ND CLUB LENDS A HAND
e-NABLE Notre Dame builds custom prosthetics with 3D printer

FIGHTING FOR BETTER ILLICIT DRUG DETECTION
The PAD project from the Lieberman Lab

ADVANCING NUCLEAR PHYSICS TECHNIQUES
Simulation of the ND Cube
Letter from Dean Galvin

Undergraduates who conduct research during their time at the University of Notre Dame are well prepared for future careers, as well as for admission into graduate or medical schools. Scientia, a student-run journal, not only grants students the opportunity to have their research published, but also demonstrates how science progresses from the laboratory to the pages of a journal.

Support from our generous donors has allowed many of our students to complete research during the summer. It is a time away from the books, assignments, and daily grind of college, so students can delve into one project about which they’re passionate. Working either on or off campus, students participating in summer research learn alongside scientists and other laboratory professionals. Many students also assist researchers throughout the year on a range of projects, sometimes dovetailing off previous discoveries they made over the summer or during previous years.

By publishing their research methods and results in Scientia, students also learn the art of communicating about science. The research articles themselves allow students to practice how to speak the language of science. The news articles, by contrast, afford students the opportunity to write about research in accessible ways for the educated public—those who may have experience in other fields within or apart from science.

This year’s issue marks the 10-year anniversary of Scientia, and one of growth for the publication. Attendance at monthly “Talk Science” lectures is unprecedented, thanks to the support of several faculty members who assist with these talks on a variety of scientific topics. And the four accepted submissions in this issue reflect the diversity of high-caliber research in the fields of physics, biology, and mathematics.

Science is a continual process of discovery. I am honored to support Scientia and the research advanced by the undergraduate students in Notre Dame’s College of Science.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Galvin, Ph.D.
William K. Warren Foundation Dean of the College of Science
Professor of Chemistry
Letter from the Editors

Scientia, Latin for knowledge, has always been a student-run publication of high-quality undergraduate research in the College of Science. Founded in 2009 with the goals of celebrating and encouraging research, we are proud to say that Scientia has now been contributing to the scientific community of Notre Dame for a decade.

The 2018–2019 academic year has been one of great growth for Scientia. The “Talk Science” seminar series has garnered greater attendance this year than ever before, featuring presentations by students and faculty from a diverse array of departments. Included in this edition of the journal is a new section—the Student Spotlight—showcasing individual undergraduates who have had their research published in other journals in the hopes of spreading awareness and encouraging other students to follow in their footsteps. Strides have been made in updating Scientia’s image, from our first-ever T-shirt design competition to the debut of our new 10th-edition cover. It truly has been a wonderful year, and we are grateful to have been a part of it.

The publication of this journal would not have been possible without the dedication of more than a few people here at Notre Dame. We would like to thank all of our editors and reviewers for their tireless effort in putting this journal together, and the undergraduates and their advisors who contributed their work to Scientia. We so appreciate our advisor, Dr. Xuejin Lu, for her advocacy, vision, and mentorship. We wish to formally acknowledge Dean Galvin and the College of Science for the continued support we have received over the years, with special thanks to Ms. Tammi Frischling, Ms. Lotta Barnes, Ms. Deanna McCool, and Ms. Elaine Brady.

Looking to the future, we are honored to pass the torch on to Rosie Crisman and Vaishali Nayak as Co-Editors in Chief. We have full confidence that they will take Scientia to new heights in the 2019–2020 year.

In Notre Dame,

Ruby Hollinger & Eric Sah
Editors in Chief

Contents

5 College of Science New Faculty Spotlight
Abigail Abiloye, Lauren Connelly, Nicole Lee, Megan McCabe, Kristin Mehlmann

10 Bridging the Divide Between Science and Policy
Ryan Sheehy

11 Center for Research Computing Participates in NSF Cyberinfrastructure Center of Excellence Program
Aidan Crowley

12 Notre Dame Club Lends a Hand to Children in Need
Kara Miecznikowski

12 Community Partners in Health
Matthew Guggenbiller

13 Enhancing Cancer Immunotherapy Using Reactive Nitrogen Species (RNS)
Cesar Moreno

14 Notre Dame Unveils Largest Hypersonic Quiet Wind Tunnel in the United States
Madde Cole

15 The PAD Project: Fighting for Better Illicit Drug Detection
Noel Vincent

16 Re-Personalizing Medicine: The Pathos Project
Bryan Min

17 Warren Family Research Center Engages in Collaborative Projects Worldwide
Zhefan “Laure” Zhang

18 Notre Dame Fosters Growth and Leadership Through Summer Biology REU
Ryan Middleton

ON THE FRONT AND BACK COVERS
A Notre Dame student group on campus used MakerBot 3D printers at Fitzpatrick Hall to create a prosthetic hand. Orthodontic rubber bands connect the finger joints. The gauntlet allows the user to control the hand while the fishing wires make the fingers curl.
College of Science New Faculty Spotlight

ABIGAIL ABIKOYE, LAUREN CONNELLY, NICOLE LEE, MEGAN MCCABE, KRISTIN MEHLMANN

Badih Assaf, Ph.D., Frank M. Freimann Physics Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics, received his B.S. in physics at the American University of Beirut in 2009, where he also earned a minor in mathematics. He went on to receive his M.S. in physics at Northeastern University (Boston) in 2011 before receiving his Ph.D. in physics at Northeastern University in 2014. At Northeastern, Assaf completed his thesis titled “Magnetotransport in Thin Films and Heterostructures of Topological Matter.” Assaf completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the École Normale Supérieure in the Département de Physique in Paris between the years of 2014-2018, where he instructed and researched. At Notre Dame, Assaf currently researches the synthesis, optical, and transport properties of quantum materials. One current project is to prepare lab setups for electrical and infrared optical measurements at high magnetic fields. Assaf is also planning and teaching a course about topology and Dirac fermions in condensed matter. He has general scientific expertise in topics such as magneto-optics, DC and RF transport, chemical vapor deposition, and device fabrication (optical and electronic lithography). In his free time, Assaf enjoys performances at DPAC, cooking, soccer, and exploring race car technology.

Maria Alexandra, Ph.D., assistant professor of the practice, joined Notre Dame in 2018. She received her M.D. from Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University in Russia in 2002 and her M.S in community health from Minnesota State University Mankato in 2008, where she was both the founder and the first president of the Global Health Club. Most recently, she received her Ph.D. in health education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2012. Before coming to Notre Dame, Alexandrova was an obstetrician-gynecologist in Russia, performed research in women’s health, and worked on several ecological projects as an intern at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Her primary interests are centered on the prevention of maternal and infant mortality, the use of modern technology platforms for community outreach, and the prevention of cancers associated with human papilloma virus (HPV). Currently, she is in the Master of Science in Global Health Program, where her role encompasses the maternal and child health sector of teaching and research.

Ana Lidia Flores-Mireles, Ph.D., Hawk Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, earned her Ph.D. in microbiology from Cornell University. She served as a postdoctoral researcher at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis before coming to Notre Dame in June 2018. Her primary research interest is the bacterial pathogenicity in catheter-associated infections. Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) make up 40% of all healthcare-associated infections and have the potential to lead to secondary infections that may be fatal. Flores-Mireles works to understand how inflammation resulting from urinary catheterization leads to an increased risk of contracting a microbial infection. She hopes to eventually be able to work on developing innovative, targeted treatments and already holds a patent for treating pilus-related diseases in a clinical setting. She has a great passion for teaching and translational research and Notre Dame provides opportunities for both of these.

