (WES) and bulk RNA sequencing were carried out on all samples. Using our pipeline, *nf-hlamajority*, we carried out HLA typing on our patient WES data and WES data from 12 NCI-60 Human Tumor Cell lines using Optitype, Polysolver, HLA-LA, and Kourami. For each HLA gene, the pipeline assigned the HLA genotype called by the highest number of tools. These HLA genotypes were used as input to Landscape of Effective Neoantigens Software (LENS)[2], along with the WES and RNA-sequencing data, to identify CAF-specific neoantigens.

## Results and discussion

Results from the NCI-60 dataset showed 97% accuracy, with 68 out of 70 HLA calls matching PCR-based genotyping. LENS identified potential neoantigens resulting from missense mutations, with more high-confidence expressed mutations observed in lung cancer CAFs compared to breast cancer CAFs (Welch's Two Sample t-test,  $p = 0.017$ ). All missense mutations were private, although two lung cancer CAF samples had a mutation in the *COASY* gene. Interestingly, this gene and other genes harbouring mutations are implicated in lipid metabolic pathways. CAFs

contribute to lipid metabolism within the TME, thus impacting cancer progression and tumour immunogenicity.

## Conclusions

In this study, we have developed an automated pipeline for consensus HLA genotyping which we envisage will be useful to the research community. *nf-hlamajority* has helped us identify candidate neoantigens in breast and lung cancer CAFs. Future work will focus on validation using T-cell immunogenicity assays and investigating the CAF subpopulation distribution of our candidate neoantigens using single-cell RNA sequencing. This will improve our understanding of the potential of targeting CAF neoantigens to enhance the efficacy of anti-cancer therapies.

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## Magic State Distillation using Controlled-Clifford Gates

Mark Ryder

Supervisor: Dr. Mark Howard

Magic state distillation is an essential component required to enable fault-tolerant quantum computation. The Eastin-Knill theorem[1] shows that it is impossible to have a universal set of 'transversal' quantum operations, also known as quantum gates, within a quantum error correcting code. Some non-transversal gates are required, which are very resource-intensive, limiting the advantage quantum computers have over classical computers, and increasing the risk of an error corrupting the quantum algorithm.

Magic states are a quantum resource used to circumvent the Eastin-Knill theorem. Combining this pre-made quantum state with a group of quantum operations known as the Clifford group, we can create what's known as the T-gate. The Clifford group plus the T-gate creates a universal gate set for quantum computers, which allows us to perform any quantum algorithm with just that subset of gates.[2]

We create these magic states using magic state distillation, which works by taking several error-prone magic states, and 'distilling' them into fewer, but more error-resistant magic states. Error-resistant magic states are required to implement the non-transversal T-gate without introducing an error to the computation. However,

the magic state distillation process currently demands a large fraction of the processing power of a quantum computer. Therefore, finding an efficient magic state distillation routine is a key component in enabling quantum algorithms to outperform their classical counterparts while remaining protected against errors.

In this poster, we will explore how a controlled-Clifford operation can be used to distil magic states, and compare its performance to other popular magic state distillation protocols.

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## Rank distributions of matrix representations of graphs over $\mathbb{F}_2$

**Badriah Safarji**

Supervisors: Rachel Quinlan and Cian O'Brien

Over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}$ , the number of  $n \times n$  matrices of rank  $r$  typically increases as  $r$  increases,  $0 \leq r \leq n$ . However, over the field of two elements  $\mathbb{F}_2$ , the most frequently occurring rank in  $M_n(\mathbb{F}_2)$  is not  $n$  but  $n-1$ . The numbers of symmetric  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -matrices of rank  $n$  and  $n-1$  coincide if  $n$  is odd and differ marginally if  $n$  is even [1]. This opens the door to a more thorough investigation of the distribution of the matrix ranks over the field of two elements.

Let  $\Gamma$  be a simple undirected graph. A symmetric matrix  $M$  with entries in a field  $\mathbb{F}$  represents  $\Gamma$  if the off-diagonal entries of  $M$  correspond to edges of  $\Gamma$  in the sense that  $M_{ij} \neq 0_{\mathbb{F}}$  if and only if  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  are adjacent in  $\Gamma$ . The diagonal entries of  $M$  are not subject to any constraints, and therefore there are many matrices representing  $\Gamma$  over  $\mathbb{F}$ . This project aims to identify and characterize simple graphs of order  $n$  with more  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -matrix representations of rank  $n-1$  than rank  $n$ , a property rare over other finite fields.

We restrict our attention to connected graphs of order  $n \geq 3$  that contain an induced subgraph isomorphic to  $P_{n-1}$ . This poster will present results on the rank distributions of matrix representations of such graphs over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .

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## Modelling the Non-Linear Viscoelastic Behaviour of Brain Tissue in Torsion

**Griffen Small**

Supervisor: Valentina Balbi

Brain tissue accommodates non-linear deformations and exhibits time-dependent mechanical behaviour. The latter is one of the most pronounced features of brain tissue, manifesting itself primarily through so-called viscoelastic effects. One key effect is stress relaxation, where the stress decreases over time when brain tissue is deformed and then held in place. While the literature is replete with non-linear viscoelastic models, they are generally cumbersome and computationally expensive, making model fitting and the estimation of brain tissue's material parameters difficult. The modified quasi-linear viscoelastic (MQLV) model, recently reappraised by De Pascalis et al. [1] and Balbi et al. [2], offers a simpler alternative for modelling brain tissue's viscoelastic behaviour but remains underutilised and has yet to be validated with experiments.

Torsion is one of the most robust deformation modes for measuring brain tissue's mechanical properties. It can be readily implemented using a rotational rheometer, which measures both the torque and normal force required to twist a cylindrical sample [3]. However, previous studies on brain tissue's viscoelasticity have focused on measuring only on torque, overlooking the additional insights provided by normal force measurements [4].

In this presentation, we present a novel protocol for characterising the viscoelastic properties of brain tissue, based on the torsion deformation mode and the MQLV model. We performed ramp-and-hold relaxation tests on freshly slaughtered cylindrical ovine brain samples (25 mm diameter and 10 mm height). The tests were conducted using a commercial rheometer at varying twist rates of  $\{40, 240, 400\} \text{ rad m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , with a fixed twist of  $88 \text{ rad m}^{-1}$ . The viscoelastic material parameters were estimated by simultaneously fitting the measured torque and normal force to the MQLV model's analytical predictions [5]. The model's predictions were further validated through finite element simulations of the experiments using the open-source software FEniCS [6]. Our results demonstrate that the model accurately fits the experimental data, with the estimated elastic material parameters aligning well with those reported in previous studies on brain samples under torsion [3]. By allowing us to obtain two independent datasets (torque and normal force) from a single test, our proposed protocol provides us with a much more

efficient and accessible alternative to traditional multi-mode protocols, which often rely on expensive, custom-made experimental rings or multiple testing devices; in contrast, our protocol can be easily implemented in any commercially available rheometer.

Beyond advancing brain tissue’s mechanical characterisation and validating the efficacy of the MQLV model, our results have broader implications. When coupled with bespoke finite element models, the material parameters estimated in this study could enhance our understanding of the forces and deformations associated with traumatic brain injury, which could contribute to the design of improved headgear for sports such as boxing and motorsports. Additionally, our novel protocol offers new insights into the mechanical behaviour of soft tissues beyond the brain.

This work has emanated from research jointly funded by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland under grant number GOIPG/2024/3552 (Griffen Small), and by the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Galway under the Millennium Fund scheme for the project “Modelling Brain Mechanics” (Valentina Balbi).

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## Numerical Modelling of Cardiovascular Haemodynamics

Sean Tobin

Supervisors: Niall Madden, Niamh Hynes

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, which involves the swelling of the aorta in the abdominal region of your body, puts the aorta at a serious risk of rupture. While there is no guarantee of this, if a rupture does occur, it is fatal in the vast majority of cases, with 172,427 recorded deaths attributed to it in 2019 alone [1]. The issue is in diagnosing the severity of the aneurysm, and deciding whether or not it is urgent to take action. Currently, the primary risk-of-rupture factor is taken to be the vessel radius, but in reality, it is far more complicated, with factors such as blood pressure, vessel geometry, compliance, and shear stress playing significant roles in rupture causality.

Standard computational tools are often too resource intensive to run in a clinical setting, where results are needed in near-real time. This motivates our project: to design an algorithm that can receive patient-specific data (especially geometry), and solve a system of PDEs to find a variety of physical quantities of interest. Upon validation with real-world data, the produced results could then be used as inputs to a surrogate model, which would greatly expedite the computation process.

In this presentation, we outline recent progress in developing a Finite Element Method (FEM)-based solver, using Firedrake, to find solutions of a nonlinear system of time-dependent PDEs that govern blood flow [2]. With an assumption that pressure can be expressed in terms of cross-sectional area,  $A(t)$ , given a cylindrical vessel which is homogeneous in its reference configuration, we solve for  $A(t)$ , and the blood flow rate,  $Q(z, t)$ .

Supported by CÚRAM.

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## Transcriptomic Dysregulation of Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stromal Cells in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Jingyan Wang

Supervisors: Katarzyna Goljanek-Whysall;  
Pilib Ó Broin; Cynthia M Colman

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a chronic disease, characterized by elevated blood sugar levels, leading to complications such as osteopathy[1]. Notably, the

risk of osteopathy in individuals with T2DM is significantly influenced by sex[2]. Bone marrow mesenchymal stromal cells (BM-MSCs) play a crucial role in bone regeneration and have been widely studied for their therapeutic potential in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine[3, 4]. Recent studies have reported that T2DM-induced osteopathy is associated with impaired bone quality, primarily due to a reduction in BM-MSC numbers and their diminished differentiation capacity[5]. However, the underlying transcriptomic mechanisms driving these impairments remain unclear.

In this study, BM-MSCs were collected from 27 donors, including 13 individuals with T2DM (7 females, 6 males) and 14 without T2DM (8 females, 6 males), for bulk RNA sequencing. Gene expression profiles were analyzed across all donors, as well as within sex-specific subgroups. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified using DESeq2, followed by gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) on the  $\log_2$  fold-change values of all genes to explore differentially regulated pathways.

No distinct separation was observed between BM-MSCs from T2DM and non-T2DM donors on a PCA plot, however, 82 DEGs were identified in the overall T2DM donor group compared to controls, with 195 DEGs identified in female T2DM donors and 115 DEGs identified in male T2DM donors during sex-specific comparisons ( $\log_2$  FC  $\geq 2$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Differentially regulated pathways related to cell proliferation, immune response, and osteogenesis/adipogenesis were identified, but these pathways were not uniformly dysregulated in male and female T2DM donors. Interestingly, male and female T2DM donors exhibited distinct gene expression patterns within the osteoclast differentiation pathway.

In conclusion, this study provides novel insights into the transcriptomic dysregulation of BM-MSCs in T2DM, highlighting potential mechanisms contributing to BM-MSC dysfunction. Furthermore, our findings underscore the impact of sex-specific differences on BM-MSC transcriptome regulation, which may have implications for developing targeted therapeutic strategies.

Supported by China Scholarship Council and the Research Ireland (22/FFP-A/10736).

## References

- [1] M. Janghorbani, R. M. Van Dam, W. C. Willett, and F. B. Hu, "Systematic review of type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus and risk of fracture," vol. 166, no. 5, pp. 495–505.
- [2] X. Wang, L. Jiang, and X. Shao, "Association Analysis of Insulin Resistance and Osteoporosis Risk in Chinese Patients with T2DM," vol. 17, pp. 909–916.
- [3] J. S. Heo, Y. Choi, H.-S. Kim, and H. O. Kim, "Comparison of molecular profiles of human mesenchymal stem cells derived from bone marrow, umbilical cord blood, placenta and adipose tissue," vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 115–125.

