

Avi Bagchi

518-603-3790 | aviba@seas.upenn.edu | [linkedin.com/in/avi-bagchi/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/avi-bagchi/) | scholar.google.com/avibagchi | avibagchi.github.io/

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

PhD in Computer Science

Austin, TX

(incoming)

University of Pennsylvania

BSE in Computer Science

Philadelphia, PA

Aug. 2022 – May 2026

- Senior Thesis: “Trustworthy Diffusion Models”

PAPERS

“Watermarking Discrete Diffusion Language Models” | *ICLR 2026 Trustworthy AI Workshop (Poster)*

Avi Bagchi, Akhil Bhimaraju, Moulik Choraria, Daniel Alabi, Lav R. Varshney

“Bias–Variance Tradeoff in Diffusion Portfolio Models” | *ICLR 2026 TSALM Workshop (Poster)*

Avi Bagchi, Michael Tesfaye, Om Shastri

“Doppler Invariant CNN for Signal Classification” | *arXiv:2511.14640 (2025)*

Avi Bagchi, Dwight Hutchenson

“Edge-Intelligent Mosquito Threat Prediction using IoT-Enabled Hardware System” | *Sensors (2022)* (cited 14)

S. Polineni[†], O. Shastri[†], A. Bagchi[†], G. Gnanakumar[†], S. Rasamsetti[†], P. Sundaravadivel (†=equal contribution)

“The South Sea Bubble” | *The Concord Review* (2021)

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EXPERIENCE

Research Intern

May 2025 – Aug. 2025

MIT Lincoln Laboratory: Group 64 (Tactical Satellite Communications)

Lexington, MA

- Built complex-valued convolutional neural net invariant to Doppler shifts for interference signal classification.

Undergraduate Researcher

June 2024 – Present

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (advised by Professors Lav Varshney & Daniel Alabi)

Remote

- Created first watermark for discrete diffusion. Used distribution-preserving gumbel-max trick for diffusion sampling. Theoretical proofs of distortion-freeness and soundness. Benchmark analysis with SEDD & LLaDA.
- Designed polynomial-based flow matching framework modeling curved transport paths to accelerate inference.

Quantitative Research Intern

Oct. 2023 – Aug. 2024

Nebula Research and Development

New York, NY

- Developed LLM fine-tuning library for the hedge fund, predicting returns from earnings call transcript sentiment.

SMALL PROJECTS

Elliptic Curve Cryptography

- Presentation to Penn Mathematics Dpt on attacks to the discrete log problem; Pollard’s Rho, Shor’s Algorithm.

Computational Ecology & Policy Advocacy

- Built IoT device for real-time malaria tracking. Created model predicting invasive species niches in future climate change scenarios (international recognition). Traveled to Mongolia, documenting regional water insecurity.

AWARDS

Grand Prize Winner | *Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, 2nd in category (7 million participants)*

Borlaug Scholar | *Selected as New York State Youth Representative at World Food Prize Conference*

INTERESTS

Research Interests: AI safety, diffusion models, cryptography, signal processing, ecology / water insecurity

Course Electives: Real Analysis, Deep Learning, Computational Learning Theory, Mathematical Statistics, Computer Security, Convex Optimization, Signal Processing, Linguistics, Russian Literature