David Hansen, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, received his B.A. in mathematics from Brown University in 2010 before receiving his Ph.D. from Boston College in 2013. He worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu from 2013 to 2014 and immediately afterward became a J.F. Ritt assistant professor at Columbia University. Over the past six years, he has been invited to speak at numerous seminars, conferences, and colloquia that have taken place in universities and cities in and outside of the United States. Hansen is now an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics here at Notre Dame, having joined in the fall of 2018. He focuses on algebra and number theory, particularly $p$-adic Hodge theory and $p$-adic aspects of the Langlands program. Recently, Hansen has been working to find applications of new tools and ideas that have been discovered by Fargues, Fontaine, and Scholze, as well as on foundational questions around adic spaces and perfectoid spaces.
to lose its virulence through the release from the S. aureus exists in two forms: phosphorylated and dephosphorylated. Kim recently discovered that the staphylococcal BlaZ class A β-lactamase, which is a resistant determinant for β-lactam scientist in 2015. Now, Kim focuses on the study of MRSA innovations on accumulated tau proteins, profiling mechanisms of survival and diagnosed. Koepfli uses genotyping methods to better understand stages of transmission and infectious stages of parasitic diseases. He and his team focus on understanding the current molecular diagnosis system, specifically with determining the number of infections missed by clinicians. At Notre Dame, he conducts research, including genome sequencing of microbes and the mosquitoes that transmit them, mathematical modeling, and how ecology and climate change impact disease transmission. Koepfli has a special interest in infections not associated with fever, specifically how this lack of fever relates to the diagnosis process and how clinicians determine when individuals are infectious without the presence of fever. Eventually, Koepfli hopes to discover new strategies for infectious disease control. In his spare time, he loves being outdoors and playing with his dog. Coming from Switzerland, he thinks the only thing Notre Dame is missing is some proper mountains nearby.

John Kori, Ph.D., research assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received his B.S. in genetic engineering and his M.S. in biology at the Chonnam National University (Korea). In 2006, he received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Notre Dame. Afterward, he conducted research at Rockefeller University in New York City before returning to Notre Dame as a research scientist in 2015. Now, Kim focuses on the study of MRSA bacteria, which have a structural gene called BlaZ that encodes a class A β-lactamase, which is a resistant determinant for β-lactam antibiotics. He recently discovered that the staphylococcal BlaZ exists in two forms: phosphorylated and dephosphorylated. Kim ultimately hopes to explain various pathways that inhibit the phosphorylation of BlaZ. This would cause the MRSA bacteria to lose its virulence through the release from the S. aureus surface. One of his most intriguing findings is the potential of activity of β-lactamase antibiotics by farnesol and derivatives. Kim enjoys playing squash and bowling at his leisure.

Cristian Koepfli, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, received his Ph.D. at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Switzerland before becoming a postdoctoral fellow at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research in Australia. In addition to being in Notre Dame’s Department of Biological Sciences, he is affiliated with the Eck Institute for Global Health, a partnership between the University and IU South Bend Medical School. His current research focuses on how infectious diseases, such as malaria, are transmitted and diagnosed. Koepfli utilizes genotyping methods to better understand stages of transmission and infectious stages of parasites. He and his team focus on understanding the current molecular diagnosis system, specifically with determining the number of infections missed by clinicians. At Notre Dame, he conducts research, including genome sequencing of microbes and the mosquitoes that transmit them, mathematical modeling, and how ecology and climate change impact disease transmission. Koepfli has a special interest in infections not associated with fever, specifically how this lack of fever relates to the diagnosis process and how clinicians determine when individuals are infectious without the presence of fever. Eventually, Koepfli hopes to discover new strategies for infectious disease control. In his spare time, he loves being outdoors and playing with his dog. Coming from Switzerland, he thinks the only thing Notre Dame is missing is some proper mountains nearby.

Eugenio Kovrigin, Ph.D., research associate professor and director of the Magnetic Resonance Research Center at the University of Notre Dame, graduated from Krasnoyarsk State University in 1993 with a B.S. in chemistry and completed his M.S. in molecular biology at Moscow State University in 1995. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in chemistry at Russia’s Engelhard Institute of Molecular Biology in 1999, before becoming a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then at Yale University, where he was awarded the Anderson Postdoctoral Fellowship. Before coming to Notre Dame, Kovrigin was an assistant professor of biochemistry at the Medical College of Wisconsin and, most recently, an assistant professor of chemistry at Stanford University. Kovrigin is known for his expertise in applying advanced mass spectrometry methods to understand stages of transmission and infectious stages of parasites. He and his team focus on understanding the current molecular diagnosis system, specifically with determining the number of infections missed by clinicians. At Notre Dame, he conducts research, including genome sequencing of microbes and the mosquitoes that transmit them, mathematical modeling, and how ecology and climate change impact disease transmission. Koepfli has a special interest in infections not associated with fever, specifically how this lack of fever relates to the diagnosis process and how clinicians determine when individuals are infectious without the presence of fever. Eventually, Koepfli hopes to discover new strategies for infectious disease control. In his spare time, he loves being outdoors and playing with his dog. Coming from Switzerland, he thinks the only thing Notre Dame is missing is some proper mountains nearby.

Robert Melander, Ph.D., research associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received her M.Chem. in medicinal chemistry from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in 2004 and her Ph.D. in biological chemistry from the University of California-Davis in 1998. Before coming to the University of Notre Dame, Melander worked as a postdoctoral research associate at University College London from 2008 to 2009 and at North Carolina State University from 2009 to 2011. She became an editor for the Chemical Biology and Drug Design journal in 2011, a position she currently holds while conducting research here at Notre Dame. Her work uses small molecules to study and control bacterial behaviors. Melander aims to develop small molecules that mediate antibiotic resistance and tolerance, the evolution of resistance, and the development of multidrug-resistant bacteria. These would all create potential novel therapeutic options for treating bacterial infections.
Eric Riedl, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Notre Dame. One of the University’s own, Riedl graduated summa cum laude in 2010 with a B.S. in mathematics and piano performance from the University of Notre Dame. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2015. From there, Riedl accepted a position at the University of Illinois at Chicago as a research assistant professor, a position he held for three years prior to coming to Notre Dame. Riedl is also the recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, as well as the American Mathematical Society Simons Travel Grant. As an algebraic geometer, Riedl is interested in birational geometry, rational curves, hypersurfaces, and rationality problems. More specifically, he focuses on the geometry of hypersurfaces in projective space by studying the rational curves lying upon them. Outside of math, Riedl likes to run and swim, and can occasionally be found playing the piano for fun and playing French horn in church. He enjoys how supportive the department is, and appreciates the multitude of resources and friendly senior faculty members present in the Department of Mathematics.

Felipe H. Santiago-Tirado, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Notre Dame, received his Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology from Cornell University in 2011. He then worked as a postdoctoral researcher at both Cornell University and Washington University School of Medicine. After completing advanced coursework in molecular mycology at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, he became a staff research associate in the Molecular Microbiology Department at the Washington University School of Medicine. Before assuming his current position as an assistant professor at the University of Notre Dame. More than 300 million people worldwide suffer from severe fungal infections, and 1.6 million of them die every year because not enough is known about such infections. Santiago-Tirado endeavors to bring this underappreciated global health problem into the public eye. By studying important yeast species such as Candida and Cryptococcus species, he has made key contributions to our understanding of the molecular mechanisms of cancer. The long-term goal of his research is to exploit these mechanisms for safer and more effective cancer treatments and to identify the cancer subtypes and specific patients who would benefit most from such therapies.

