Computational Sustainability: Computing for a Better World

Carla P. Gomes Institute for Computational Sustainability **Department of Computer Science Cornell University**



comp

futureSUSTE

sustainable

Expeditions in Computing (CISE)

Sustainability in the Digital Age **Resilience facing Global Changes** Montreal 2019

computing

power

complex

natural largefisheries

proceedings Vation research structure disciplines

grid networks scale Online related dur

xample an land report

Emergence of Intelligent Machines

Dramatic Progress in Al

Rapid shift in AI research: Academic world → Real-world

• Machine perception is starting to work: finally! after "only" 50+ yrs of research...

→AI systems are starting to *"see"* and *"hear"* (computer vision, speech recognition, natural language understanding)

- Our systems are finally becoming *grounded in (our) world*. Already:
 - super-human face recognition (Facebook)
 - > super-human traffic sign recognition (Nvidia)
- Enabled by qualitative change in the field, driven in part by Big Data & Deep Learning but also other cumulative progress (reasoning, search, reinforcement learning, planning, decision theoretic methods, knowledge representation)

Intelligent systems are radically transforming businesses, medicine, ...





Wall Street: Autonomous Trading Systems

Automated Supply Chain

And our daily lives



Assistive robotics Remote Robotic Surgery



Genome sequencing

Unfortunately, the digital and AI revolution have done little for Sustainability Our vision:

Computer Science and AI can — and should — play a key role in helping address societal and environmental challenges in pursuit of a sustainable future,

while also advancing computer science as a discipline.



1st Expeditions in Computational Sustainability (2008)



Computational Sustainability

New interdisciplinary field that aims to develop computational methods for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising future generations.

United Nations, Our Common Future, 1987





Sustainable Development encompasses balancing

- environmental,
- economic, and
- societal needs.





Sustainable Development HUMAN WELL-BEING of current and future generations.

Ultimate goal of



https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs (2015)

2008/2016

in Computing (CISE)

Sample of Interdisciplinary Research Projects @ Cornell



3 Core Computational Thrusts



lead to transformative syntheses across sustainability domains<u>and</u> computer science sub-areas

Subway Lines:

Examples of Cross-Cutting Computational Themes and Interactions of some Computational Sustainability Projects









Impact of Hydropower Dam Placement in the Amazon Basin on Ecosystem Services

- Multifaceted "trust" in decision support systems
- Optimization with Multiple (and Conflicting) Objectives: Computing The Pareto Frontier

Species distributions

- Reducing Bias in Citizen Science Data:
 - Avicaching Game
 - Co-variate shift
- Multi-Entity Dependency Learning: Deep Multivariate Probit Model



- Constrained Pattern Decomposition
- Human Computation for Speeding up Search





FCC Crystal Structure



Sustainability concerns balancing environmental, economic, and societal needs

Key Issue: Understanding trade-offs of solutions wrt multiple (and often conflicting) objectives









Ecosystem Services of River Networks









Energy

Fisheries

and navigation

Transportation Sediments and Nutrients

Examples of Ecosystem Services

Computational Perspective: Multi-objective Optimization Problem

Pareto frontier:

the **trade-offs** wrt to the different objectives **of different** non-dominated solutions of dam portfolios

Goal: Find Optimal Portfolios of Dams to Build



Example: Connectivity



Better connectivity

Two dam network configurations with similar hydropower yields, but different degrees of river connectivity

Computing the Pareto Frontier Problem Representation

River network



(Amazon Basin has ~ 5M river segments!)

Wu, Gomes-Selman, Shi, Xue, García-Villacorta, Anderson, Sethi, Steinschneider, Flecker, Gomes, AAAI18

Computing the Pareto Frontier Problem Representation

River network (left) \rightarrow Rooted tree (right)



Wu, Gomes-Selman, Shi, Xue, García-Villacorta, Anderson, Sethi, Steinschneider, Flecker, Gomes, AAAI18

Computing the Pareto Frontier Problem Representation

w River network (left) \rightarrow Rooted tree (right) Edge – potential dam location u **Node** – contiguous river sub-network not u affected by a potential dam (assign to the node the utilities for the different criteria) potential dam locations S potential dam locations (a). River Network (b). Graph Representation (Original Amazon network has **Compressed Amazon network:** ~ 5 M river segments!) ~ 500 nodes/edges)

Computing the Pareto Frontier Dynamic Programming Based Exact and Approximation



Mouth of the river

Approximation: in practice better than worst case guarantee



Entire Amazon Basin Two Criteria: Energy vs Connectivity

Greenhouse Gas Emissions



We can now approximate the **Pareto frontier** for **Entire Amazon basin (~5M river segments)**

Four criteria: energy, connectivity, sediment, and seismic risk

→Within 25% from true optimal Pareto frontier containing ~80K non-dominated solutions in ~ 6 minutes.