- [4] A. I. Caplan, "Mesenchymal stem cells," vol. 9, no. 5, pp. 641–650.
  - [5] F. C. Cassidy, C. Shortiss, C. G. Murphy, S. R. Kearns, W. Curtin, C. De Buitléir, T. O'Brien, and C. M. Coleman, "Impact of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus on Human Bone Marrow Stromal Cell Number and Phenotypic Characteristics," vol. 21, no. 7, p. 2476.
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## 5 Abstracts of PhD theses

### *Self-Adaptive Bio-inspired Optimisation of Machine Learning Pipelines for Rejection Risk Prediction in Kidney Transplant Patients*

**Mariel Barbachan e Silva**  
Supervisor: Pilib Ó Broin

Kidney transplantation is the treatment of choice for end-stage kidney disease. Kidney allograft rejection is one of the primary mechanisms of graft loss following organ transplantation. The histopathological diagnosis of kidney transplant rejection is complicated by a lack of disease-specific lesions, highlighting the urgent need for more quantitative approaches. Gene expression profiling of graft biopsies can provide evidence of rejection before a clinical phenotype becomes apparent. This thesis aims to improve the prediction of kidney transplant rejection using gene expression microarray data by leveraging bio-inspired optimisation techniques to improve classification performance. We used bio-inspired optimisation algorithms to perform numerical hyperparameter optimisation of classification pipelines trained on biopsy and blood samples of kidney transplant patients. Our results demonstrate that the optimised pipelines improved the predictive capabilities in many cases, particularly when adopting a particle swarm optimisation approach. The genes identified by the optimised pipelines as being important for predictive performance were relevant to the context of transplantation with a diverse immunological scope being independently selected by the different classification pipelines, underscoring the complexity of the immunological response underpinning kidney allograft rejection.

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### *The mechanics of biological growth: a study through the vertex model.*

**Mohsen Daman**  
Supervisor: Giuseppe Zurlo

The doctoral thesis “The mechanics of biological growth: a study through the vertex model” examines the mechanics of growth and remodeling in biological tissues using the vertex model, focusing on the generation of elastic stresses. It introduces the concept of incompatibility in tissues, a source of residual stresses in continuous mechanics without external loads. Two types of incompatibility are identified: internal incompatibility, arising from violations of isometric inequalities in cell areas and perimeters, and external incompatibility, related to how cells are interconnected in tissue morphologies. Both contribute to residual stress and tissue functionality.

The second part of the work investigates the effects of elastic stress accumulation on inelastic tissue evolution, including phase transitions (T1, T2, T3) and cell division. The study analyzes how these processes enable the

system to reach minimal energy configurations, potentially guiding tissue growth. Using MATLAB, the thesis explores the role of parameters like area stiffness and line tension on tissue growth and instability, suggesting connections to tumor growth, particularly metastasis.

This thesis is part of a double PhD degree between the University of Galway and the Università di Pisa (Italy).

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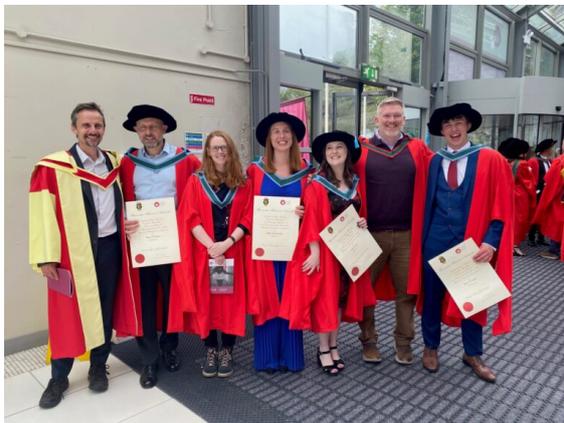
### *The role of genomic data in stratifying patients within predictive models for breast cancer survival outcome*

**Lydia King**  
Supervisor: Dr Emma Holian

Genomic instability (GI), defined as an increased tendency for genomic alterations to occur, is a common feature of cancers and is recognised as a “facilitating” hallmark of cancer. Genomic alterations include base substitutions, indels, rearrangements and copy number alterations (CNAs). CNAs in cancer have been extensively profiled but due to the complexity of cancer genomes, frequent deviations from diploidy, i.e. having two sets of homologous chromosomes, and the presence of both tumour and non-tumour cells, many studies have been limited to reporting total copy number, the sum of the copy numbers of the two homologous chromosomes. Determining the CNA landscape of each homologous chromosome, i.e. allele-specific copy number, is important for the characterisation of certain genomic aberrations and the inference of their clonal history. Breast cancer is largely dominated by CNAs, rather than mutations in a single gene, with increasing evidence suggesting that the genomic landscape of the tumour is associated with survival and incorporating this information into treatment decisions is beneficial to the patient.

This thesis uses total and allele-specific CNA data to explore the CNA landscape of breast tumours and their associations with survival. Focusing on observations from the Molecular Taxonomy of Breast Cancer International Consortium (METABRIC) cohort, we define novel metrics for total CNA measurements, estimating the distribution of these metrics allowing for missing values. Analysing distributions of the CNA metrics comparing groups of patients stratified by molecular classifications indicates that subtypes associated with worse survival outcomes tend to have significantly higher levels of GI, and higher deletion burden, than subtypes associated with better survival outcomes. Further investigation of these CNA metrics in the context of survival indicates that for molecular classifications displaying low levels of GI, the CNA metrics can partition patients based on survival outcome and aid in the identification of patients who may be more at risk. CNA metrics consistently selected as useful predictors for survival outcome include CNA metrics measuring the copy number deletion landscape, further indicating that deletions are more harmful than amplifications.

Differential gene expression analysis is carried out to investigate the effect that CNAs have on gene expression. Genes observed to be dysregulated in patients with decreased survival outcomes are known to facilitate cell proliferation, tumour progression and invasion. Investigating the direct relationship between a gene's CNA state and its expression, using a modified limma pipeline, two differentially expressed gene sets are produced, with some degree of congruence observed when comparing to published predictive and prognostic assays and additional genes emerging as new focus. Deriving allele-specific copy number profiles applying Allele-Specific Copy number Analysis of Tumours (ASCAT), models are proposed and assessed to identify and model features of changepoints in these profiles, including allele independent (AI) models and allele dependent (AD) models. Application of the AD models to defined intervals, including gene regions and genomic segments of specified length, identifies a number of gene and non-gene regions of interest.




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*Developing statistical models for motion tracking data to extra movement signatures*

**Pouyan Nejadi**

Supervisors: Prof. John Newell, Dr. Davood Roshan

In modern soccer (football), extensive motion tracking data are collected, capturing players' movements at a rate of 25 times per second. Traditionally, these data have been utilised for tactical analysis, focusing on aspects such as team formation and identifying motion patterns. However, my research aims to leverage these data in a novel manner, prioritising player performance, injury management, rehabilitation, and player welfare. This thesis seeks to develop new statistical methods to identify personalised patterns of movement, enabling the creation of tailored training sessions that address the physiological demands specific to each player's position. Additionally, by analysing the types of movements and associated physical forces, sports scientists can design rehabilitation programs for injured players more effectively. To this end, advanced modelling techniques are

incorporated to enhance the analysis of motion tracking data. The bivariate generalised linear model (GLM) offers a sophisticated approach to jointly modeling angular change and speed change in player trajectories. By characterising trajectories into interpretable parameters, such as angular change and speed change, this model provides valuable insights into the underlying patterns of player movement. Furthermore, the bivariate GLM facilitates the clustering of trajectories based on the estimated parameters, allowing for the identification of similar movement patterns among players.

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*Novel Construction of Specht Modules for Monomial Groups*

**Koushik Paul**

Supervisor: Götz Pfeiffer

This thesis provides an algorithmic framework for the computation of explicit representing matrices for all irreducible representations of a generalized symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n^{(r)}$ , i.e., a wreath product of cyclic group of order  $r$  with the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . The basic building block for this framework is the Specht matrix, a matrix with entries 0 and  $\pm 1$ , defined in terms of pairs of certain words. Combinatorial objects like Young diagrams and Young tableaux arise naturally from this setup. In the case  $r = 1$ , one recovers Young's natural representations of the symmetric group. For general  $r$ , a suitable notion of pairs of  $r$ -words is used to extend the construction to generalized symmetric groups. Separately, for  $r = 2$ , where  $\mathfrak{S}_n^{(r)}$  is the Weyl group of type  $B_n$ , a different construction is based on a notion of pairs of biwords.



*Novel statistical models and computational  
tools for gene set analysis*

**Dónal O'Shea**

Supervisor: Prof. Cathal Seoighe

The gene is often treated as an observational unit in biology. The signals in a transcriptomic assay are mapped to genes, while the results of genomic and functional assays are frequently linked to genes to increase biological interpretability. However, the function of a particular gene is not always known and can change depending on cellular context. Furthermore, the number of genes identified as worthy of interest can be far too great for researchers to interpret and extract biological insights from one by one. Analysing groups of genes related by function, partaking in a common biological pathway or sharing biochemical similarities can address these pitfalls. The criteria and knowledge used to construct gene sets are incorporated into the downstream analysis of transcriptomic, genomic and functional assays, focussing the researcher's attention on a comparatively small number of well-defined pathways.

In Chapter 2, we outlined the log-fold change distribution as a conceptual framework that can be used to understand the different null hypotheses being tested by various gene set analysis (GSA) tools in the context of differential gene expression. This framework led to the development of a set of GSA tests based on modelling the log-fold change (LFC) distribution as a mixture of Gaussian random variables. The different tests provide parallels to popular GSA methods with significant advantages in sensitivity and interpretability in both simulations and real data analysis.

In Chapter 3, we developed additional GSA tests to interpret the results of cell-type-specific differential expression analyses. Inference of cell-type-specific differential expression from a heterogenous sample is associated with high levels of uncertainty. This uncertainty necessitated the development of non-parametric GSA tests based on the LFC distribution, making fewer assumptions and leading to more robust results. Both parametric and non-parametric tests were made available in an R package and an Rshiny application, which allows researchers to efficiently run GSA tests and visualise and interpret results across all cells in the experiment.

In Chapter 4, the focus of the thesis shifts from enrichment in the context of differential gene expression to enrichment for variants in genomic regions. We performed genomic enrichment tests on de-novo variants in autism spectrum disorder probands. Groups of genomic regions could be compared with the rest of the genome or between cases and controls. The former tests (internal in that they compared different regions of the genome with each other) aimed to model the distribution of variants across the genome to detect regions with a significantly higher number of variants than expected. The latter (external tests), through the use of an appropriate control cohort, avoided making any assumptions about the

distribution of de-novo variants along the genome and was better suited for the testing of large numbers of variants not previously associated with the trait.

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## 6 Staff profiles

**Balbi, V.**

### Current research interests

My research is in soft tissues mechanics, I am interested in both experimental and theoretical aspects. Due to their complexity, soft tissues are difficult to characterise mechanically. From the experimental viewpoint, I am interested in developing robust and reliable testing protocols suitable for different tissues. Theoretically, I develop new mathematical models to capture the non-linear mechanical behaviour of soft tissues. I am also interested in modelling wrinkling instabilities in soft meta-materials and biological tissues. Continuum mechanics, non-linear elasticity and visco-elasticity are my everyday tools.

### Research outputs

In *Modelling the non-linear viscoelastic behaviour of brain tissue in torsion*, Griffen and I collaborated with researchers at the Politecnico di Torino. We developed a new testing protocol for brain tissue in torsion and we used a recently proposed modified quasi-linear viscoelastic model to fit the experimental data and determine the time-dependent parameters. We also validated our model with FE simulations in FeNiCs. This is the first study where two independent data (torque and axial force) are obtained from one test only and are simultaneously fitted to a QLV model.

In *Wrinkling instability of 3D auxetic bilayers in tension*, Sairam, Michel and I collaborated with researchers in Tianjin University and Keele University to investigate the wrinkling patterns that can occur when a rectangular auxetic bilayer is stretched. Opposite to conventional materials, auxetic materials expand in the direction perpendicular to stretching. We showed that in order for wrinkles to appear, the substrate of the bilayer must be more compressible than the film. We also implemented FE simulations of bilayers where the film auxeticity is introduced via a specific microstructural pattern. By varying the microstructural pattern (and thus the compressibility of the film), we showed that the critical stretch for instability matches our model prediction. This is the first study to investigate instabilities in tension of auxetic materials.

### Research activities

- Post-Grads Supervision: Griffen Small(4<sup>th</sup> year) and Sairam Venkata (graduated).
- Invited Talk: 2 Euromech Colloquiums (UK), Workshop on Mathematics and Mechanics of Biological Tissues (Italy). I am also organising a Doctoral School at the CISM in Udine this year.

**Baykalov, Anton**

### Current research interests

In general, my research is in the field of Algebra, more specifically Group Theory. This includes questions about groups, their representations, and related combinatorial structures. Currently, I am working with Angela Carnevale and Tobias Rossmann on a project involving explicit computations of zeta functions of groups, algebras, and other algebraic structures. In particular, I am interested in using machine learning to assist with these computations.