Jason Rohr, Ph.D. Ludmilla F., Stephen J., and Robert T. Gallia College Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Notre Dame. Rohr is the recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, and a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. He is also an assistant professor in the Department of Global Health. Rohr has also been an affiliate of the Florida Climate Institute since 2015. His interests include investigating the drivers of human schistosomiasis and other zoonotic diseases, as well as the effects of climate change on vector-borne and other zoonotic diseases. With a special interest in how anthropogenic changes affect the human microbiome, he hopes to uncover broadly applicable biological mechanisms and lay the foundation for development of novel therapeutics.

Hyunguk Tak, Ph.D., assistant professor in the ACMS Department, received his B.A. in biology and environmental sciences from Binghamton University in 1996, where he also completed his M.A. in teaching biology in 1997 and his Ph.D. in ecology and behavior in 2002. Prior to his arrival at Notre Dame, he spent 12 years at the University of South Florida, where his most recent roles included associate chair at the Department of Integrative Biology, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Ecology Research (CIDER), and courtesy professor in the Department of Global Health. Rohr has also been an affiliate of the Florida Climate Institute since 2015. His research interests encompass both ecology and public health, with a special interest in how anthropogenic changes affect wildlife populations, species interactions, and the spread of both infectious and non-infectious diseases. His current research interests in ecology include ectotoxicology, conservation biology, and community, population, behavioral, climate change, and disease ecology. With his role as chair of the Center for Infectious Disease Ecology Research, his current focus is on investigating the drivers of human schistosomiasis and how to sustainably feed the projected world population of 11 billion. Additionally, he is also researching the impacts of climate change on vector-borne and other zoonotic diseases, as well as the effects of biodiversity on disease risk, and microbiome-infectious disease interactions. Outside the lab and classroom, Rohr loves spending time with his family.

Thomas Totten, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor in the Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics, received his B.S. in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame before earning his M.A. in actuarial science at Ball State University. He earned his Ph.D. in business administration at Oklahoma State University. Totten, a fellow of the Society of Actuaries, created a startup company called Votare that uses actuarial sciences to help clients more successfully build retirement plans. Totten honed his actuarial skills during tenures with the international firm Hewitt Associates and United Actuarial Services, where he was the chief health care actuary. Totten is a retired CEO and current chairman of the board of Nyhart and has acquired 10 firms for the company, which has grown into a well-known, national firm. Nyhart has now partnered with Notre Dame to create a new course for undergraduates who aspire to a career in actuarial science. The research-based course consists of using actuarial science to solve major problems facing the retirement industry. As a Notre Dame alumnus, he had always hoped to return to the University in some way. In Totten’s free time, he races his Orbea bicycle and spends time with his family.

Rebecca Whelan, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame. Whelan completed her B.A. in chemistry and English at Lawrence University in Wisconsin in 1996, after which she earned her Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University in 2003. Shortly after, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Michigan, before becoming an associate professor, associate professor and then chair of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department at Oberlin College, where she received the National Science Foundation Career Award in 2012. Continuing on to Stanford University, she was a postdoctoral fellow at SAMSI ASTRO/UNC STOR. Her main research interest is in astro-statistics. He also studies time delay cosmography for inferring the Hubble constant, as well as robust statistics, Bayesian hierarchical modeling and computation, and statistical calculation, including Markov chain Monte Carlo. Tak is the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award and the Gordon Research Conference in Biophysical Sensors Chair’s Award, and the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award; she is also a Stanford University Distinguished Alumni Scholar. When not tinkering about DNA aptamers, she spends the last 14 years of her research finding her classes and seeing her students learn and succeed as a result. Her favorite things about Notre Dame are the dedicated students and alumni who have the ability to conduct independent pedagogy and apply their own research to their classroom. She feels that she has a say in the way she teaches her classes and appreciates having her voice heard.

Victoria Woodard, Ph.D., assistant teaching professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, earned her Ph.D. in actuarial science and first M.S. in mathematics from Ohio University. Woodard went on to earn her second M.S. in statistics from North Carolina State University, where she eventually continued on to receive her Ph.D. in mathematics and statistics education. Before coming to Notre Dame in July 2018, she taught calculus, statistics, and statistical computing at Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Woodard is focused on statistics education, especially on incorporating advanced teaching and learning technology into the classroom. She enjoys sharing her research findings in her classes and seeing her students learn and succeed as a result. Her favorite things about Notre Dame are the dedicated students and alumni who have the ability to conduct independent pedagogy and apply their own research to their classroom. She feels that she has a say in the way she teaches her classes and appreciates having her voice heard.

Katharine White, Ph.D., Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, joined the University of Notre Dame in early 2019. White started in mathematical education by earning her B.S. in chemistry from Saint Mary’s College in 2007, where she was also granted the American Chemical Society Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award that same year. She then went on to receive her Ph.D. in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2012. After her Ph.D., White completed a Ruth L. Kirshner National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California—San Francisco. White’s research is concerned with the temporary increases in intracellular pH that are required for healthy cellular processes and that, when dysregulated, are associated with diseases like cancer. Her understanding of these health problems across different biological scales, such as effects on cellular proteins, cell-to-cell communication, and the mutational landscapes of human cancers, White hopes to expand what we know about the molecular mechanisms of cancer. The long-term goal of her research is to exploit these mechanisms for safer and more effective cancer treatments and to identify the cancer subtypes and specific patients who would benefit most from such therapies.
Bridging the Divide Between Science and Policy
RYAN SHEEHY

With the recent polar vortex in the northern Midwest, hurricanes bringing record flooding to the Carolinas and Texas, and severe drought in southern California, weather greatly impacts our lives today more than it ever has. The importance of studying not only weather but how climate may change in the near future is clear; however, another essential investigation lies in how prepared major cities are to cope with these changes.

The University of Notre Dame is making great strides in this research, endeavoring to make this information more readily accessible to both policymakers and the public. Patrick Regan, associate director of the Notre Dame Environmental Change Initiative, has been a part of this bridging between science and policy with the Urban Adaptation Assessment (UAA). UAA is a free, open-source program funded by the Kresge Foundation that provides a practical model for the future impact of climate change on urban areas. “The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) had an index that ranks different countries in their readiness to confront global changes brought about by overcrowding, resource constraints and climate disruption. The UAA is a downscaled version of this rating that looks at cities within the United States to assess the different regions of the country.”

The UAA is an interactive database that uses intermediate rates of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather and climate change estimates to predict the effects of sea-level rise, drought, and the probability of other climate hazards, projecting until 2040. “NOAA has the environmental data out there. All we did was aggregate them and put them in a way that the local mayor could visualize it,” said Regan. Combining the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Weather Bureau, and the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries into one agency under the Department of Commerce, NOAA studies the Earth and environmental changes and manages environmental resources to promote a healthy global environment.

The UAA provides climate vulnerability data for more than 270 U.S. cities and calculates projected costs based on location and current infrastructure for each city according to varying rates of environmental change, “[The UAA] shows where the projected sea level rise will be as well as what areas will be impacted,” said Regan. He hopes that this program will incentivize cities to start to adapt to the pressures of the coming climate change.” For example, assuming an intermediate rate of climate change, there will be a 1.5-foot sea level rise in New York City by 2040, which would cost New York about $2 billion. The program’s projections should grab the attention of lawmakers and governmental officials and lead them to consider allocating funds to prepare for this situation.

