

JONAS LIPPUNER

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Fluent languages: English, German

SUMMARY

I am a staff scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory working on computational physics and applied computer science. I enjoy solving challenging problems and learning and applying new methods and concepts to help achieve specific goals. I am well-versed in numerous numerical, mathematical, statistical, and basic machine learning techniques, and I have substantial experience with writing and optimizing parallel code for GPUs.

Physics interests

computational & nuclear astro-physics, core-collapse supernovae, nucleosynthesis, radiation transport

Coding interests

programming for GPUs and FPGAs, large-scale parallel simulations, machine learning, automation

Finance interests

quantitative trading algorithms, automated trading systems, Monte Carlo methods, Bayesian networks

EDUCATION

California Institute of Technology

Pasadena, CA, USA

Oct 2012 – Jun 2017

Ph.D. in Physics

- Investigated where in the universe heavy elements like gold, lead, and uranium were created
- Developed SkyNet, an open source, highly modular software package to adaptively evolve a network of 140,000 nuclear reactions, also includes code to make a movie of the results, and an easy-to-use Python interface; SkyNet is actively being used by several research groups around the world
- Ran parallel scientific codes on national supercomputers (e.g. NCSA Blue Waters, TACC Stampede)
- Served as president of a student club, served as both chair and member of different organizing committees (for local lecture events and an international scientific conference)

University of Manitoba

Winnipeg, MB, Canada

Sep 2008 – May 2012

B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mathematics and Physics

- Graduated with the highest GPA (4.48/4.50, 99.6%) among all undergraduate students (about 2700)
- Received numerous merit-based awards and scholarships, see <http://jonaslippuner.com/awards>

Kantonsschule am Burggraben

St. Gallen, SG, Switzerland

Jul 2007

Schweizerische Maturität (Swiss federal university entrance diploma, equivalent to A-Level certificate)

- Graduating GPA: 5.3/6.0, 88.3%, senior thesis got published in a highly selective book series
- Special subject: Physics and Applied Mathematics, complementary subject: Chemistry
- Implemented a 3D graphical simulation of the solar system for senior thesis

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Communication skills: scientific writing, collaborative writing, data visualization and animation, making high quality graphs and figures, oral and poster presentations (won awards for some of my presentations)

Research skills: finding and understanding relevant literature, formulating and testing hypotheses, asking relevant questions, analyzing and understanding complex processes

Coding skills: parallelizing and optimizing existing code, collaborative development on big coding projects

Algorithms and Techniques

- Optimization and root-finding techniques (e.g. gradient descent, genetic algorithm, Newton–Raphson)
- Various numerical methods (e.g. differentiation, integration, smooth interpolation, Monte Carlo)
- Discretizing and solving partial differential equations (finite difference/element, spectral, discontinuous Galerkin)
- Basic signal processing (e.g. Fourier analysis, wavelet analysis, fast folding, template matching)
- Basic machine learning (neural network basics, convolutional neural networks, deep learning, autoencoder basics)

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PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Highly Proficient

C/C++, NVIDIA CUDA, C#, Python, L^AT_EX, Linux / Unix, git, Eclipse, Microsoft Windows

Substantial Experience

MATLAB, Mathematica, Intel MKL, CMake, Bash, Visual Studio, regex, SWIG, SQL, HTML, CSS, ASP.NET

Working Knowledge

MPI, OpenMP, Fortran, Java, HDF5, Perl, OpenGL, JavaScript, Go, PHP, MySQL, XML, XSLT

EXPERIENCE

Computational Physicist

Computational Physics and Methods, CCS-2

Los Alamos National Laboratory (USA)

since Apr 2018: Staff Scientist
Sep 2017 – Apr 2018: Postdoc

- Computational astrophysics, computational fluid dynamics, and code infrastructure development

Postdoctoral Scholar

Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy

California Institute of Technology (USA)

Jul 2017 – Aug 2017

JPL Graduate Fellow

Deep Space Tracking Systems

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (USA)

Jun 2016 – Sep 2016

- Implemented and accelerated algorithms for pulsar searches and radio astronomy time series analysis with GPUs
- Debugged and improved existing single radio pulse detection pipeline

Intern

CUDA DevTech

NVIDIA Corporation (USA)

Jun 2015 – Sep 2015

- Implemented a prototype library for efficient MPI-style collective communication between multiple GPUs

Volunteer Bookkeeper

Accounting and tax compliance

Small non-profit organization (USA)

Apr 2013 – Jun 2014

- Responsible for all business accounting, financial reports, recording donations, issuing donation receipts, payroll, filing tax documents, and making sure operations comply with requirements for tax exempt status
- Automated recording of donations, generating donation statements, and generating financial reports
- Introduced secure digital record keeping system and monthly wage statements for employees

Research Student

Department of Mathematics

University of Manitoba (Canada)

Summer 2011 & 2012

- Implemented a finite element method with MATLAB to numerically solve partial differential equations

Research Student

Medical Physics Department

CancerCare Manitoba (Canada)

Summer 2009 & 2010

- Developed an open source extension to an existing software package to simulate medical x-ray imaging
- Implemented a parallel Monte Carlo radiation transport for GPUs achieving speedups of 20 – 40 times

Software Engineer, Web Developer

City Clerk's Office

Local Government (Switzerland)

Oct 2007 – Aug 2008: Intern
Sep 2008 – Sep 2009: Contractor

- Developed database back end and front end of City Parliament website
- Developed various small GUI programs to interface with existing software and databases
- Automated or drastically simplified various common repetitive, tedious tasks in the City Clerk's Office

HONORS, PRIZES, AND FELLOWSHIPS (selected, see <http://jonaslippuner.com/cv>)

- **CNLS Fellowship** (Center for Nonlinear Studies, Los Alamos National Laboratory, 2017)
- **Best Talk** (Theoretical Astrophysics in Southern California Meeting, University of California, San Diego, 2014)
- **Governor General's Silver Medal** (for highest standing at the undergraduate level, University of Manitoba, 2012)
- **University Gold Medal in Science** (for highest standing in undergraduate Science, University of Manitoba, 2012)
- **Allen Medal in Physics** (for highest standing in the final two years of Honours Physics or Honours Physics and Mathematics, University of Manitoba, 2012)
- **Best Entry in Physics and Astronomy** (Faculty of Science Poster Competition, University of Manitoba, 2011)