→Within 10% from true optimal Pareto frontier containing ~500K non-dominated solutions in ~ 6 hours.

→Within 5% from true optimal Pareto frontier containing ~2M non-dominated solutions in ~ 3 days.

> Our approaches outperform other approaches (e.g., based on GAs). We also provide guarantees

Interactive Visualizer: Parallel Coordinate Plots



Additional Criteria:

Green House Gas Emissions; biodiversity; impact on populations; etc

Interactive Visualizer: Parallel Coordinate Plots



Bounding

different

criteria

Bounding different criteria

Message to Policy Makers: The cost of inefficient planning

Challenge of Interdisciplinary Projec



Efficiently Approximation the Pareto Frontier: Hydropower Dam Placement in the Amazon Basin

Students



Qinru



Xiaojian

Jonathan



Yexiang



Roos







Collaborators









Rafa Faculty





Outline



Impact of Hydropower Dam Placement in the Amazon Basin on Ecosystem Services

Optimization with Multiple (and Conflicting) Objectives: Computing The Pareto Frontier



Species distributions (briefly)

- Reducing Bias in Citizen Science Data: Avicaching Game
- Multi-Entity Dependency Learning: Deep Multivariate Probit Model



Inferring Crystal Structures for Materials Discovery:
 ➢ Unsupervised learning with combinatorial constraints

Biodiversity or Biological Diversity







Fundamental question in biodiversity research: How different species are distributed across landscapes over time.

Sensors, sensor networks, and remote sensing



Very sophisticated sensor

Photo courtesy of www.carboafrica.net



Species distributions



Land Cover



Data

Weather



Remote Sensing







Relate environmental predictors to observed patterns of occurrences and absences of the species

Patterns of occurrence of Northern Pintail for different months of the year Source: Daniel Fink

The models reveal the habitat preferences of the birds, at a fine resolution, **Allowing for High-Precision Bird Conservation**





Species Distributons



The models reveal the habitat preferences of the birds, at a fine resolution, Allowing for High-Precision Bird Conservation



High-Precision Bird Conservation The Bird Returns Program

Protecting Migratory WaterBirds in California Against Drought



Flyway

eBird Models



Sacramento Valley, CA

Reverse Auction

Farmers submit bids to keep the target rice fields flooded during short periods of bird migration in California.



Data-Science, Game-Theory, and Market-based approach



Sacramento Valley, CA

Radically novel way of doing bird conservation. Possible only because of advanced computational methods for high precision conservation.



Species dependencies

 Competition, cooperation, not captured in most previous models (boosted random forests)



GPU Boosted



period trends

correctly

Multi-Entity Dependence Learning

DMVP.

37

Species dependencies



Gd Th Dy Ho Er Tm Yh Lu

Np Pu Am Cm Bk Cf Es Fm Md No Lr

Avicaching:

A Two Stage Game for Incentivizing Bias Reduction in Citizen Science

Data Bias Problem

Distribution of eBird Observations in the US

Prevalent problem in citizen science Collected data are often aligned with the participants' preferences rather than scientific objectives.

How to incentivize Citizens to visit under-sampled areas?

Principal-Agent Framework



Field: Pilot Program







Incentivize eBirders to visit undersampled locations.

Incentives:
Avicaching points,
> leaderboards
> Lotteries (e.g. binoculars.)