More than just presenting the scientific data and potential costs, the UAA aims to make local officials aware of sub-city regions that may be affected more distinctly by climate change. The UAA shows demographics of these regions, such as median household income, race and ethnicity percent, percent of single mothers, and more, so that policymakers can better visualize the vulnerability of different areas and allocate funds accordingly. “These data do not tell them where to put the sea walls; it’s not advice, but it makes the town council think about various things with regard to how taxpayer money could be most efficiently spent,” said Regan.

UAA takes different cohorts of data and makes this data easily accessible and understandable for city officials and the general public; this is an essential stepping stone that is often overlooked, letting beneficial scientific research go unapplied to real world issues. The free program is being marketed to city officials across the nation so that it can be used to help prepare cities for inevitable climate change. Regan and Notre Dame communications have written op-eds and attended conferences to bring exposure to the UAA tool. Regan is even teaching a one-credit course this semester: “[The course] teaches students how to use the UAA tool, pays for their plane ticket home, and prepares them to talk to their mayor or local sustainability officer about the interface,” said Regan. These efforts spread awareness of the UAA and help bridge the divide between scientific knowledge and policy decisions, allowing local officials and the general public to have a greater understanding of social and climate impacts of climate change in the near and far future.

The Urban Adaptation Assessment provides a practical model for the future impact of climate change on urban areas

As technology rapidly advances and scientists develop new methods to gather increasing amounts of data about the natural world around us, critical questions emerge. How do we store and preserve these immense quantities of data? How can we collect? How can data scientists process this information efficiently? In what ways can data sharing be streamlined to facilitate collaboration and progress among scientists around the world?

Researchers from the Center for Research Computing (CRC) at the University of Notre Dame are working on a $3 million pilot project funded and supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to explore how NSF can more efficiently help large-scale research facilities address these and other common needs. Dr. Jarek Nabrzyski, Dr. Jane Wyngaard, and Dr. John West, who are three of the lead CRC researchers tasked with creating a model and strategic plan for a Cyberinfrastructure Center of Excellence. The goal of the CRC is to use computational tools and services to solve large-scale problems in the community, and even internationally, by translating technologies into solutions to scientific challenges. “Scientists come to us with their challenges, and our goal is to help solve these with computer and data technological solutions,” said Wyngaard, CRC data science technologist. The results of this pilot project will be used to benefit large research and data-collecting facilities of the NSF.

“The NSF currently supports nearly 20 research facilities that operate in a number of scientific fields and are intended to collect and analyze an immense amount of data,” said Nabrzyski, director of the CRC and concurrent professor of computer science and engineering. “In order to handle all that data and computation, a state-of-the-art cyberinfrastructure, as well as adequate tools, are necessary to serve each facility. Collaborating with the University of Southern California, Indiana University, the Renaissance Computing Institute, and the University of Utah, CRC researchers are developing a program that will analyze data management and data processing systems to develop recommendations and data-sharing among NSF research facilities.

The NSF funds several multimillion-dollar research and data-collecting facilities, such as the IceCube Neutrino Observatory in Antarctica and the National Ecological Observation Network (NEON). Each of these facilities faces a similar set of problems—how to preserve immense amounts of data, deliver them to scientists, and analyze them—all while ensuring that their research and data-collecting methods advance in parallel with the advancement of technology. The pilot cyberinfrastructure project will help large-scale facilities like these to collect data in a streamlined manner and make data more available to researchers, especially moving into the future as technology and data-collecting methods rapidly advance. “Our goal is to use this project to develop new data strategies and

understand how cyberinfrastructure models can be reproducible and relevant even 10, 20, 30 years into the future,” said Nabrzyski. Specific focuses of the project lie in best methods to curate and preserve exceedingly large amounts of data collected at NSF research facilities. By addressing areas such as data management, reproducibility, and reuse, this cyberinfrastructure pilot project aims to ensure that data-mining technologies these facilities use today can be translated into the future.

The pilot project is split up into various areas: simplifying data, data collection pipelines, data security, data sharing, and data provenance. The vision for the project in the future is to determine the best way for centers like the CRC to help large-scale research facilities like those of the NSF. The long-term goal is to establish a Cyberinfrastructure Center for Excellence to support these research facilities. The researchers are currently in the conceptualization phase of their two-year pilot program, working to understand challenges that scientists encounter in running these facilities and what expertise they need from the outside, as researchers at these facilities often do not have the time or experience to manage these large amounts of data on their own. The program will be reevaluated in September 2020 after the initial two pilot years have passed.

When asked about the biggest challenges of the project, Wyngaard mentioned, “It can sometimes be difficult engaging with a large research facility, as it requires finding the right people to talk to amongst many and building trusted relationships with them.” Nabrzyski expanded on Wyngaard’s comment, adding, “It takes time to learn their history and culture—these organizations have decades of existence and momentum already. It is up to us to take the time to understand how they currently operate and what they see as feasible moving forward, and this takes time and investment on their part as well.”

Despite any challenges, Notre Dame researchers have found the project engaging and exciting. When asked about the most enjoyable aspect of the project, Wyngaard said, “It is very encouraging to see such large facilities running on open-source tools, highlighting the maturity of these technologies and the ability of researchers to collaborate and share data across disciplines using non-proprietary tool stacks.” Nabrzyski emphasized the larger-scale effects of the project, saying, “It is impressive to consider the impact that we can make—the advice that we give day to day can impact these facilities for the next 30 years. We have to be cautiously about what we say [our researchers] suggest and implement, as the data acquired by the facilities is used by researchers worldwide and will continue to do so for years to come.”

In discussing the future of the project, Nabrzyski emphasized, “We are preparing now for even bigger challenges. We are currently focused on single large-scale facilities, but
new questions arise when it comes to integrating these data.” Wyngaard added, “With the growing multidisciplinary nature of the key questions that scientists seek to answer, new partnerships are already very large by themselves are beginning to come together and share their data. Understanding the challenges that each of these facilities faces individually will prepare us for embracing challenges that need to be faced when they all come together.

Notre Dame Club Lends a Hand to Children in Need
KARA MIECZNIKOWSKI

Prosthetics are widely used by people with missing limbs and can generally make life much easier for someone missing a hand or leg. Unfortunately, prosthetics are often viewed as impractical for children with limb differences, being cited as too expensive and quickly outgrown. This makes access to a prosthetic less than ideal for many children and their families. Notre Dame’s e-NABLE group aims to counter this problem by 3D printing free models of prosthetic hands for children in need.

e-NABLE is a global foundation that was created in 2011 by Ivan Owen, an artist, and Richard Van As, a South African carpenter who had lost his fingers in a woodworking accident. Notre Dame’s chapter of e-NABLE, which includes students from both the College of Science and College of Engineering, is relatively new and only became an official club earlier this year. Michael Skinner, an undergraduate student and member of ND’s e-NABLE club, elaborated on the type of prosthetics they create. “Prosthetics range; it’s such a broad field. Instead of running out of robotics or batteries…[a 3D printed model] runs on your wrist,” said Skinner. “So when you move your wrist a certain way, it closes the hand.” The club uses the 3D printers in the Stinson-Remick Hall Innovation Park. The club prints each prosthetic with a thermoplastic called polylactic acid (PLA). Skinner likens the process to using a glue gun. “It’s like molding [plastic] with heat and then letting it cool off.”

Each prosthetic hand is specific to the child receiving it. There are a variety of different models, and each prosthetic is sized and created according to the need of the child. For example, “One girl we worked with…she was missing all of the fingers on her hand except for her pinky [finger]. So for her we had to do a different type of hand…to make sure that she fit it in comfortably,” said Skinner.