### Recent publications

- [1] A.A. Baykalov, A. Devillers and C.E. Praeger, *Rank three innately transitive permutation groups and related 2-transitive groups*. *Innov. Incidence Geom.* 20 (2023), no. 2-3, 135–175.
- [2] A.A. Baykalov, *On algebraic normalisers of maximal tori in simple groups of Lie type*. *J. Group Theory* 27 (2024), no. 6, 1357–1383.
- [3] A.A. Baykalov, *Base sizes for finite linear groups with solvable stabilisers*. *J. Group Theory* (2025), 75 pages, DOI 10.1515/jgth-2023-0125

### Research activities

- I am a plenary speaker at *Groups in Galway 2025* (May 2025).
- I am currently organising *Machine Learning for Mathematics* reading group. Here we study ways in which machine learning can be used to solve (or inspire solutions to) problems in mathematics.

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**Berjamin, Harold**

### Current research interests

My current research deals with the mechanical modelling of soft magneto-active composite materials. Applications of these works are found in material science and soft robotics.

### Recent publications

- [1] Berjamin, H., Rudykh, S. Elastic wave propagation in magneto-active fibre composites. *Int. J. Solids Struct.*, 2025, 113373 (in press). [link]
- [2] Berjamin, H. Computation of viscoelastic shear shock waves using finite volume schemes with artificial compressibility. *Int. J. Numer. Meth. Biomed. Eng.*, 41, 2025, e70012. [link]
- [3] Berjamin, H., Destrade, M. Models of fractional viscous stresses for incompressible materials. *Math. Mech. Solids*, 30, 2025, 540-555. [link]

## Research activities

- *Conferences*: 58th Meeting of the Society for Natural Philosophy, Aarhus (Denmark).
  - *Papers refereed*: 14.
  - *Memberships*: SIAM, AFM-Euromech.
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### Carnevale, Angela

## Current research interests

My research is mainly in the field of algebraic and enumerative combinatorics. I am especially interested in the combinatorics of posets, Coxeter groups and permutation statistics. I like to apply these to problems related to zeta functions in algebra.

## Recent publications

- [1] A. Carnevale, M. M. Schein and C. Voll, *Generalized Igusa functions and ideal growth in nilpotent Lie rings*, Algebra and Number Theory, 18 (2024), no. 3, 537–582.
- [2] A. Carnevale, V. D. Moustakas, and T. Rossmann, *From coloured permutations to Hadamard products and zeta functions*. Sémin. Lothar. Combin. 91B (2024), Art. 56, 12 pp.
- [3] A. Carnevale, V. D. Moustakas, and T. Rossmann, *Coloured shuffle compatibility, Hadamard products, and ask zeta functions* To appear in Bull. Lond. Math. Soc., (2025), 21 pages.

## Research activities

- I am co-PI (jointly with T. Rossmann) on a Research Ireland Frontiers for the Future Project on *Machine learning and explicit computations of zeta functions in algebra* (2024–2028, grant no. 22/FFP-P/11449).
- I gave a research-level course on *Permutation statistics in enumerative algebra and beyond* at the Research Programme *Combinatorial Methods in Enumerative Algebra*, ICTS Bangalore (December 2024).
- Recent invited talks: Cetraro (Italy), July 2024 ♦ Bochum (Germany), February 2025 ♦ Stockholm (Sweden), April 2025.
- Conferences and workshops co-organised: *Bruhat order* (with R. Biagioli, C. Hohlweg and M. Marietti; 04/2024) ♦ *Groups in Galway 2024* (with J. Maglione and T. Rossmann; 05/2024) ♦ *Symbolic Enumeration in Algebra* (with P. Lins, J. Maglione, T. Rossmann and C. Voll; 07/2024 and 05/2025) ♦ *Combinatorial Methods in Enumerative Algebra* (with U. Onn, A. Prasad, P. Singla, C. Voll; 12/2024).
- I am a member of the Program Committee of FPSAC 2025.

- I currently supervise four PhD students: M. J. Maher (since 2022), Yannan Qian (co-supervised by M. Cavaleri, since 2024), M. Falciatore (co-supervised by T. Rossmann, since 2024), L. Proserpi (co-supervised by T. Rossmann, since 2024).
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### Cruickshank, James

## Current research interests

In increasing order of specialisation: Combinatorics, algebra, topology, discrete geometry, topological/algebraic combinatorics, (hyper-)graph rigidity theory, face numbers of simplicial complexes, volume rigidity, algebraic connectivity.

## Research outputs

4 journal papers appeared [1, 2, 3, 4], 2 preprints published

## Recent publications

- [1] James Cruickshank, Bill Jackson, and Shin-ichi Tanigawa. Rigidity of symmetric simplicial complexes and the lower bound theorem. *Forum Math. Sigma*, 13:Paper No. e4, 22, 2025.
- [2] James Cruickshank, Bill Jackson, and Shin-ichi Tanigawa. Global rigidity of triangulated manifolds. *Adv. Math.*, 458:Paper No. 109953, 59, 2024.
- [3] Bryan Gin-ge Chen, James Cruickshank, and Derek Kitson. Block-and-hole graphs: constructibility and  $(3,0)$ -sparsity. *Math. Proc. R. Ir. Acad.*, 124A(2):53–69, 2024.
- [4] James Cruickshank, Fatemeh Mohammadi, Harshit J. Motwani, Anthony Nixon, and Shin-ichi Tanigawa. Global rigidity of line constrained frameworks. *SIAM J. Discrete Math.*, 38(1):743–763, 2024.
- [5] James Cruickshank, Eleftherios Kastis, Derek Kitson, and Bernd Schulze. Braced triangulations and rigidity. *Discrete Comput. Geom.*, 71(4):1238–1275, 2024.

## Research activities

- Sabbatical from Jan 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024
- Conference presentations:
  - Landscapes of Rigidity, Linz, Austria, March 2024.
  - Rigidity in Action, Linz, Austria, April 2024.
- Research visits to RICAM, Linz, March-April 2024; Lancaster University May 2024; KU Leuven June 2024; Lancaster University, September 2024; University of Tokyo, December 2024; ICERM, Providence RI, USA April 2025.

- 2 journal submissions currently under review.
- Funding awards/applications: COGENT MSCA doctoral network (funding for 2 PhD students co-supervised with Prof. Graham Ellis), Research Ireland GOIPD application mentor (under review), Mittag-Leffler semester programme application (unsuccessful), ICMS workshop application (successful), SFI-EPSRC joint programme (EoI accepted, full application in progress)
- Journal/conference refereeing: Disc. Comp. Geom., SIAM J. Appl. Algebra Geom., SIAM J. Discrete Math., Forum Math. Sigma, FPSAC 2025, Proc. Edinb. Math. Soc. (2), Israel J. Math., J. Graph Theory.
- Grant reviewing: Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
- Editorial board: Bulletin of the Irish Mathematical Society.

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## Destrade, Michel

### Current research interests

I work on the modelling of dielectric and magneto-elastic elastomers, on elastic waves travelling in soft tissues and in stressed solids, on the imaging of soft solids, and on the wrinkling of auxetic materials.

### Recent publications

- [1] A.L. Gower, T. Shearer, P. Ciarletta, M. Destrade. The elastic stored energy of initially strained, or stressed, materials: Restrictions and third-order expansions. Proceedings of the Royal Society A. 481 (2025) 20240272.
- [2] H. Berjamine, M. Destrade. Models of fractional viscous stresses for incompressible materials. Mathematics and Mechanics of Solids. Special Issue in honour of Prof. Ray Ogden. 30 (2025) 540-555.
- [3] M. Nagle, H. Conroy Broderick, C. Vedel, M. Destrade, M. Fop, A. Ní Annaidh. A Gaussian process approach for rapid evaluation of skin tension. Acta Biomaterialia. 182 (2024) 54-66.
- [4] F. Zhu, B. Wu, M. Destrade, H. Wang, R. Bao, W. Chen. Voltage-controlled non-axisymmetric vibrations of soft electro-active tubes with strain-stiffening effect. International Journal of Solids and Structures. 290 (2024) 112671.
- [5] S. Pamulaparathi Venkata, V. Balbi, M. Destrade, G. Zurlo. Designing necks and wrinkles in inflated auxetic membranes. International Journal of Mechanical Sciences. 268 (2024) 109031.

### Research activities

- *Current research grants:* 2 Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowships (one pre-, one post-doctoral).
- *Appointments:* Seconded National Expert at the European Research Council in Brussels; Editorial Board Member: Proceedings of the Royal Society A, Mechanics of Soft Solids; Adjunct Professor at University College Dublin and Zhejiang University; Directeur de Recherche at Institut d'Alembert, CNRS, Paris, France (on leave); Member of the International Brain Mechanics and Trauma Lab (Oxford).

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## Dorman, Matthew J.

### Current research interests

My research interests focus on microbial genomics, particularly on Gram-negative human pathogens. Areas of interest and of previous research include: using genomic data to contextualise experimental microbiology into bacterial species and their population structures; gene regulation and regulatory networks in single pathogens and across species; pathogen genomic epidemiology, including in lower-middle income settings; long-read sequencing and the production of high-quality microbial genome assemblies.

### Recent publications

- [1] F. Lassalle, *et al.* Genomic epidemiology reveals multidrug resistant plasmid spread between *Vibrio cholerae* lineages in Yemen. *Nat Microbiol*, 8:1787-1798, 2023.
- [2] M. J. Dorman, N. R. Thomson. *Vibrio cholerae* O37: one of the exceptions that prove the rule. *Microbiol Genom*, 9(4):mgen000980, 2023.
- [3] R. Soontarach, *et al.* Isolation and characterisation of bacteriophage selective for key *Acinetobacter baumannii* capsule chemotypes. *Pharmaceuticals*, 15(4):443, 2022.
- [4] T. G. Fennell, *et al.* *gfpA* and *chiA* genes are not uniformly distributed amongst diverse *Vibrio cholerae*. *Microbiol Genom*, 7(6):mgen.0.000594, 2021.
- [5] M. J. Dorman, *et al.* Genomics of the Argentinian cholera epidemic elucidate the contrasting dynamics of epidemic and endemic *Vibrio cholerae*. *Nat Commun*, 11(1):4918, 2020.

### Research activities

- Instructor, *VibrioWatch and Cholera Genomics Course*. Lusaka, Zambia, Feb 2025.
- Instructor, *Genomics and Epidemiological Surveillance of Bacterial Pathogens*. Wellcome Global Training course; San Jose, Costa Rica, Jul 2024.

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## Fitz-Simon, Nicola.

## Current research interests

I am an applied statistician with my primary research interest being statistical causal inference, especially as applied to observational studies on human health. I also have research interests in the intersection between infectious disease modelling and causal inference. I have developed a recent research interest in small area estimation using data from complex survey designs, and visualisations to communicate results to stakeholders.

## Research outputs

In preparation: Fitz-Simon N, Malekpour M, Tapelo N, Agboyigbor K, Farzadfar F. Small Area Estimation of indicators of diabetes and hypertension in Ghana and Uganda.

## Research activities

- Ghana and Uganda D-Card Project: Small area estimation of key indicators of diabetes and hypertension. Funded by the World Diabetes Foundation, in collaboration with the World Health Organization. Technical Report, Paper and Shiny App forthcoming (under review by WHO collaborators).
- Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society (past secretary of the RSS Medical Section), Member of the Irish Statistical Association, Member of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics.

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## Flannery, Dane

### Current research interests

Linear groups and computation, algebraic design theory.

### Recent publications

- [1] Generalized partially bent functions, generalized perfect arrays, and cocyclic Butson matrices (with R. Egan and J. A. Armario), *Cryptography and Communications* 16 (2024), no. 2, 323–337.

### Research activities

- Invited lecturer, Computational Aspects of Thin Groups (3 June 2024–14 June 2024), Institute for Mathematical Sciences, National University of Singapore.
- Plenary speaker, 8th Workshop on Design Theory, Hadamard Matrices and Applications (26 May–30 May 2025), University of Seville.
- Research-in-Pairs (28 July 2025– 8 August 2025), Centre International de Rencontres Mathématiques Luminy, France.
- Associate Editor, *Journal of Computational Algebra*.

- Member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council UK Associate Peer Review College.
- Referee for *Journal of Algebra*, *Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics*, and the *Mathematical Association of America*.
- Reviewer for *zbMATH* and *Mathematical Reviews*.