Yexiang Xue, Ian Davies, Daniel Fink, Christopher Wood, Carla P. Gomes, AAMAS 2015, CP 2016, NIPS 2016

Bias Reduction via End-to-End Shift Learning: Application to Citizen Science

Covariate Shift: re weighting the data noints based on the features



Also applicable to other bias reduction situations (loans etc)



Big Data for Africa

Improving Forage Maps in Africa to protect farmers and herders



grazelt

Herders Submit Vegetation Images and Surveys with Smartphones: incentives: real money (small for us, good money for pastoralists)

> 3 month Pilot project: → 100,000+ surveys





ILRI

INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH

Africa is very poorly sensed

(limited environmental data, vegetation maps, only a few reliable weather stations)



Outline



Impact of Hydropower Dam Placement in the Amazon Basin on Ecosystem Services

Optimization with Multiple (and Conflicting) Objectives: Computing The Pareto Frontier



Species distributions (briefly)

Avicaching Game: Mechanism design for Reducing Bias in Citizen Science Data



- **Inferring Crystal Structures for Accelerating Materials Discovery** (very briefly):
- Constrained Matrix Factorization
- Human Computation for Speeding up Search

FCC Crystal Structure

Accelerating the Discovery of New Energy Materials



Goal: Accelerate the pace and reduce the cost of discovery of new materials (Obama 2010)







Cornell High-Energy Synchrotron

CHESS





Catalysts

Crystal Structure Phase Mapping from Experimental Data: A Computational Perspective

Crystal Structure Mapping Problem from Hugh-Throughput Experiments



Phase Map Identification Problem



Collection of XRD Patterns

Α

Possible Additional Physical Requirements:

- Phase Connectivity
- Gibb's Rule: Mixtures of at most 3 pure phases
- Peaks shift by ~15% within a region
 - Continuous and Monotonic
- Small peaks might be discriminative
 - Peak locations matter, more than peak intensities



m phase regions

- k pure regions
- *m-k* mixed regions

XRD pattern characterizing pure crystal phases





Related Problems: Pattern (Factor) Decomposition or Source Separation



Flight Call Detection for Bird Conservation

Elephant Listening Project; Elephant Call Detection

Materials Discovery: Phase Map Identification



Music source separation: Extracting and identifying each single instrument sound in a



Topic Modeling: Identifying the Key Topics

of a collection of articles (or an article) Blei, ACM 2012

Matrix factorization With Combinatorial Constraints



W,H

Subject to:

Combinatorial constraints to encode laws of physics

- e.g shifts, Gibbs Rule, etc

Phase Mapping as A Matrix Factorization Problem





→Unsupervised learning – No labeled data

(ML success depends on large amounts of labeled data)

 \rightarrow Need to deal with noise, incomplete data, uncertainty

→ Standard ML techniques:

fail to capture the underlying physics of the phenomena

Required: Rich set of combinatorial constraints to capture the physics of the phenomena

Computational Synthesis: Integration of machine learning techniques with constraint and probabilistic reasoning, sampling, and optimization techniques

Integration multiple knowledge sources and reasoning mechanisms

- 1. XRD data (also Raman, optical, others)
- 2. Materials databases prior knowledge (Materials Project, OQMD, etc.)
- 3. Quantum physics (DFT calculations)
- 4. Human expertise



Phase Mapping as Constrained Matrix Factorization INTERLEAVED AGILE FACTOR DECPOMPOSITION (IAFD)

Relaxation and Projection Methods for Constrained Matrix Factorization Problems → producing physically meaningful solution





Crystal's Brain: Interleaved Agile Factor Decomposition

> Crystal is a multi-agent system that encapsulates a diverse collection of fast and specialized algorithms with different types of knowledge and computational capabilities for Crystal Structure Phase Mapping

Gomes, Bai, Xue, Bjorck, Rappazzo, Ament, Bernstein, Kong, Suram, van⁵Dover, Gregoire, 2019

Pd-Ta-Rh system

198 synchrotron x-ray diffraction patterns





~2500 valid phase diagrmas

CRYSTAL: Pd-Rh-Ta System



a) Clustering of the 2480 phase diagrams produced by Crystal for the Pd-Rh-Ta system b) 20 clusters and respective representative phase-diagrams were identified. Out of the 20 phase diagrams, the human expert ruled out 15, based on subtleties not enforced by Crystal. c) From the remaining 5 phase diagrams, the human expert selected the enlarged phase diagram, based on additional metrics, characterized by the phases represented in e). The five-phase solution selected by the human expert for the Pd-Rh-Ta system. d) Color scheme for the phase fields. e) The basis patterns are plotted along with the ICSD basis patterns. Each phase map is shown as a composition plot where the size represents the phase fraction and the color denotes the relative lattice constant, compared to the respective basis pattern, aligned to the best match of the ICSD pattern. CRYSTAL enabled the discovery of

a mixed-intermetallic methanol oxidation electrocatalyst: Pd_{0.17}Rh_{0.33}Ta_{0.5}

CRYSTAL's Interactive Phase Mapper (to be made publicly available)



Interactive Phase Mapper backend powered by IAFD which provides the functionality of producing physically meaningful solutions.