Recipients of prosthetics are discovered in a variety of different ways. The club reaches out to local hospitals and acquaintances, but sometimes their discovery is less intentional. Skinner reflected on such an occasion, which involved a coincidental encounter with a late-night Uber driver. Last year, Skinner and his family were taking an Uber and started talking with the driver, who mentioned that he had a child who was missing four fingers on each hand. “I immediately thought of the work we do at e-NABLE,” said Skinner. He is also aware, however, that not every child missing a limb wants or need a prosthetic: “Prosthetics aren’t for everyone. Some people work very well without prosthetics; it’s really just preference,” said Skinner. He told the driver about the club’s work and provided his contact information; shortly after, e-NABLE ND was able to build a custom 3D prosthetic hand for the child.

Notre Dame has served children outside of South Bend—which Skinner likes the idea of—by shipping them a 3D model via mail. “It’s growing at a quick rate. Patrick Cumniff, a biochemistry major, joined the club because of his interest in bioengineering and prosthetics,” said Skinner. “It has provided me and many others the chance to apply some of the things we have learned in biology and engineering classes to help those who need it.” Cumniff said: “Joining e-NABLE has been one of the most influential and enjoyable experiences I have had at ND. I really and truly have loved the experiences it has provided: meeting students from different areas of study and working together to make a difference for our community as a whole.”

Community Partners in Health
MATTHEW GUGGENBILLER

“Why would you fight for?” This question is often asked during Notre Dame’s football games, both on the stadium’s video screen and on TV screens across the country. This phrase is not only a question but a prerogative for all those affiliated with the University of Notre Dame to champion causes close to home and across the country.

Notre Dame Club Lends a Hand to Children in Need

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Enhancing Cancer Immunotherapy Using Reactive Nitrogen Species (RNS)

Cesar Moreno

Cancer is one of the most pervasive health issues society faces today. Aside from requiring unique clinical analysis, its hijacking of an individual’s own cells makes it especially difficult to treat. Over time, cancer becomes resistant to all forms of treatment, mutating and evolving to survive. As we learn more about cancer, we search for new forms of treatment to combat that evolution. An exciting new type of therapy, immunotherapy, utilizes a patient’s own immune cells to treat the malignancy. These immune treatments are often plagued by so-called myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs). MDSCs can then prevent needed immune responses. There is thus a delicate balance to angiogenesis — the way new blood vessels form — within the immune system. In some solid tumors, MDSCs are the most abundant immune cells present in cancer microenvironment, an important mechanism these cancers employ to evade the immune system. While much research is focusing on potential chemotherapy for the immune system to also target MDSCs, the idea that MDSCs might be useful in treating cancer has so far been ignored.

Cancer cells are known to produce reactive nitrogen species (RNS) that prevent the immune system from attacking the tumor. RNS like nitric oxide (NO) and peroxynitrite (Peroxynitric acid) are extremely reactive molecules known as reactive nitrogen species (RNS), which prevent the activation of immune cells. However, a study by assistant professor Dr. Xin Lu’s laboratory in Notre Dame’s Department of Biological Sciences identified a method of neutralizing this effect and improving immunotherapy efficacy.

Immunotherapy aims to program the body’s own T lymphocytes to attack the cancer cells present. T cells are activated by the presentation of pathogenic compounds on a compromised somatic cell to a T cell receptor, which activates the T cell. Dr. Xin Lu, a leader in this field, postulated that the inhibition of these RNS might lead to better T cell activation. In their paper, myeloid-derived suppressor cells inhibit T cell activation through nitrating LCK in mouse cancers, the group investigated RNS neutralization in the treatment of prostate cancer and lung cancer in mice.

According to the upcoming publication of LCK inactivation and cancer, the laboratory of Dr. Xin Lu found significantly higher numbers of activated cytotoxic T cells when the immunotherapy and uric acid were combined together in the tumor-bearing mice. While alone uric acid showed no statistical difference in its effects compared to the control, their combination with IC8 showed a nearly three-fold number of cytotoxic T cells (T cells involved in killing cancerous cells) when the immunotherapy and uric acid were combined together in the tumor-bearing mice. While alone LCK inactivation and cancer showed no statistical difference in its effects compared to the control, their combination with IC8 showed a nearly three-fold number of activated cytotoxic T cells.
compromised cells) and a decrease in T regulatory cells (cells that inhibit immune responses). After three weeks of treatment, mice showed tumor volumes approximately five times smaller than that of mice treated with just ICB or UA, and 10 times smaller than those with no treatment at all.

Lu believes that the findings have broader implications and can likely be applied to solid tumors in future clinical cancer diagnosis and treatment. For him, the question is now: “How do we develop antibodies that can identify specific species?” This area is the topic of his current research, and his newer projects are working to develop monoclonal antibodies that can quickly and specifically detect activated MDCs. The identification of MDCs, the Lu Lab believes, would go a long way in helping to create individualized treatments for each patient.

Notre Dame Unveils Largest Hypersonic Quiet Wind Tunnel in the United States

In November 2018, history was made at Notre Dame with the grand opening of the United States’ first Mach 6 wind tunnel. The $5.4 million project was funded with grants from the University of Notre Dame and the Department of Defense. With a nozzle exit diameter of 60 centimeters—2.5 times larger than any other hypersonic tunnels in the United States—the tunnel’s innovative design will allow for the conduct of experiments not previously possible. Thomas Juliano, professor in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering and principal investigator on this project, commented that although the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at Notre Dame “is known for larger scale experimental fluids projects...no one has ever completed something like this before.”

Juliano completed his master’s and Ph.D. work at Purdue University, where he focused on the design and creation of test facilities. After his work at Purdue, he conducted research at the Air Force Research Lab in Dayton, Ohio, where he contributed to hypersonic flight-test programs. Upon his arrival to Notre Dame in August 2014, he began work on proposals and plans for the Mach 6 quiet wind tunnel. After his work at Purdue, he conducted research at the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at Purdue, followed by a Mach 10 tunnel at Notre Dame.

The Mach 6 tunnel is unlike any other, Juliano notes, due to its “combination of high speed, large size, and quiet performance,” and is specifically designed to minimize acoustic disturbances that have been a problem in other hypersonic wind tunnels. The label refers to the speed at which the tunnel operates: at six times the speed of sound. In an amazing feat of engineering, the tunnel contains a special research feature that “allows researchers to more accurately predict aspects of flight through the atmosphere,” Juliano said.

In addition to this most recent addition to the Notre Dame Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Department, only two other hypersonic quiet tunnels exist in the United States: one at Purdue University and the other at Texas A&M University (previously at NASA Langley). However, the tunnel built by Juliano and his team is much larger than its predecessors and allows researchers to conduct more and larger experiments. In collaboration with Purdue University, two successor facilities will be built in the next three to five years; a Mach 8 tunnel at Purdue, followed by a Mach 10 tunnel at Notre Dame.

As the principal investigator, Juliano said that a team of people ultimately made the project come together: technical staff at the White Field Laboratory, machinists in the engineering machine shop of Hessert, and other technical support organizations on campus offered expertise necessary to bring the project to completion. Graduate and undergraduate students also contributed to parts of the design.

Ultimately, Juliano believes that the tunnel has the potential to aid in the design of future high-performance hypersonic vehicles. Relevant experiments have been slated to occur in the near future, the first of which will measure the flow quality of the tunnel itself.