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## Hegarty, Fintan

### Current research interests

Is í an phríomhsprioc atá agam ná an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i gColáiste na hEolaíochta agus na hInnealtóireachta, agus suim agam sna bealaí ar fad é sin a chur i gcrích, ach tá spéis ar leith agam sna réimsí taighde seo a leanas:

- Oideachas sna teangacha mionlathie; go háirithe Mata agus na hábhair STEM as Gaeilge ag leibhéal ollscoile.
- Úsáid na teicneolaíochta ó thaobh teagaisc agus measúnú de, agus na féidearthachtaí atá ann le haghaidh cúrsaí idirdhisciplíneacha.
- Cúrsaí inbhuanaitheachta agus an mhata a bhaineann leo.

### Research activities

- Oícheanta Ólaíochta agus imeachtaí for-rochtana eile.
- Ceardlann náisiúnta ar Ollscolaíocht as Gaeilge.
- Féile Eolaíochta.

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## Holian, Emma

### Current research interests

Prognostic models in Breast Cancer, modelling treatment outcome on longitudinal biomarkers, variable selection in survival models for data with various missingness mechanisms. Statistical methods in Genomics Data Science, change point status multi-response modelling in Copy Number Alterations. Statistical challenges in environmental impact studies and climate data, challenges of left-censored distributions in groundwater data. Classification and cluster analysis of longitudinal data profiles via mixture modelling, Regression Cluster Model (RCM). Modelling Composition Response data, influencing factors in blood clot composition via Dirichlet Regression. Pedagogy in Mathematical and Statistical learning and public engagement, Founder and Director of *Figuring out Y* outreach initiative.

## Recent publications

- [1] M. Davey, *et al.* Evaluating the Role of Circulating MicroRNAs in Predicting Long-Term Survival Outcomes in Breast Cancer: A Prospective, Multicenter Clinical Trial. *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, 2023. 236(2), 317-327.
- [2] L. King, A. Flaus, E. Holian, A. Golden. Survival Outcomes are Associated with Genomic Instability in Luminal Breast Cancers. *Plos One*, 2021.
- [3] E. McGrory, E. Holian, L. Morrison. Assessment of groundwater processes using censored data analysis incorporating non-detect chemical, physical, and biological data. *Journal Of Contaminant Hydrology*, 2020.

## Research activities

- Director of *Figuring out Y (FOY)*, outreach and research initiative. Collaborators: Dr Mairead Greene, CELT; Dr Kathy O'Sullivan, School of Education; Dr Mária Slavíčková, Department of Education at Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.
- ENLIGHT PLUS Award €5,000 for project Figuring Out Y (FOY) in partnership with Göttingen and Comenius University, November 2024.
- Collaborator: Prof Karen Doyle, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine and Centre for Research in Medical Devices (CÚRAM). Ph.D Student Supervision: Malak Almutairi - *Modeling composition response data with application to clot composition observed for Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS) patients.*

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**Howard, Mark**

## Current research interests

I'm primarily interested in quantum information theory, specifically:

- Stabilizer formalism (generalization to d-level systems, quantum error-correcting codes, Gottesman-Knill theorem)
- Clifford group and classical simulability of restricted quantum circuits
- Discrete Wigner functions (negative quasiprobabilities, relationship with GK theorem)
- Magic state distillation and quantum fault tolerance more generally
- Nonlocality & Contextuality, Mutually unbiased bases, SIC-POVMs, foundations of quantum theory

## Recent publications

- [1] Pierre-Emmanuel Emeriau, Mark Howard and Shane Mansfield, Quantum advantage in information retrieval. *PRX Quantum*, 3, 2, 020307, 2022.

## Research activities

- Invited Keynote Speaker at First Workshop on Many-body quantum magic, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- Invited Participant and Speaker at BIRS Workshop on Quantum Circuit Design Automation, UBC Okanagan, Canada.
- Programme Committee member for QCNC 2024 Conference
- Ph.D. External Examiner at Sorbonne Université, Lip6, Paris
- Supervising 2 PhD students since Sept 2022: Aisling MacAree (Royal Society and COSE funded) and Mark Ryder (IRC funded) working on Quantum Error Correction & Fault Tolerance.
- Member of National Advisory Forum for Quantum Technologies

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**Jermiin, Lars S.**

## Current research interests

I call myself an Evolutionary Biologist and Bioinformatician, with particular strengths in molecular phylogenetics and comparative genomics.

Biologically, my interests cover the ways that genes and gene products, populations, and species have evolved and adapted to changing environmental conditions. I have led or contributed to research a wide range of areas, including gene and genome annotation, evolution, systematics, biosecurity, and engineering of new enzymes. In this regard, the underlying evolutionary history always plays a pivotal role, so I am also interested in palaeontology and geology.

Bioinformatically, my interests focus on development of accurate methods to extract information from sequenced genomic data. This extraction must be done in a statistically sound and computationally efficient manner, so being embedded in the School of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences is about as good as it gets (i.e., I see potential for collaboration in the school).

My current focus is on promoting a new phylogenetic protocol (I designed it to mitigate model misspecification and confirmation bias) and developing new algorithms, statistical procedures, computational methods, and visualisation tools to support the new protocol. Among these are methods to:

- Infer multiple sequence alignment;
- Detect violations of phylogenetic assumptions;

- Visualise differences among independent Markovian processes;
- Identify optimal models of evolution from sequence data that diverged under stationary, reversible, and time-homogeneous (SRH) Markovian conditions; and
- Infer accurate phylogenetic estimates from sequence data that diverged under non-SRH Markovian conditions.

## Selected Recent Publications

- [1] Vera-Ruiz V, Robinson J, Jermin LS. 2022. A likelihood-ratio test for lumpability of phylogenetic data: Is the Markovian property of an evolutionary process retained in recoded DNA? *Systematic Biology* 71, 660-675.
- [2] Dziak JJ, Coffman DL, Lanza ST, Li R, Jermin LS. 2020. Sensitivity and specificity of information criteria. *Briefings in Bioinformatics* 21, 553-565.
- [3] Jermin LS, Catullo RA, Holland BR. 2020. A new phylogenetic protocol: Dealing with model misspecification and confirmation bias in molecular phylogenetics. *NAR Genomics & Bioinformatics* 2, lqaa041.
- [4] Wong TKF, Kalyaanamoorthy S, Meusemann K, Yeates DA, Misof B, Jermin LS. 2020. A minimum reporting standard for multiple sequence alignments. *NAR Genomics & Bioinformatics* 2, lqaa024.
- [5] Kalyaanamoorthy S, Minh BQ, Wong TFK, von Haeseler A, Jermin LS. 2017. ModelFinder: Fast model selection for accurate phylogenetic estimates. *Nature Methods* 14, 587-589.

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## Madden, Niall

### Current research interests

My research interests are in the fields of numerical analysis and scientific computing. I am particularly interested in numerical solution of partial differential equations, by finite element methods, and the efficient solution of applied problems through the application of modern computing techniques.

### Research outputs

- [1] G. Saha, N. Poddar, K.K. Mondal and **N. Madden** Hydrodynamic dispersion of volatile contaminant in an open channel flow using a fitted operator approach. *Proc ICNDA 2024*. Springer Proceedings in Physics. Feb 2024.
- [2] R. Hill and **N. Madden**. Layer-adapted meshes for singularly perturbed problems via mesh partial differential equations and a posteriori information. [arXiv:2311.01274](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.01274). Nov 2023.

- [3] L. Loftus, **N. Madden**, P.A. Scott, A. Cooke, and N. McNicholas. The Gender Pay Gap and Irish Higher Education: University of Galway, a Case Study. *Adm. Sci.*, 13(11), 239, 2023. DOI: 10.3390/admsci13110239

## Research activities

I gave invited seminars in University College Cork (April 2024), and Trinity College Dublin (September 2024), and presented at the International Conference on Boundary and Interior Layers (BAIL) in A Coruña (June 2024).

I successfully mentored Nanda Poddar's application for a Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship. Other team members this year have included Róisín Hill (PDR; funded by HEA GEEF), Alexander Shchetkin (PDR, funding by Marine Institute, with Indiana Olbert as lead PI), Sean Tobin (PhD student, funded by CURAM, with Niamh Hynes as lead PI), and Jekaterina Mosalska (PhD student). Co-PI on successful InterReg-funded project (Baribre McNicholas as PI), which funds a two year postdoctoral researcher (currently being hired).

I was an external examiner for theses at the University of Cyprus, and Memorial University of Newfoundland.

I continue to be an editor of Springer's Numerical Algorithms, as well as a regular reviewer for journals in numerical analysis and computational mathematics.

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## Maglione, Joshua

### Current research interests

My research interests are in computational algebra, asymptotic group theory, and algebraic combinatorics. I develop efficient algorithms to aid in various isomorphism problems. The Group Isomorphism Problem is closely related to the Tensor Isomorphism Problem, so I am also interested in tensors, their structure, and their applications to algebra. I also apply combinatorial tools to understand and compute certain  $p$ -adic integrals coming from zeta functions of groups and rings and Igusa's zeta function. These can be used to better understand enumerative aspects of groups, rings, and algebras such as the number of finite-index subgroups of a group.

### Recent publications

- [1] Peter A. Brooksbank, Heiko Dietrich, Joshua Maglione, E. A. O'Brien, James B. Wilson. Categorification of characteristic structures. [arXiv:2502.01138](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.01138).
- [2] Galen Dorpalen-Barry, Joshua Maglione and Christian Stump, The Poincaré-extended **ab**-index, *J. Lond. Math. Soc. (2)* **111** (2025), no. 1, Paper No. e70054, 33 pp.
- [3] Joshua Maglione, Mima Stanojkovski. Smooth cuboids in group theory. To appear in *Algebra Number Theory*. [arXiv:2212.03941](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.03941).

- [4] Joshua Maglione and Christopher Voll, Flag Hilbert–Poincaré series and Igusa zeta functions of hyperplane arrangements, *Israel J. Math.* **264** (2024), no. 1, 177–233
- [5] Joshua Maglione, Christopher Voll. Hall–Littlewood polynomials, affine Schubert series, and lattice enumeration. [arXiv:2410.08075](https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.08075).

### Research activities

- Invited Mini-Courses: Colorado State University (May 2024), International Centre for Theoretical Sciences Bangalore (Dec. 2024). Invited talks: Tensors-Algebra-Geometry-Applications 2024 (May 2024), IMS Annual Meeting (Aug. 2024).
- Conferences organised: *Groups in Galway* (May 2024), *Symbolic Enumeration in Algebra* (Jul. 2024).

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### McCluskey, Aisling

#### Current research interests

My current research interests revolve around generalising the classic notion of betweenness in Euclidean geometry to the realm of metric spaces. Betweenness relations arising in connection with metric spaces include the usual metric betweenness of Karl Menger, as well as versions of betweenness (for example, ultrametric spaces) that make sense in light of generalized triangle (in)equalities.

I am also interested in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) in the context of university mathematics education. A current focus is on assessment strategy that provokes and promotes deep and engaged learning. A further interest is in ‘educating the educators’ in the context of initial teacher education at post-primary level.

#### Recent publications

- [1] D. Anderson, P. Bankston, A. McCluskey. Betweenness-induced convexity in hyperspaces of normed vector spaces *Journal of Convex Analysis*, 32 (1): 25–60, 2025
- [2] A. McCluskey, J. Grant McLoughlin, K. O’Sullivan. Book chapter to appear in *International Perspectives on Mathematics Outreach*, Research in Mathematics Education series, UK: Emerald publishing, 2025

#### Research activities

- Co-host (with Nina Snigireva) of 22nd Galway Topology Colloquium <https://maths.nuigalway.ie/galwaytopology/> on June 4-5, 2024
  - PhD external examiner at UCC, November 2024
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### Mc Gettrick, Michael

#### Current research interests

I carry out research in:

- Quantum Computing (main research area), in particular quantum walks, quantum games, and general quantum algorithms
- Mathematics of transport (infeasibility factors for networks)
- Mathematics and computation in music (Kolmogorov Complexity, compression, information content and structure in traditional Irish dance music)

#### Research activities

- One PhD student (Ian Craig)
  - One research masters student (Noah Shore)
  - External PhD examiner, Polish Academy of Sciences, January 2025.
  - Member of the Programme Committee for GECCO (The Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference), July 2025, Málaga.
  - Conferences: (1) *9th. International Congress on Mathematics and Computation in Music*, June 2024, Coimbra, Portugal, (2) *11th. International conference on Quantum Simulation and Quantum Walks*, January 2025, Naples, Italy
  - Member of the Irish Mathematical Society
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### Newell, John

#### Current research interests

My current research interests are in the development and application of statistical methods in clinical research, health data science, sports science and Translational Statistics.

#### Research outputs

Please list up to five of your recent (most significant) publications or provide such details in the bibliography below.