Innovative AI Award





Scientific Autonomous Reasoning Agent (SARA): Integrating Materials Experiment, Theory, and Computation An AFOSR MURI launched Feb. 2018





van Dover

Dept. Materials Science and Engineering **Cornell University**

Photosynthesis

Caltech

Joint Center for Artificial



Co-PI Mike Thompson



Materials Science and Engineering Univ. of Northwestern



Materials Science and Engineering Univ. of Colorado Boulder

Co-PI Alex Zunger

Co-PI John Gregoire Scientist nputer Co-PI Carla Gomes



Dept. of Computer Science Cornell University



Co-PI Bart Selman



Cornell University



Northwestern University



Caltech

University of Colorado Boulder





Computational Sustainability (a) Cornell Gomes Lab

Pattern Decomposition in Big Data

Citizen Science/ Crowdsourcing

Agents: Mechanism Design

Large Scale Spatio-Temporal

Stochastic, Probabilistic Inference,

Modeling and Prediction

and Optimization

GrazeIt



Modeling of



Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future

Designing Music source Experiments separation for Fertilizers Elephant Call Detection Flight Call Detection Expeditions in Computing NSE (CISE) www.Udiscover.It



Conclusions



Computational Sustainability aims to advance computational methods to help balance economic, environmental, and societal needs for sustainable development.



Thank you! Computational Sustainability Vibrant Research Community **CompSust Virtual Seminar** Workshops at Conferences **CompSust Conference Series:** (international researchers from several disciplines and institutions (universities, labs, government) Neural Information SustKDD 2012 **3rd International Conference of** Processing Systems Workshop on **Computational Sustainal Data Mining Applications** In Sustainability Foundation STOC 2012 - 44th ACM CompSust-2016 SYMPOSIUM ON THEORY 4th International Conference on **OF COMPUTING Computational Sustainability** July 6-8, 2016 SIGACT Cornell University, Ithaca, NY **CompSust Virtual Seminar L**ICA Tracks at **CP-2016 CROCS:** Constraint Reasoning and Established Conferences **Optimization for Computational** Sustainability Theme of IJCAI-2013 CROCS at CP-09, CPAIOR-10 (CHINA) **CP**-10 and **CP**-12 Al and CoompSust@AAAI-2018 CoompSust@AAAI-2019 omputational Sustainability And many other related conferences and journals



Thank you!



125+ faculty, students, and collaborators!!!



Ament, Gregoire, Gomes, 2019



Collective learning for a set of measurements

Multiple signal sources: noise; substrate signal; signal for deposited materials

Applicable to different spectroscopy data.

Fully automated algorithm, no

human selected parameters









Probabilistic Matrix Factorization + Exponentially-Modified-Gaussian Mixture Model: Multi-Component Background Learning Automates Inference of Background and Signal of Interest for Spectroscopic Data

PROBABILISTIC MATRIX FACTORIZATION + EXPONENTIALLY-MODIFIED-GAUSSSIAN MXTURE MODELS

to automatically infer background and signal of interest

Fully automated algorithm, no human selected parameters

Collective learning for a set of measurements

Multiple signal sources: noise; substrate signal; signal for deposited materials

RAMAN







Ament, Gregoire, Gomes, 2019

Poverty Mapping: Combining satellite imagery and machine learning to predict poverty





Deep learning and transfer learning



Neal Jean, Marshall Burke, Michael Xie, W. Matthew Davis4, David B. Lobell, Stefano Ermon, Science 19 Aug 2016: Vol. 353, Issue 6301, pp. 790-794 DOI: 10.1126/science.aaf7894

Stefano Ermon: IJCAI Computer & Thought Award –