The PAD Project: Fighting for Better I illicit Drug Detection

NOEL VINCENT

Over a century of innovation and regulation within the U.S. pharmaceutical industry continues to bring confidence to household decisions regarding medications. Internationally renowned, the stringent and uncompromising drug review process of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is considered to be the “gold standard” of pharmaceutical regulation. From drug development to postmarketing oversight, spanning years of trials and inspection, the FDA serves as a watchdog on behalf of the American people.

Unfortunately, millions of people around the world find themselves without such regulatory protection. In certain developing countries, those suffering from illnesses have the additional burden of potentially falling victim to ineffective and even dangerous counterfeit medications. Such products are a result of the illicit drug supply chain networks that have sprung up in the absence of adequate regulation. In the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame, the Lieberman Lab is addressing this issue by bringing the fight to the network’s doorstep.

In a recent study, the World Health Organization (WHO) found that “about 10% of the medicines that people use in the developing world [...] are either falsified or substandard,” said Dr. Marya Lieberman, a professor of analytical chemistry and head of the Lieberman Lab. In addition to being ineffective, falsified drugs can contain fillers that cause complications in patients, and substandard medications allow the survival of pathogens that are “differentially resistant” to the drug, further complicating the patient’s condition. Ultimately, poor-quality drugs contribute to the growing issue of worldwide antibiotic resistance in addition to increasing unnecessary human suffering.

The detection of poor quality medications has always been a slow and expensive process. Samples need to be sent to labs where methods like High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) are used to delineate sample components. “The problem right now is that it takes at least a year from the time you find a bad-quality medicine for a report or publication to go out saying that it was bad,” says Sarah Bliese, a graduate student in the Lieberman Lab. “By that point the drug isn’t even on the market anymore, so it’s not benefiting anyone.”

This is where the Lieberman Lab has chosen to innovate. By developing a new technology called the Paper Analytical Device (PAD), the Lieberman Lab is able to track fake medications in real time. The PAD is a essentially a miniature laboratory that can be used quickly and efficiently by field researchers. With just a simple swipe of a medication across the center of a PAD, reactants placed along the 12 lanes of the PAD change colors with respect to characteristic functional groups on the medications, allowing for instantaneous assessment of whether the drug is fake.

The project is a recipient of the National Science Foundation’s Early-Concept Grant for Exploratory Research (EAGER). Government partners in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda, and Ethiopia have begun to use the PADS to screen drugs in ways they have been unable to before. These partners also send back samples to the Lieberman Lab for confirmatory analysis using more quantitative instrumentation. In addition to their collaboration with international partners, the lab also works with colleagues closer to home. Dr. Christopher Sweet and his team at Notre Dame’s Center for Research Computing are involved in automating the analysis of the test results so that the color barcode produced by PADS can be quickly read by computers, ensuring an accurate read of the data. In addition to barcoding—addressing the problems of keeping track of medications—the lab is also exploring blockchain techniques to enter data into shared notebooks. (Blockchain is the same technology used by cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin). This new, secure way to share data would allow for more citizen scientists to join the efforts out in the field.

The falsification of drugs is not a novel crime. Illicit medication can be traced back to ancient Greek apothecaries, which resorted to using cheap production methods, and even early Latin manuscripts have been found to report many false painkillers. This plague of illicit drugs has followed humanity into the modern age. When the first herbal antimaterials were shipped out of South America, “people were complaining about fake Peruvian bark,” said Lieberman. “It’s just people. People sometimes act for their own self-interest and they may try to make some money, selling a product that everybody seems to want.”

There is still much more to be done to combat falsified and substandard drugs. Transparency issues are prevalent among nations that would rather not admit to the international community that there are poor-quality drugs in their markets. Lieberman mentioned that the airline industry went through the same conversation regarding reporting safety concerns. Ever since a system that encouraged transparency was enacted, the airline industry as a whole has been much more safe. A similar attitude among regulatory agencies could incentivize the reporting of instances of illicit drugs. Alongside combating illegitimate drugs, rewarding companies that make the proper investments of time and money to produce drugs properly would encour-
Re-Personalizing Medicine: The Pathos Project

BRYAN MIN

When Ruth Hillebrand received a call late one night, she was not expecting a physician she had just met to abruptly deliver a terminal cancer diagnosis over the phone. Unfortunately, her experience is all too common. As medicine has become more and more standardized and ruled by insurance claims, patients have become increasingly depersonalized. Depersonalization in one of the most personal professions arose as a means of convenience for both physicians and the health system as a whole; though depersonalization does allow for greater quantity of patients care and seemingly higher efficiency, it has also perpetuated and exacerbated a lack of compassion between physicians and their patients. Fortunately, physicians, healthcare professionals, and patients themselves have recognized the gaps in physician education and have begun to advocate for changes to the system. Notre Dame has led the way in the push for greater compassion in medicine.

Dr. Dominic Vachon and the Ruth Hillebrand Center for Compassionate Care in Medicine. Opened in 2011, the Hillebrand Center is one of two included in Ruth Hillebrand’s will dedicated to training future physicians in truly compassionate care. Another center exists at the University of Toledo Medical School, handling patient communication training. But even before future physicians enter their graduate training, they must begin to focus on the importance of compassion in their intended career. Consequently, the Hillebrand Center at Notre Dames is becoming known for teaching future healthcare professionals the importance and principles of compassionate care in medicine. Vachon, a medical psychologist, currently serves as the director of Notre Dame’s Hillebrand Center. When describing the formulation of the center and its focus on the undergraduate level (unique to many physician training programs), Vachon described its founding: “the argument was made,” said Vachon, “[to] start earlier with this [training] since this is not going well.” Beginning training at the undergraduate level is accomplished through the Compassionate Care in Medicine Club which Vachon’s one-and-a-half credit course, Introduction to Personalism in Medicine: the Pathos Project.

The Pathos Project is one of many classes offered by the Hillebrand Center and is focused on instilling the spirit of compassionate care in the context of a system that discourages any kind of personalization. The class meets once a week and emphasizes hands-on learning through discussion. The traditional component of the course consists of a workshop teaching the skill of “being-with,” a foundational skill for the course and for compassionate care in medicine. The course also attracts eight visiting physicians who share their stories of maintaining a person-centered mindset in their practice. The second, unique part of the course requires students to actively engage in the community and with vulnerable populations. This volunteer work involves the skills learned in class: active listening, experiencing the nature of suffering, exploring the physician-patient relationship, and understanding biomedically reductionism. With these two components in hand, Vachon said, “You have the Pathos Project.”

So why has one of the most personal and helpful of the “helping professions” become so depersonalized? Depersonalization concerns for both sides of the healthcare field: physician burnout and the protection of a clinician’s mental health in the context of an extremely stressful and emotionally taxing job. Becoming too involved with the patients has been viewed as weakness, as it leaves the physician vulnerable to patient suffering. However, according to Vachon, “When we are connected to our patients, our patients benefit, but so do we. It’s this mysterious dynamic.” The benefits of the patient-physician relationship based on empathy and mutual respect are still being studied. Unfortunately, new advances in medical technology can remove the humanism from medicine as patients start to be seen as simply organs and bodies; the holistic approach to medicine has declined in favor of a new, more “scientific” medicine. Thankfully, there is a wave of scientific study of compassion, powered by clinicians and scientists that share concerns for both sides of the healthcare field; physician burnout is occurring at an alarming rate, patient satisfaction is at all-time low, and there are widespread accounts of experiences very similar to that of Ruth Hillebrand’s. “Patients aren’t happy, clinicians aren’t happy, nobody’s happy,” said Vachon, who is among the many who believe compassion is one of the major factors in fixing these problems. “It was thought—though it still is thought—that compassionate caring is a nice thing to add to your medical practice, but it’s not essential,” Vachon said. As is seen in the state of healthcare, this is absolutely not the case. “If compassion is not infused in what you do, your patients will suffer but so will you.” In this scenario, the shift in the perception of compassion, from one of sentimental or virtuous importance to one of inherent and biological necessity—humans are designed as compassionate beings. As medicine becomes more and more standardization, compassion is beneficial not only for doctors and patients, but for clinics as a whole. Compassion leads to better health outcomes, which is all around beneficial for every party involved. “Your patients are happier, they’re more likely to come back, and their health outcomes are better if they feel a connection with you,” said Vachon. The Cleveland Clinic and the Mayo Clinic are two examples of such clinics that enjoy high patient satisfaction and subsequent success due to a change in culture to one of compassion. When clinics choose to treat people well, business is more successful and clinicians are happier.