#### Recent publications

- [1] Daniels D, Roshan D, Lewis N, Newell J, et al. Early warning system for player recovery? A series of case studies illustrating the application of individualised adaptive reference ranges in the longitudinal blood monitoring of English Premier League soccer players. *Biomarkers*, , 1-14, (2025).
- [2] de Paula Oliveira T, Newell J. A hierarchical approach for evaluating athlete performance with an application in elite basketball. *Scientific Reports*, 14, 1717 (2024).

- [3] Morrissey E.C., O'Grady L, Murphy PJ, Newell J, et al. Supporting GPs and people with hypertension to maximise medication use to control blood pressure: a pilot cluster RCT of the MIAMI intervention. *BMC Primary Care*, 25, 394 (2024).
- [4] Casey D, Doyle P, Gallagher N, Newell J, et al. The Comprehensive Resilience-building psychosocial Intervention (CREST) for people with dementia in the community: a feasibility and acceptability study. *Pilot Feasibility Study*, 10, 136 (2024).
- [5] 'Genes positively regulated by Mef2c in cortical neurons are enriched for common genetic variation associated with IQ and educational attainment'. L Fahey, D Ali, G Donohoe, P Ó Broin, DW Morris. *Human Molecular Genetics* 32 (22), 3194-3203 (2023).

## Research activities

- Grants:  
CURAM (funded PI with one 1 Postdoctoral Researcher), Insight (funded PI with one 1 Postdoctoral Researcher), HRB Primary Care Clinical Trials Network Ireland (Biostatistician).
- Postgraduates:  
Current Postgraduates: 2 PhD students, 2 co-supervised PhD students in the University of Limerick.
- Software:  
R package 'DynNom' for generating Dynamic Nomograms, 81,000+ downloads to date.

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## Ó Broin, Pilib

### Current research interests

My research interests lie primarily in clinical/translational bioinformatics with a particular focus on the development and application of machine learning methods for genomic data in the cancer, immunology, and neuroscience domains.

### Research outputs

- [1] 'Surrogate Biomarker Prediction from Whole-Slide Images for Evaluating Overall Survival in Lung Adenocarcinoma'. P Murchan, AM Baird, P Ó Broin, O Sheils, SP Finn. *Diagnostics* 14 (5), 462 (2024)
- [2] 'Computational approaches and challenges in the analysis of circRNA data'. B Digby, S Finn, P Ó Broin. *BMC genomics* 25 (1), 527 (2024)
- [3] 'Deep feature batch correction using ComBat for machine learning applications in computational pathology'. P Murchan, P Ó Broin, AM Baird, O Sheils, SP Finn. *Journal of Pathology Informatics* 15, 100396 (2024)
- [4] 'Predictive modelling of brain disorders with magnetic resonance imaging: A systematic review of modelling practices, transparency, and interpretability in the use of convolutional neural networks'. S O'Connell, DM Cannon, P Ó Broin. *Human Brain Mapping* 44 (18), 6561-6574 (2023).

## Research activities

- My research group this year included: 3 postdoctoral researchers, 9 PhD students, 1 research assistant, 1 ERASMUS student, and 1 undergraduate research placement student from Notre Dame. 2 PhD students, Mariel Barbachan e Silva and Pierre Murchan (TCD), submitted their theses.
- Active Research funding: SFI CRT in Genomics Data Science, SFI ADAPT Centre, SFI Frontiers for the Future, DBEI (DTIF), HEA (North-South Research Programme). I also led an successful institutional application to secure HPC equipment as part of the decommissioning of ICHEC's national HPC infrastructure (Kay).
- External activities: Executive board member, Translational Medicine Alliance Ireland (TMAI); External advisory board, SEARCH (IHI) project (TTMI); Management committee member, COST action CA22103; International Programme Committee, Bioinformatics 2025, Chair, Organizing committee, VIBE-ICBG 2024.
- Memberships: European Association for Cancer Research (EACR); International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB); Irish Society for Human Genetics (ISHG); European Society for Human Genetics (ESHG); Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA); ELIXIR Machine Learning Focus Group (MLFG).

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## O'Leary, Neil

### Current research interests

A wide range of methodological interests; in particular the design and analysis of clinical trials, multilevel modelling of clustered and longitudinal data, along with other applied research interests in causal inference in observational studies, survey techniques and missing data.

### Recent publications

- [1] E. Woelders, Y. Onuma, K. Ninomiya, N. O'Leary, et al. Parsimonious versus extensive bleeding score: can we simplify risk stratification after percutaneous coronary intervention and reduce bleeding events by de-escalation of the antiplatelet strategy? *Open Heart*, 12:e003083, 2025.

- [2] S. Kageyama, N. O’Leary, P. Revaiah, K. Ninomiya, S. Masuda, *et al.* Quantitative flow ratio for the prediction of coronary events after percutaneous coronary intervention. *EuroIntervention*, 20(1):104, 2024.
- [3] H. Hara, N. O’Leary, M. Ono, Y. Onuma, P.W. Serruys. A comparison of risk prediction models for patients with acute coronary syndromes. *EuroIntervention*, 17(16):1362, 2022.
- [4] K. Ninomiya, S. Kageyama, H. Shiomi, N. Kotoku, S. Masuda, P.C. Revaiah, *et al.* Can machine learning aid the selection of percutaneous vs surgical revascularization? *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 82(22):2113, 2023.
- [5] H. Hara, N. O’Leary, M. Ono, Y. Onuma, P.W. Serruys. A comparison of risk prediction models for patients with acute coronary syndromes. *EuroIntervention*, 17(16):1362, 2022.

### Research activities

- PhD supervision: Nirdesh Bakshi, *Statistical Methods for Missing Data in Randomised Controlled Trials*.
- Collaboration with the CORRIB Research Center for Advanced Imaging and Core laboratory on a number of applied projects.
- Collaboration with the Health Research Board Trials Methodology Research Network on iHealth Facts health literacy project.
- Reviewer for *NIHR Journals Library Health Technology Assessments* and reviewer for *BMJ Open*.

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### Pfeiffer, Götz

#### Current research interests

Reflection groups, hyperplane arrangements, Orlik-Solomon algebras, Hecke algebras, Chow rings of matroids, equivariant log concavity, formal concept analysis.

#### Recent publications

- [1] Eirini Chavli and Götz Pfeiffer. Centers of Hecke Algebras of Complex Reflection Groups. *Beiträge zur Algebra und Geometrie* **65** (2024), no. 2, 319–336
- [2] J. Matthew Douglass, Götz Pfeiffer and Gerhard Röhrle. Invariants and semi-invariants in the cohomology of the complement of a reflection arrangement. arXiv:2009.12847, to appear in *Math. Ann.*
- [3] Koushik Paul and Götz Pfeiffer. Computing Young’s Natural Representations for Generalized Symmetric Groups. arXiv:2412.11223.
- [4] Eirini Chavli and Götz Pfeiffer. The BMM Symmetrising Trace Conjecture for Families of Complex Reflection Groups of Rank Two. arXiv:2503.05259

### Research activities

- June 12–15, 2024: Research Visit University of Stuttgart.
- June 16–21, 2024: Oberwolfach Workshop *Arrangements, Matroids and Logarithmic Vector Fields*.
- June 23–28 2024: Oberwolfach Research Fellows.
- Papers refereed: 8.
- MathSciNet Reviews: 7.
- Editorial Board Member: *Journal of Symbolic Computation*; *Mathematical Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*.
- Member: Irish Mathematical Society; American Mathematical Society.

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### Pfeiffer, Kirsten

#### Current research interests

I’m interested in task design in the teaching of mathematics at university level, in particular in students’ practice of evaluation exercises and possible learning effects of these. Together with my PhD student Latifah Mustofa Lestyanto I am currently studying *commognition theory* and consider its applicability and appropriateness as a framework for development of teaching and learning activities of mathematical proof.

I’m also interested in the role of mathematics support centres from a sociocultural point of view, in models for tutor training and accrediting systems for this as well as in research about usage and accessibility of online mathematics resources.

#### Recent publications

- [1] Pfeiffer, K. Mathematics Learning Support – Linking Practice to Research in the New Normal. *MSOR Connections*, Vol. 21, No. 3, 2023.
- [2] Pfeiffer, K., Welby, M., & Crowley, J. The IMLSN Online Resources Website: Sharing Maths Resources. *Ninth Conference on Research in Mathematics Education in Ireland (MEI 9)*, 2023.
- [3] O’Sullivan, C., Grove, M., Mac an Bhaird, C. Mulligan, P., Pfeiffer, K. Recognizing professional development of mathematics and statistics learning support staff. *Teaching Mathematics and its Applications: An International Journal of the IMA*, 2024.

### Research activities

- Supervision of the PhD research of Latifah Mustofa Lestyanto.
- Conference paper and presentation at the *Fourteenth Congress of the European Society for Research in Mathematics Education for Research in Mathematics Education (CERME 14)*, February 4th - 8st 2025, Bolzano (Italy), together with Latifah Mustofa Lestyanto.

- Collaboration with colleagues from five other Irish HE institutions to provide shared mathematics support learning resources on the Irish Maths Learning Support Network (IMLSN) website.

## Poddar, Nanda

### Current research interests

My research interests lie in understanding complex hydrodynamic transport phenomena in diverse flow systems through analytical techniques and computational modeling. I focus on reactive solute transport in steady and oscillatory flows, including magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) effects, with emphasis on chemical kinetics and boundary interactions. A key objective is developing predictive pollutant dispersion models in natural and engineered environments. I also study sediment transport in the wetland and channel flows, which is crucial for understanding contaminant dynamics. My current work extends to active particle transport, including micro-swimmers and microplastics, using individual-based and continuum models in environmental and biological contexts. Additionally, I investigate lubricated gravity currents relevant to glacial and industrial systems and model viscous fingering instabilities to understand pattern formation at fluid interfaces.

### Recent publications

- [1] G. Saha, **N. Poddar**, K. K. Mondal, and P. Wang. Evolution of concentration distribution and removal of a solute in MHD Channel Flow: effects of buoyancy-driven force and induced magnetic field. *Proc. R. Soc. A*, 480:20240091, 2024. (link)
- [2] **N. Poddar**, G. Saha, S. Dhar, B. S. Mazumder, and K. K. Mondal. Effect of phase exchange kinetics on Taylor dispersion of chemically reactive solutes in an oscillatory magnetohydrodynamics flow between two parallel plates. *Phys. Fluids*, 36(5):053601, 2024. (link)
- [3] **N. Poddar** and P. Wang. Transport of reactive contaminant in a wetland flow with the effects of reversible and irreversible reactions on the bed surface. *Int. Commun. Heat Mass Transfer*, 157:107709, 2024. (link)
- [4] R. Srinivasa, S. Barik, and **N. Poddar**. Effects of bulk and wall chemical reactions on hydrodynamic dispersion of a solute in a couple stress fluid. *Phys. Rev. Fluids*, 10(1):014502, 2025. (link)
- [5] S. Dhar, **N. Poddar**, and K. K. Mondal. Vertical concentration distribution of fine settling particles in a pulsatile laminar open channel flow. *Eur. J. Mech. B Fluids*, 109:309-323, 2025. (link)

## Research activities

- Awarded the Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship (total amount: €112,986.50) from the Irish Research Council (now Research Ireland).
- Co-organising the 21st Workshop on Numerical Methods for Problems with Layer Phenomena, April 2025, University of Galway, Ireland.
- Invited to deliver research talks in the coming weeks at the University of Manchester (Physical and Applied Mathematics Seminar Series), the University of Oxford (Soft Matter Journal Club Series), the University of York (Mathematical Biology Series), and the University of Cambridge (Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics).

## Quinlan, Rachel

### Current research interests

My primary research interest is in combinatorial and algebraic aspects of matrix theory, especially in rank properties for matrix subspaces, and the combinatorics of alternating sign matrices.

Another area of activity is in the relationship between mathematics and the visual arts, especially tessellation origami. I am interested in the effectiveness of art as a means of mathematical expression and communication, and also mathematical discovery.

I am also interested in the teaching and learning of mathematics in higher education.