The roots of the Pathos Project were with two Notre Dame graduates (Dr. Yuri Marusch and Dr. Keri Oxley) who were troubled by the depersonalization they experienced in medical school both of patients and the medical students themselves. Prompted at Notre Dame nine years ago under the direction of Fr. James Foster, C.S.C., M.D., this course continues to attract students who want to prepare for the challenges of working in healthcare. As big of a problem as it is, Vachon is optimistic in the efforts being made. “In the middle of crisis is danger, but also opportunity,” Vachon said, and though the problem is extensive throughout the medical profession, the Pathos Project and the Hillebrand Center offer new hope for the future.

Warren Family Research Center Engages in Collaborative Projects Worldwide

ZHEFAN “LAURE” ZHANG

In August 2018, Notre Dame’s Warren Family Research Center for Drug Discovery and Development announced its collaboration with Perlara, a rare disease drug discovery platform company, on a project that aims to develop more effective treatments for a variety of glycogen storage disorders (GSD). This strategic move immediately gathered the interests of physicians, patients, and industries worldwide. The project is simply the most recent iteration of the center’s rich drug discovery portfolio. Collaborations with companies such as Perlara are “a representation of our strength,” said Richard Taylor, the interim director of the Warren Family Research Center from 2014 to 2017. “Most Warren Center researchers have collaborations with external academic and industrial partners. The projects are never limited to this University or to the United States.” In the past years as interim director, Taylor has led several collaborations with international teams to develop treatments for rare diseases. One highlight is a cooperation with the Grace Science Foundation and the biopharmaceutical company, Retrophin, on the study of NGLY1 deficiency, a complex neurological syndrome that results in a variety of enervating symptoms. The research team consists of more than 30 researchers from around the world. After hearing about Taylor’s work on NGLY1 deficiency, a family with a loved one suffering from Cori disease (GSDIII) asked for the help of his research team. Taylor decided to work on GSDIII following this conversation, and recruited Perlara researchers as partners in this continuing conversation with the family.

This is not the first time the Warren Family Research Center has reached out to other teams for collaboration on the treatment of Cori disease. Taylor previously initiated an effort to work together with researchers at Indiana University School of Medicine who concentrate on Lafora disease, an autosomal recessive genetic disorder. According to recent findings, scientists have found that particular approaches to Lafora disease can be applied to treat Cori disease. The two teams have collaborated to establish a new, ongoing mouse model to test their hypothesis, and are looking forward to the potential results revealed by this experiment.

Improving symptoms related to Cori disease. “By working with simple organisms like worms and flies, it’s less expensive to treat the use with a large number of compounds, so you can determine which parts of a large set of compounds are potentially beneficial,” Taylor explained. The platform can help researchers to identify the small group of compounds that actually show beneficial functions on the simple organisms. This is the future of the platform will be used to develop drugs used in human trials.

This is not the first time the Warren Family Research Center has reached out to other teams for collaboration on the treatment of Cori disease. Taylor previously initiated an effort to work together with researchers at Indiana University School of Medicine who concentrate on Lafora disease, an autosomal recessive genetic disorder. According to recent findings, scientists have found that particular approaches to Lafora disease can be applied to treat Cori disease. The two teams have collaborated to establish a new, ongoing mouse model to test their hypothesis, and are looking forward to the potential results revealed by this experiment.

In the near future, Taylor anticipates more teamwork between Notre Dame scholars and outside partners. He believes that it is important for researchers to realize the importance of bringing individuals with different areas of expertise together, improving symptoms related to Cori disease. “By working with simple organisms like worms and flies, it’s less expensive to treat the use with a large number of compounds, so you can determine which parts of a large set of compounds are potentially beneficial,” Taylor explained. The platform can help researchers to identify the small group of compounds that actually show beneficial functions on the simple organisms. Eventual-
particular in the field of rare disease. To effectively impact the multitude of diseases under the “rare disease” umbrella, the Warren Family Research Center will continue to strive to discover treatments for rare diseases through partnerships.

“The Notre Dame community plays an essential role in this process and is extremely supportive to research projects that are well aligned with our Catholic mission,” Taylor added.

“It’s very important for undergraduate and graduate-level students to realize that they can participate in the research on rare diseases as well. Their capabilities go far beyond the simple education system—we are not merely providing training exercise in the lab, but actually trying to solve problems, and students can be a major part of that.”

Notre Dame Fosters Growth and Leadership Through Summer Biology REU
RYAN MIDDLETON

Each summer, the University of Notre Dame invites 12–14 undergraduate students from around the country to engage in the University’s Biological Sciences Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The purpose of the 10-week program is to provide research opportunities to students from universities with smaller amounts of research funding. This year, Notre Dame hosted students from various states and U.S. territories, from Oklahoma to Puerto Rico. The REU also partnered with Notre Dame’s Naughton Fellowship and hosted two international students from Ireland. Each student in the program is placed in a research laboratory on campus: research projects for the biology REU are quite diverse, ranging from the investigation of cancer and cell death mechanisms to the study of tuberculosis virulence.

One of the students involved in this year’s REU was Floyd Nichols, a senior undergraduate student at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. His research project was completed in Dr. Melissa Berke’s lab and examined microbial population composition of permafrost samples from different altitudes across Alaska in order to determine differential levels of soil nutrients and fungi/bacteria ratios. Nichols shared his thoughts on the program, which, compared to his past research experiences, he believes to be the most rigorous he’s encountered. “The REU program provided me the opportunity to do research that I didn’t really have experience with before. I go to a small school, St. Vincent College, and we don’t really have resources like that,” said Nichols. “Now [the field of my REU research] is what I’m going to be pursuing [in graduate school]: biogeochemistry/earth sciences.”

As an added bonus, Notre Dame’s REU provides enriching experiences outside of the lab and focuses on fostering relationships between students. Nichols explained that he felt ND’s REU allowed him to create lasting relationships with other scientists with whom he is still in contact and will likely remain close throughout his career. “Every once in awhile, [my advisor Melissa Berke would] send me an email and say, ‘this person is looking for a Ph.D. student next year, you might be interested in the work she does.’ She would always keep an eye out for astrobiologists or microbiologists [for me to get in contact with].” Aside from his mentor, Nichols continues to maintain friendships with other rising Ph.D. students who completed the program—relationships that could one day be the basis of professional collaborations among research laboratories around the nation.