### Research outputs

- [1] Rachel Quinlan, *Frieze decompositions of wallpaper patterns: origami models for the cmm class*, Proceedings of the 2024 Bridges Conference, [bridgesmathart.org](https://bridgesmathart.org), 2024.
- [2] Dana Saleh and Rachel Quinlan, *2-uniform covering groups of elementary abelian 2-groups*, Communications in Algebra, Vol. 52, no. 2. 630-656, 2024.
- [3] Rachel Quinlan, *Interchangeable Origami Wallpaper Patterns*, Proceedings of the 2023 Bridges Conference, [bridgesmathart.org](https://bridgesmathart.org), 2023.
- [4] Cian O'Brien and Rachel Quinlan. *Alternating sign matrices of finite multiplicative order*, Linear Algebra and its Applications, Vol. 631, 332-358, 2022.
- [5] Rachel Quinlan, Moumita Shau and Fernando Szechtman. *Linear diophantine equations in several variables*, Linear Algebra and its Applications, Vol. 630, 67-90, 2022.

## Research activities

- Supervising PhD students: Badriah Safarji (with Cian O'Brien), and Colin McDonagh.
- Presentations in 2024: ICEDIM Women in Mathematics Day (Limerick), and at the Bridges Conference (Richmond, Virginia), Ian Dangerfield public lecture (Hamilton Institute, Maynooth University).
- Guest editor for Linear Algebra and its Applications, and PRIMUS.
- Managing editor of *IMAGE*, a biannual publication of ILAS.
- Current president of the Irish Mathematical Society.

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## Roshan, Davood

### Current research interests

My primary research interest is in the longitudinal analysis of clinical biomarkers. In particular, I am interested in developing statistical models and algorithms to generate adaptive reference regions from high dimensional streaming data from medical devices. The development of early-warning systems in real-time will be a key enabler for enhanced patient monitoring and care. I also have special interest in Translational Statistics, Data Visualisations and Data Science with a focus on developing predictive tools.

### Research outputs

- Davood Roshan, Kishor Das, Diarmuid Daniels, Paul Catterson, Charles R Pedlar, and John Newell. Adaptive Reference Ranges: From A to Z. *Plos One*. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0323133
- Diarmuid Daniels, Davood Roshan, Nathan A. Lewis, John Newell, Georgie Bruinvels, Paul Catterson, Jamie Harley, Micheal Newell, Andrew Barr, and Charles R. Pedlar and. Early warning system for player recovery? a series of case studies illustrating the application of individualised adaptive reference ranges in the longitudinal blood monitoring of english premier league soccer players. *Biomarkers*, 0(0):1–14, 2025. PMID: 40013720.
- Timothy McAleese, Neil Welch, Enda King, Davood Roshan, Niamh Keane, Kieran A Moran, Mark Jackson, Daniel Withers, Ray Moran, and Brian M Devitt. Primary anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction in level 1 athletes: Factors associated with return to play, reinjury, and knee function at 5 years of follow-up. *The American Journal of Sports Medicine*. 2025;53(4):777-790. doi:10.1177/03635465241313386

## Research activities

- Grants (successful):
  - HRB Secondary Data Analysis Projects, *Riding Towards Safety: Advancing Concussion Identification, Prevention and Care in Irish Horse-Racing* (€173,125.00, co-PI).
  - Hardiman Scholarship (€110,000), (PI): to supervise a PhD student in Biostatistics, University of Galway, Ireland.
  - MedTrain+ Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme at CÚRAM, *An Efficient Deep Learning Framework for Predicting Gene Expression from Histopathology Images in Ovarian Cancer Patients* (€135,000.00, PI) (PI)
- Grants (pending):
  - Science Foundation Ireland Frontiers for the Future Programme, *Detecting and Mitigating Against New and Emerging Cyber Threats in Irish Internet Traffic using Longitudinal Machine Learning* (€935,532.00, Collaborator).
  - 1 Hardiman PhD application (PI)
- Delivered keynote talk titled "*rAdIology: A statistical perspective*" at the RCSI Faculty of Radiologists and Radiation Oncologists Management in Imaging Meeting (April 2025).
- Delivered invited talk titled "*Challenge Your Limits!*" at the Department of Mathematics seminar series, University of Limerick (February 2025).
- Funded Investigator at CÚRAM.
- 2 PhD student, 2 Postdoctoral Researcher.
- Memberships: Young-ISA, Irish Statistical Association, International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, International Biometric Society, Statistical Modelling Society.

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## Rossmann, Tobias

### Current research interests

My research is in algebra and neighbouring fields. My main research focus is on zeta functions arising from algebraic counting problems. Key themes include explicit computations and a ubiquitous dichotomy between tame and (geometrically) wild behaviour.

### Recent publications

- [1] T. Rossmann and C. Voll, *Groups, graphs, and hypergraphs: average sizes of kernels of generic matrices with support constraints*. *Mem. Amer. Math. Soc.* 294 (2024), no. 1465, v+120 pp.

- [2] A. Carnevale, V. D. Moustakas, and T. Rossmann, *From coloured permutations to Hadamard products and zeta functions*. *Sém. Lothar. Combin.* 91B (2024), Art. 56, 12 pp.
- [3] T. Rossmann, *On the enumeration of orbits of unipotent groups over finite fields*. *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* 153 (2025), no. 2, 479–495.
- [4] A. Carnevale, V. D. Moustakas, and T. Rossmann, *Coloured shuffle compatibility, Hadamard products, and ask zeta functions*. To appear in *Bull. Lond. Math. Soc.*, arXiv:2407.01387, 21 pages.

## Research activities

- I am co-PI (jointly with A. Carnevale) on a Research Ireland Frontiers for the Future Project on *Machine learning and explicit computations of zeta functions in algebra* (2024–2028, grant no. 22/FFP-P/11449). This grant currently funds PhD students M. Falciaiore and L. Prosperi and postdoctoral researcher A. Baykalov (see below).
- I gave an invited research-level course on *Enumerating orbits of groups* at the Research Programme *Combinatorial Methods in Enumerative Algebra*, ICTS Bangalore, India (December 2024).
- I co-organised *Groups in Galway 2024* (with A. Carnevale and J. Maglione; May 2024) and *Symbolic Enumeration in Algebra* (with A. Carnevale, P. Lins, J. Maglione, and C. Voll; July 2024 and May 2025).
- I am a member of the Editorial Board of *Experimental Mathematics*.
- I currently supervise three PhD students: D. Cormican (since 2023), M. Falciaiore (co-supervised by A. Carnevale, since 2024), L. Prosperi (co-supervised by A. Carnevale, since 2024). I am also mentoring a postdoctoral researcher, A. Baykalov (since 2025).

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## Ryan, Ray

### Current research interests

Functional Analysis: polynomial and holomorphic functions on complex Banach spaces and Banach lattices; tensor products of Banach lattices.

### Recent publications

- [1] C. Boyd, R. Ryan, N. Snigireva. A Nakano carrier theorem for polynomials. *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* 151(4):1621–1635, 2023.
- [2] C. Boyd, R. Ryan, N. Snigireva. Holomorphic functions on complex Banach lattices. *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* (to appear)

## Research activities

- Exciting activities go here

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## Seoighe, Cathal

### Current research interests

Research interests are mainly in genomics (especially cancer genomics) and molecular evolution; in particular, development and application of models and computational methods to analyze molecular sequence evolution and gene expression data and the analysis of genomic data in order to generate insights into the links between genomic and phenotypic variation.

### Research outputs

### Recent publications

- [1] H. Anthony and C. Seoighe. Performance assessment of computational tools to detect microsatellite instability. *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, 25(5):bbae390, 2024.
- [2] S. Matthews, V. Nikoonejad Fard, M. Tollis, and C. Seoighe. Variable gene copy number in cancer-related pathways is associated with cancer prevalence across mammals. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 42(3):msaf056, 2025.
- [3] T. Medina, S. O. Hynes, M. Lowery, P. Gillespie, W. Kolch, and C. Seoighe. Overview of molecular diagnostics in Irish clinical oncology. *HRB Open Research*, 7:16, 2024.
- [4] S. Rosean, E. A. Sosa, D. O’Shea, S. M. Raj, C. Seoighe, and J. M. Grealley. Regulatory landscape enrichment analysis (rlea): a computational toolkit for non-coding variant enrichment and cell type prioritization. *BMC bioinformatics*, 25(1):179, 2024.
- [5] Y. Zhong, C. Seoighe, and H. Yang. Non-negative matrix factorization combined with kernel regression for the prediction of adverse drug reaction profiles. *Bioinformatics Advances*, 4(1):vbae009, 2024.

## Research activities

- Scientific Director of the SFI Centre for Research Training in Genomics Data Science
  - Research group consists of one postdoctoral researcher, 4 PhD students (principal supervisor) and one co-supervised PhD student
  - Co-applicant on the Irish Medicines – Personalised Advanced Cellular Therapies (IMPACT) Research Centre proposal submitted March 2025
  - Collaborator on Biotope2 Sustainable Development Goals Challenge project to predict severity of childhood pneumonia in Malawi.
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## Sharifian, Nastaran

### Current research interests

My primary research interests include longitudinal and survival analysis, functional data analysis, high-dimensional data modelling, and advanced statistical and machine learning methods, particularly in clinical and health-related applications. My Research focuses on developing novel statistical methods starting from data-motivated problems, where either the existing methods are not adequate, or there is no methodology for data analysis.

### Research activities

- May 2024: "Automating functional data analysis in real time" Presented as an oral lecture at the 44th Conference on Applied Statistics in Ireland, School of Mathematics and Statistics, University College Dublin, Ireland.
- July 2024: "Automating functional data analysis in real time: an application to pressure sensor data in the treatment of venous leg ulcers". Presented as an oral lecture at the 45th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB45), Thessaloniki-Greece.
- September 2024: Invited Speaker at Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland
- September 2024 - March 2025: Supervised a final year project, Nathaniel Troy and Ruth Canavan, Data Science at the University of Galway, "Predicting life satisfaction based on socio-economic and health indicators using neural networks".
- February 2025: Conference paper submission, Sharifian, N., Simpkin, A., "Multivariate functional principal component analysis to predict exercise type in compression therapy". Submitted as an oral presentation at the 39th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM 2025), University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland.

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## Simpkin, Andrew

### Current research interests

Multilevel functional data; derivative estimation; longitudinal GWAS

### Recent publications

- [1] A. J. Simpkin, et al.. Effect of early and later prone positioning on outcomes in invasively ventilated COVID-19 patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome: analysis of the prospective COVID-19 critical care consortium cohort study. *Annals of Intensive Care*, 15(1):22, 2025.

- [2] S. Golovkine, E. Gunning, A. J. Simpkin, N. Bargary. On the estimation of the number of components in multivariate functional principal component analysis. *Communications in Statistics*, 2025.
- [3] A. Großbach, ..., A. J. Simpkin. Maximizing insights from longitudinal epigenetic age data: simulations, applications, and practical guidance. *Clinical Epigenetics*, 16(1):187, 2024.

### Research activities

- Current research grants:
  - Simpkin AJ (PI). Insight-Endotronix Targeted Project. December 2024 to April 2026 €220,000
  - Simpkin AJ, Hynes N (co-PIs). HealAsyst: A multifactorial wound treatment monitoring system for intelligent healing of chronic wounds. April 2023 to March 2026; €1,214,000;
  - Simpkin AJ (PI), Bargary N. Modelling sensor data in recreational runners. Insight Platform Research Budget. February 2022 to January 2026; €112,000;
  - Simpkin AJ, Bargary N (co-PIs). Functional data Analysis for Sensor Technology. SFI Frontiers for the Future project. December 2020 to November 2024; €467,569;
- Graduate students: Anna Großbach *Longitudinal epigenetics*; John Andrew *Longitudinal functional data*; Solomon Beer *Lifecourse modelling with time varying covariates*
- Postdoctoral researchers: Autumn O'Donnell *Longitudinal functional data analysis for pulmonary pressure waveforms*; Nastaran Sharifian *Modelling multivariate sensor data*; Kishor Shirsat *Designing studies for sensor data*; Yueyun Zhu *Developments and applications in multivariate and multilevel FDA*

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## Sköldberg, Emil

### Current research interests

Combinatorial and homological algebra.

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## Snigireva, Nina

### Current research interests

Currently I am interested in the existence and properties of attractors and invariant measures for Iterated Function Systems. I am also investigating polynomials and holomorphic functions on Banach Lattices.

## Recent publications

- [1] C. Boyd, R. Ryan, N. Snigireva, Holomorphic Functions on Complex Banach Lattices *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*, to appear.
- [2] K. Lesniak, N. Snigireva, F. Strobini, A. Vince, Highly Non-contractive Iterated Function Systems on Euclidean Space Can Have an Attractor, *Journal of Dynamics and Differential Equations*, published online June 2024.
- [3] K. Lesniak, N. Snigireva, F. Strobini, Topological prevalence of variable speed of convergence in the deterministic chaos game, *Rev. Real Acad. Cienc. Exactas Fis. Nat. Ser. A-Mat.* **118**, 157 (2024).
- [4] Sandhya Chandrasekaran, Francisco Santibanez, Bharat B. Tripathi, Ryan DeRuitter, Ruth Vorder Bruegge, and Gianmarco Pinton. In situ ultrasound imaging of shear shock waves in the porcine brain. *Journal of Biomechanics*, 110913, 2022.
- [5] Bharat B. Tripathi, Sandhya Chandrasekaran, and Gianmarco Pinton. Super-resolved shear shock focusing in the human head. *Brain Multiphysics*, **2**, 100033, 2021.
- [6] Sandhya Chandrasekaran, Bharat B. Tripathi, David Espindola, and Gianmarco Pinton. Modeling ultrasound propagation in the moving brain: applications to shear shock waves and traumatic brain injury. *IEEE Trans. Ultras., Ferr. Freq. Cont.*, **68**(1), 201-212, 2021.
- [7] Bharat B. Tripathi, David Espindola, and Gianmarco F. Pinton. Modeling and Simulations of Two Dimensional Propagation of Shear Shock Waves in Relaxing Soft Solids, *J. Comput. Phys.*, **395**: 205-222, 2019.
- [8] Bharat B. Tripathi, David Espindola, and Gianmarco F. Pinton. Piecewise parabolic method for propagation of shear shock waves in relaxing soft solids: one dimensional case, *Int. J. Numer. Meth. Biomed. Engg.* **35**(5):e3187, 2019.

## Research activities

- Seminar talk at the Dynamical Systems Seminar, The Open University, UK, 13th November 2024.
- Seminar talk at the Set Theory and Topology Seminar, the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Poland, 23 May 2024.
- *On Existence of Attractors for Noncontractive Iterated Function Systems*, contributed talk at the conference Inspirations in Real Analysis II, Bedlewo, Poland, 14-19 April 2024.
- Co-organised (with Aisling McCluskey) *22nd Galway Topology Colloquium*, 4-5 June, 2024.
- Reviewing and refereeing.

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## Tripathi, Bharat B.

### Current research interests

My current research interest is in modeling and simulation of shear shock waves in brain in context of traumatic brain injury. This involves development of novel nonlinear continuum mechanics models, construction of state-of-the-art numerical algorithms like discontinuous Galerkin method, development of machine learning tools for optimization, prediction, calibration etc. In general, I am motivated to research in the field of computational mechanics to bring together the aspects of physics and mathematical/scientific computing with the theory of statistics. The amalgamation of the three for modeling propagation of information/material in biomedical applications, remains the overarching theme of his research.

## Recent publications

- [1] Oisín Morrison, Michel Destradé, **Bharat B. Tripathi**. An atlas of the heterogeneous viscoelastic brain with local power-law attenuation synthesised using Prony-series. *Acta Biomaterialia*, 2023.

## Research activities

- Oral presentation in *6th Oxford International Neuron and Brain Mechanics Workshop* (April 19-20, 2021), Oxford, UK.
- Oral presentation in *2020 IEEE International Ultrasonics Symposium* (September 7-11, 2020), Las Vegas, USA.
- Oral presentation in *11<sup>th</sup> European Solid Mechanics Conference (ESMC 2022)* (July 4-8, 2022), University of Galway, Ireland. (Oral).

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## Wilson, Paul

### Current research interests

I am a statistical modeller, I am especially interested in developing techniques related to modelling *discrete data*, especially where this data is *zero-inflated* or *zero-deflated* –that is, it contains more or fewer zeros than can reasonably be accounted for by a given statistical model, but I am open to other pursuits. For example in recent times I have modelled data concerning orthopaedics, article citations, reserach evaluation and maternal iron deficiency anaemia in pregnancy. I am also proud to have published two papers with “pig-slurry” in the title!

- I am working on extending methods previously developed (with Jochen Einbeck of Durham University) to assess zero-inflation/deflation relative to Poisson models to two parameter models, such as negative-binomial models and Poisson-inverse Gaussian models.

- I am very interested in *mid-p-value techniques*. “Traditional”  $p$ -values were developed with models for continuous data in mind, and often leave much to be desired when applied to discrete data. *mid-p-values* not only have numerous advantages when used in connection with modelling discrete data, but are equivalent to traditional  $p$ -values when applied to continuous data. Using mid- $p$ -value techniques I have developed revised tables of the critical values of the Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney  $U$ -test, which may be shown to lead to an “improved” version of this test.
- With Prof. Neil Ashwood of the Burton and Derby NHS trust I am investigating factors that lead to readmission of orthopaedic patients to UK hospitals.

## Research outputs

### Recent publications

- [1] P. Wilson An Updated Wilcoxon–Mann–Whitney Test *Developments in Statistical Modelling*, Pages 159–165, 2024
- [2] P. Wilson with N. Ashwood and others. Outcomes for Centenarian Patients Admitted with Orthopaedic Trauma *The Surgeon*, 2024
- [3] P. Wilson and J. Einbeck A new and intuitive test for zero-modification *Statistical Modelling*, 2018

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## Yang, Haixuan

### Current research interests

My focus is in Bioinformatics & Statistical Modelling, especially of network data such as protein-protein interactions, co-expression, and functional similarity. A bio-molecular network can be viewed as a collection of nodes, representing the bio-molecules, connected by links, representing relations between the bio-molecules. I am working on inferring valuable information from bio-molecular networks.

### Research outputs

Please list up to five of your recent (most significant) publications or provide such details in the bibliography below.

### Recent publications

- [1] S. de Siqueira Santos, H. Yang, A. Galeano, A. Paccanaro. Host centric drug repurposing for viral diseases. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 21(4): e1012876. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1012876>, 2025.

- [2] Y. Zhong, C. Seoighe, H. Yang. Non-Negative matrix factorization combined with kernel regression for the prediction of adverse drug reaction profiles. *Bioinformatics Advances*, 4(1):vbae009, 2024.
- [3] M. Timilsina, V. Nováček, M. d’Aquin, H. Yang. Boundary heat diffusion classifier for a semi-supervised learning in a multilayer network embedding. *Neural Networks*, 156:205-217, 2022.
- [4] M. Torres, H. Yang, A.E. Romero, A. Paccanaro. Protein function prediction for newly sequenced organisms. *Nature Machine Intelligence*, 3(12):1050-1060, 2021.

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## Zhu, Yueyun

### Current research interests

I work in functional data analysis. Currently, my research focuses on derivative estimation for functional data. I am interested in developing new methodologies to estimate derivatives of multivariate and/or multilevel functional data within the framework of functional principal component analysis.

### Recent publications

- [1] Zhu, Y., Fezzi, S., Bargary, N., Ding, D., Scarsini, R., Lunardi, M., ...& Simpkin, A. J. (2025). Validation of Machine-Learning Angiography-Derived Physiological Pattern of Coronary Artery Disease. *European Heart Journal-Digital Health*, accepted.
- [2] Zhu, Y., Golovkine, S., Bargary, N., Simpkin, A. J. (2025). Derivative Estimation of Multivariate Functional Data. *Computational Statistics & Data Analysis*, under review.

### Research activities

- Conference talk: Estimation and application of derivative multivariate functional principal component analysis. 32nd International Biometric Conference (IBC), Dec 2024, Atlanta, USA.

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## Zurlo, Giuseppe

### Current research interests

I am interested at how elasticity can be employed to describe the behavior of solids in a broad range of scales, from the sub-cellular level, to the macroscopic level of the material. I have worked on the modelling of damage of rubber, on the nonlinear elastic response of functionally graded materials, on coupled electro-elastic instabilities, on biological growth and additive manufacturing.

I have fruitful collaborations with researchers from my own university (V.Balbi, M.Destrade, E.McIvoy) and from a broad international network: India (A.Khurana,

M.Joglekar - IIT Roorkee), France (L.Truskinovsky - ESPCI Paris, A.Erlich - Grenoble, P. Recho - Grenoble, T.Lecuit - Marseille), Israel (R.Segev - U.Negev, M.Moshe - Jerusalem), Italy (G.Tomassetti - RomaTre, R.Paroni - Pisa, M.Ciavarella and S.Campanelli - Bari).

I am currently co-supervising 1 PhD thesis (Thomas Hayes co-supervised by Eoin McEvoy).

## Recent publications

- [1] Erlich A., Zurlo G., The geometric nature of homeostatic stress in biological growth (submitted 2024)
- [2] Erlich A., Zurlo G., Incompatibility-driven growth and size control during development, *J. Mech. Phys. Solids*, 188, 105660 (2024)
- [3] Renzi D., Marfia S., Tomassetti G., Zurlo G., A discrete model for layered growth, *European J. Of Mechanics A-Solids*, 105, 105232, 2024.
- [4] Venkata S.P., Balbi V., Destrade M., Zurlo G., Designing necks and wrinkles in inflated auxetic membranes, *International Journal Of Mechanical Sciences*, 268, 109031, 2024.
- [5] Alibakhshi A., Rahmanian S., Destrade M., Zurlo G., Local and global dynamics of a functionally graded dielectric elastomer plate, *International Journal Of Engineering Science*, 195, 103987, 2024.

## Research activities

- In February 2025, during my Sabbatical Leave, I gave a 20 hours PhD course on *Nonlinear Elasticity* at the Politecnico di Bari, Italy.
- Since March 2025, I am a collaborator in the French ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) successful proposal AAPG2024 “Growsize” PI Alexander Erlich, total funding 400k€, sector CES45 “Interfaces: mathematiques, sciences du numerique, biologie, sante”.

## 7 Visitors

**Brooksbank, Peter A. (Bucknell University)**

Visiting: J. Maglione

Dates of visit: 26 June 2024 – 6 July 2024 Worked together with Eamonn O’Brien, James Wilson, and Joshua Maglione on research and finishing the paper titled ‘Categorification of characteristic structures’.

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**Fracina, Dalila. Università del Salento, Lecce (Italy)**

Visiting: Giuseppe Zurlo

Dates of visit: 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024

Dalila has worked at her MSc Thesis in Mathematics, featuring me as external supervisor, on the topic of growing solids. She also took part to the Stokes Workshop.

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**Farrell, Patrick. (University of Oxford)**

Visiting: Niall Madden

Dates of visit: July and August, 2024

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**Lee, Seungjai (Incheon National University)**

Visiting: J. Maglione

Dates of visit: 26 January 2025 – 1 February 2025

### Research activity

Worked together on submodule and quiver representation zeta functions. We made significant progress and formulated a few conjectures. Lee gave a talk at the School seminar on 30 January.

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**Liu, Chris (Colorado State University)**

Visiting: J. Maglione

Dates of visit: 26 June 2024 – 6 July 2024 Together with Peter Brooksbank, Eamonn O’Brien, James Wilson, and Joshua Maglione we began a new research project related to merging computer algebra systems and theorem checkers. We developed a new framework to join the two, implemented computational prototypes, and proved key statements.

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**O’Brien, Eamonn A. (Auckland University)**

Visiting: J. Maglione

Dates of visit: 30 June 2024 – 11 July 2024

Worked together with Peter Brooksbank, James Wilson, and Joshua Maglione on research and finishing the paper titled ‘Categorification of characteristic structures’.

**Gasanova, Oleksandra (University of Duisburg–Essen)**

Visiting: Emil Sköldberg

Dates of visit: 9th October 2024 – 15th October 2024

Working on binomial ideals in polynomial rings arising from finite partially ordered sets.

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**Phillips, Dylan (Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol) & Evans, Gwion (Ollscoil Aberystwyth)**

Visiting: Fintan Hegarty & Cathal Seoighe

Dates of visit: 6 Meitheamh 2024 – 8 Meitheamh 2024

Tá ollscolaíocht i mBreatnais imithe ó neart go neart le blianta beaga anuas buíochas le Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, eagraíocht a dhéanann maoirseacht ar chúrsaí ollscolaíochta srl. ar fud na tíre.

Thug na haoichainteoirí seo cuairt orainn roimh an cheardlann ar Ollscolaíocht as Gaeilge, chun stair agus staitisticí an Choleg a roinnt linn, na dúshláin a bhí acu a mhíniú agus an chaoi a ndeachaigh siad i ngleic leo.

Chasadar le hionadaithe ó ollscoileanna agus eagraíochtaí leasmhara timpeall na tíre, agus pléadh spríocanna, féidearthachtaí, deiseanna comhoibrithe, agus na cuir chuige is fearr a bhain le hollscolaíocht as Gaeilge sna hábhair STEM, agus scaipeadh tuairisc ar an gceardlann agus na moltaí a d’eascair as go forleathan.

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**Slavíčková, Mária (Department of Education at Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia)**

Visiting: Emma Holian

Dates of visit: 7 April 2025 – 11 April 2025 Mária researches in Teacher Mathematics Education, TPACK, and functional thinking, with an interest in use of software in classroom learning and e-learning in curriculum design. Mária’s visit is supported by the ENLIGHT plus award, contributing to the *Figuring out Y*, (FOY), mathematics community engagement initiative.

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**Voll, Christopher (Bielefeld University)**

Visiting: A. Carnevale, J. Maglione, and T. Rossmann

Dates of visit: 8 May 2024 – 19 May 2024; 6 February 2025 – 19 February 2025 Christopher and Tobias worked on a forthcoming joint paper on “Ask zeta functions of joins of graphs”. This is a direct sequel to their joint monograph (Mem. Amer. Math. Soc. 2024).

Christopher and Josh during the first visit worked on finishing the paper “Hall–Littlewood polynomials, affine Schubert series, and lattice enumeration”. During the second visit, they worked on finishing a research paper on Hecke eigenfunctions coming from Ehrhart theory and starting a new research project. Voll also gave a talk at the School seminar on 13 February.

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**Watson, Stephen (York University, Toronto)**

Visiting: Aisling McCluskey

Dates of visit: 4 Dec 2024 – 6 Dec 2024 Initialisation of new research collaboration; presenting School seminar

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**Wilson, James B. (Colorado State University)**

Visiting: J. Maglione

Dates of visit: 26 June 2024 – 6 July 2024 Worked together with Peter Brooksbank, Eamonn O'Brien, and Joshua Maglione on research and finishing the paper titled 'Categorification of characteristic structures'.

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## 8 Events, Conferences, meetings, and workshops

### Léachtaí le linn Lóin

- [1] Fintan Hegarty, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. *Cás-staidéar idirdhisciplíneachta: Mata a úsáid chun an Ghaeilge agus an domhan a shábháil*, 14/01/2025.
- [2] Timirí STEM as Gaeilge, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. *I mbun comhrá leis na hETIMirí*, 21/01/2025.
- [3] Jenny McCloskey, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. *Siúlóid geolaíochta timpeall na hOllscoile*, 28/01/25.
- [4] Cathal Seoighe, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. *Samhail ar éagothroime léiriú géine mar bhealach chun eolas a fháil ar athraitheach a bhíonn tionchar acu ar an tsláinte*, 04/02/25.
- [5] Cian Nilan, Grúpa Faire na Míolta Móra agus Deilfeanna. *Obair an IWDF & an Eolaíochta Saoránach*, 11/02/25.
- [6] Padraig Ó Catháin, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath. *STEM & Gaeilge: Mo shaol, mo scéal, & mo thuairim f(h)éin*, 18/02/25.
- [7] Dónall Ó hÉigearthaigh, Conradh na Gaeilge. *Ceardlann Gairmeacha le Gaeilge*, 25/02/25.
- [8] Ciara Egan, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. *EEG: Cad is a féidir linn a fhoghlaim ón leictreachas i d'inchinn?*, 04/03/25.
- [9] Ger Hurley, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. *Suiteáil Painéal Gréine Cónaithe*, 18/03/25.
- [10] Amy Uí Ríordáin, Vicipéid. *MeithealWiki: Eolaíocht ar chur chuige comhoibríoch*, 25/03/25.

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### Groups in Galway 2024

**Dates:** 16–17 May 2024

**Speakers:** Alex Evetts (University of Manchester), Anna Giordano Bruno (University of Udine), Itay Glazer (University of Oxford), Waltraud Lederle (Dresden University of Technology), Mireille Soergel (Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences), Mima Stanojkovski (University of Trento), Matteo Vannacci (University of the Basque Country), Andoni Zozaya (University of Ljubljana)

**Organisers:** Angela Carnevale, Joshua Maglione, Tobias Rossmann

**Funders:** Irish Mathematical Society, University of Galway

**Web page:** <https://groupsingalway.github.io/posts/GiG2024>



## Galway Topology Colloquium 2024

**Dates:** 4–5 June 2024

**Speakers:** Paul Bankston (Marquette University, US), K. P. Hart (TU Delft), John C. Mayer (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Anca Mustata (University College Cork), Richard Smith (University College Dublin), Filip Strobín (Lodz University of Technology), Stephen Watson (York University, Toronto)

**Organisers:** Aisling McCluskey, Nina Snigireva

**Funders:** Irish Mathematical Society, University of Galway

**Web page:** <https://maths.nuigalway.ie/galwaytopology/>




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## Ceardlann ar Ollscolaíocht as Gaeilge

**Dates:** 7 June 2024

**Speakers:** Emily Barnes (Trinity College Dublin), Dáithí Mac Cárthaigh (King's Inns), Séamus Ó Coileáin (University of Galway), Rónán Mac Con Iomaire (Údarás na Gaeltachta), Eoghan Mac Conaill Óig (Dublin City University), Eoin Ó Droighneáin (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media), Gwion Evans (University of Aberystwyth), Fintan Hegarty (University of Galway), Alwena Morgan (University of Swansea), Dylan Phillips (Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol), Jerry Reen (University College Cork), Cathal Seoighe (University of Galway), Seathrún Ó Tuairisg (University of Galway)

**Organisers:** Fintan Hegarty, Cathal Seoighe

**Web page:** <https://etim.ie>

### Féile Eolaíochta

**Dates:** 7 March 2025

**Speakers:** John Breslin (University of Galway), Sadhbh Ní Bhearra (University of Galway), Alannah Brophy (Trinity College Dublin), Cian Cairbreach (University of Edinburgh), Dearbháil Ní Chualáin (Údarás na Gaeltachta), Róisín Ní Chinnéide (Conradh na Gaeilge), Jenny McCloskey (University of Galway), Liz Coleman (University of Galway), Macdara Ó Cuaig (Marine Institute), Eoin Ó Droighneáin (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media), Colm Ó hEartáin (University of Galway), Triona Nic Fhinn (An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta), Joe Mac Fhionnghaile, Piaras Ó Giobúin (University of Galway), Fintan Hegarty (University of Galway), Kevin Jennings (University of Galway), Cólín Minto (Atlantic Technological University), Anne Mullen (University of Galway), Rachel Quinlan (University of Galway), Jerry Reen (University College Cork), Kevin Ryan (University of Galway), Cathal Seoighe (University of Galway), Aisling Ní Shé (Kinia), Micheál Mac Sitric (University of Galway)

**Organisers:** Fintan Hegarty, Cathal Seoighe

**Support:** University of Galway

**Web page:** <https://etim.ie/feile-stem>

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## Combinatorial Methods in Enumerative Algebra

**Dates:** 2–13 December 2024

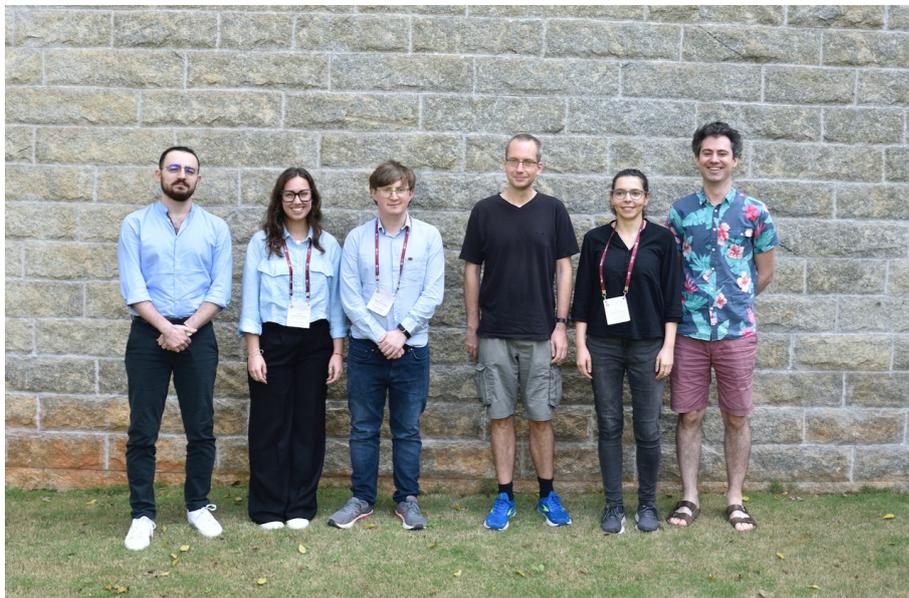
**Speakers:** Amritanshu Prasad (Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai), Angela Carnevale (University of Galway), Apoorva Khare (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), B Sury (Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore), Benjamin Klopsch (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf), Christopher Voll (Bielefeld University), Gemma Crowe (Heriot-Watt University), Joel Brewster Lewis (George Washington University), Josh Maglione (University of Galway), Michael Schein (Bar-Ilan University), Paula Lins (University of Lincoln), Pooja Singla (Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur), Sean Lynch (University of New South Wales), Steffen Kionke (FernUniversität Hagen), Steven Spallone (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune), Tobias Rossmann (University of Galway), Uri Onn (Australian National University, Canberra)

**Organisers:** Angela Carnevale, Uri Onn (Canberra), Amritanshu Prasad (Chennai), Pooja Singla (IIT Kanpur) and Christopher Voll (Bielefeld)

**Location:** ICTS Bangalore (India)

**Funders:** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Government of India, Research Ireland, University of Galway

**Web page:** <https://www.icts.res.in/program/cmea>



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## VIBE-ICBG 2024, Joint Virtual Institute of Bioinformatics and Evolution-Irish Computational Biology and Genomics Symposium



**Dates:** 5th-6th December 2024

**Keynote Speakers:** Prof. Karen Miga University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. Davide Cirillo Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Dr. Elisabeth Bik Harbers Bik LLC **Organisers:** Shir Dahan, Micheál Ó Dálaigh, Anna Grossbach, Harrison Anthony, Mehax Chopra, Kevin Ryan, Sophie Matthews, Javi Villegas Salmerón, Bianca Pasat, Tyler Medina, Sandra Healy, Pilib Ó Broin

**Funders:** CloudCIX, NovoGene, Genseq, CRT in Genomics Data Science, Science Foundation Ireland, University of Galway Office of the Deputy President and Registrar

**Web page:** <https://vibe-icbg.com/>



## 9 School seminar

### School Seminar

- [1] [Mehakpreet Singh](#), University of Limerick. *Efficient Mass-Preserving Finite Volume Approach for the Rennet-Induced Coagulation Equation*, 28/03/2024. (Contact: Niall Madden)
- [2] [Hannah Conroy Broderick](#), University College Dublin. *A simple formula for determining in vivo stress difference in human skin*, 18/04/2024. (Contact: Michel Destrade)
- [3] [Marcelo Dias](#), University of Edinburgh. *Some Investigations on Stress Localization in Thin Elastic Sheets*, 25/04/2024. (Contact: School of Engineering)
- [4] [Doireann O'Kiely](#), University of Limerick. *Moving out of plane: wrinkling and buckling*, 25/04/2024. (Contact: Michel Destrade)
- [5] [Murray Aitkin](#), University of Melbourne. *The Bayesian Bootstrap: the Universal Multinomial Model and non-informative Dirichlet Prior for statistical analysis*, 09/05/2024. (Contact: John Hinde, Carl Scarrott)
- [6] [Christopher Voll](#), Bielefeld University. *Ehrhart theory, Hecke series, and vertex enumeration in affine buildings*, 15/05/2024. (Contact: Joshua Maglione)
- [7] [Svetlana Petrenko](#), University College London. *Mathematical models of diatom frustule patterning*, 23/05/2024. (Contact: Stephan Rudykh)
- [8] [Artur Gower](#), University of Sheffield. *Designing sensors for wind turbines and other big rotating things*, 28/05/2024. (Contact: Valentina Balbi)
- [9] [Tom Shearer](#), University of Manchester. *Mathematical Modelling of Biological Soft Tissues*, 29/05/2024. (Contact: Valentina Balbi)
- [10] [Sairam Pamulaparathi Venkata](#), University of Galway. (*PhD Viva*) *Designing instabilities in inhomogeneous soft auxetic structures*, 18/06/2024.
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- [30] [Michael Mackey](#), University College Dublin. *Fixed points of spin factor automorphisms*, 03/04/2025. (Contact: Nina Snigireva)