REU students engaged in many activities outside of the lab over the course of the summer. On two occasions, the group traveled to Chicago—once the first weekend as a bonding experience and a second time later in the summer to tour, network with, and learn about Northwestern University. The students also volunteered with a local summer camp, teaching the children about science and hopefully igniting young passions for a field that is always in desperate need of strong and enthusiastic minds. The goal of these activities is not only to expose the participants to different environments and facilitate group bonding, but also to encourage peer leadership. Each activity is organized by one of the students themselves so as to cultivate leadership skills. The program director holds weekly meetings with the REU students to discuss the planning of these experiences as well as to check in on project progress and bring in guest speakers from Notre Dame’s Department of Biology.

Nichols is very grateful for his experience with the Notre Dame Biological Sciences REU: “I’d never been to Chicago before, didn’t know much about Northwestern, didn’t know anything about biogeochemistry,” said Nichols. “Now that is where I’m going [for my Ph.D.]: to Chicago to [study] biogeochemistry at Northwestern.”
Examining Native and Invasive Flower Preferences in Wild Bee Populations

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Abstract
This experiment set out to determine if introduced and invasive flowers are less appealing to native pollinators, potentially contributing to the effects of habitat loss on these vulnerable insect populations. Invasive plants pose threats to native ecosystems by crowding out native plants and displacing native species. Wild bee populations face threats from habitat loss and fragmentation. To determine non-native flowers’ effects on wild bees, I observed plots of either native or introduced wildflowers and counted the number of visits made by different genera of bees. I found no significant preference for native or introduced flowers in five of the six genera observed. One genus, Lasioglossum sp. showed a significant preference for introduced flowers.

Introduction
Insect pollinators face a wide variety of threats, from habitat loss and fragmentation to pesticides to disease. The federal Pollinator Research Action Plan (1) describes the threats facing pollinators and calls for increased research to protect these integral species. Native bees, the most effective pollinators of many native plants, are a vital part of their ecosystems. Determining specific land management strategies aimed at protecting both the native plants and the insects that feed on them can facilitate healthier ecosystems.

An important aspect of land management is controlling invasive species. Invasive plants threaten native plant populations by crowding and outcompeting native plants for limited resources. In efforts to help bolster failing populations of native pollinators, providing land for wildflowers to colonize may not be sufficient: successional native plants may be required. As insect pollinators depend on plants for their food supply, any disturbance to the plant community has the potential to disturb the insect pollinator community. Some native bees, particularly Apidae genera Xenoglossa sp., Peponapis sp., and some Andreninae genera are highly specialized, visiting only one genus or species of plant (1). While these bees are an extreme example, many bees prefer specific plants, and may be unable or unwilling to feed on introduced species. Wild bees will have co-evolved with the species native to their ranges, and may or may not be willing to feed on new species. In this study, I would like to learn how invasive and introduced plant species affect the native pollinator populations.

Previous literature gives conflicting information on this topic. In a review of relevant literature, Litt et al. (2) found that pollinator prevalence decreases as invasive plant abundances increase. However, Lopezaraiza-Mikel et al. (3) found that in plots with invasive plants, more pollinators were found. Yet another study found that in reclaimed farmland, pollinators showed a preference for native plants (4). This topic is little studied, and more research is needed to determine the general effect of invasive and introduced plant species on native bee communities. In determining the potential effects of these plants have on the pollinator community, land managers and others concerned with pollinator conservation can better understand how to save the vital parts of ecosystems.

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan contains unique ecosystems. A majority of this part of the state is covered in hardwood forest and forested swamp, with little urban or agricultural land (5). Wildflowers are contained to roadsides and occasional meadows. Bee diversity in the Upper Peninsula is lower than in many parts of the Lower Peninsula (6), though this could be due in part to sampling bias.

Methods and Materials
Study Site
All research was conducted at the University of Notre Dame Environmental Science Center on the border of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Center sits on 7500 acres containing hardwood forests, lakes, streams, bogs, and meadows. The plots used in this experiment were largely found in meadows, with some placed along roadways (Figure 1). To determine the food preferences of wild bees, I found 33 plots containing primarily one type of wildflower. Flower species can be found in Table 1. Plot size was not standard due to differing densities of flowers. I attempted to standardize flower density, prioritizing that metric over raw plot size. All plots were roughly one meter square, with none larger than 2 m² or smaller than 1 m².

Figure 1. Site map of the UNDERC property. Plot locations marked with red stars. Several meadows contained multiple plots. Map from https://underc.nd.edu/
the area, though there is one non-native Lasioglossum (There are several non-native bees in Michigan; the European this, as neither would have the co-evolution of native species.

| Table 1. All species of flowers observed in my experiment. In two cases, species could not be determined due to the similarity of the species in the genus | (14, 9). |

Observational Methods
I observed each plot for 30 min at varying points during the day. 10am was the earliest start time, as bees are less active before then, and 5pm was the latest I began observations. All observations were made during days on which it was not raining. During each 30 min period, I recorded the number of visits made by wild bees, noting the genera for each visit. For some plots with a very high number of visits, it is probable that my counts were too low due to the abundance of visiting bees and the impossibility of counting every visit. I made an effort to vis-
it each type of flower twice, to minimize any environmental ef-
facts. For example, several plots were along roads, and I found
the same plant growing in a meadow to minimize any effect the
road may have on pollinator visits. Such replication was not possible in every case due to time limitations and other constraints. Of the 33 plots, 19 were comprised primarily of in-
troduced plants and 14 were comprised primarily of native wild-
flowers. Of the 19 introduced, four are on an invasive species
list for Wisconsin (WI DNR); Leucanthemum vulgare, Lotus corniculata, Linaria vulgaris, list for Wisconsin (WI DNR);, and
one of which is an exotic species. Without identifying these
bees, there is no way to know whether this exotic species was ob-
served or not. Lasioglossum is a large genus of small sweat bees. These bees are generalists for the most part, although some exceptions exist. They are extremely abundant in the United States and are important pollinators of many wild-
flowers (the genus includes solitary, primitively eusocial, semisocial, and parasitic species). Two genera in this family were observed in
my project. The family Megachilidae can be identified by the unique positioning of their pollen collecting hairs. Two genera in this family were observed in my project. The family Megachilidae can be identified by the unique positioning of their pollen collecting hairs. The introduced flowers could be closely related to native flowers so as to be appealing to bees, or could fulfill some other criteria bees use to choose their food. Of the 10 introduced flower species I examined, four genera do not have native species, and five genera do have native representatives in MI and WI. (One genus observed had two invasive species included in this project. Bumble bees have been shown to have color biases toward certain colors of flowers (10, 11), and this innate choosing of flower color, shape, size, or some other criteria could matter more than evolutionary familiarity.

While other bees have these hairs on their metathoracic legs, Megachilids have their pollen collecting hairs on the undersides of their hind legs (7). I assumed all three family were observed in
this project. Megachile is a large genus with species that display a large range of foraging behaviors. Species are most often general-
ists, with only a few showing specialist feeding. All species are solitary, nesting in a variety of environments. Megachile usually line their nests with leaves or flower petals. Five species of Megachile live in Gogebic County. Finally, I observed the one species of Osmia found in Gogebic County. Osmia lignaria, the blue orchard bee, is a solitary bee by nesting in structures like beetle burrows or dead twigs. These bees are a dark metallic blue. While generalist feeders, O. lignaria prefer pollinating fruit trees and vines. County records all from Gibbs et al. 2017.

Table 2. The families and genera of the bees observed in this experiment. Three genera were monospecific for Gogebic county, and are identified to species in the table (7).

Results
I found six genera of bees over the duration of my proj-
et. (Table 2) Two in the family Apidae (Bombus, Svastra), two in the Halictidae family (Halictus, Lasioglossum), and two in the Megachilidae family (Megachile, Osmia). Bombus species were the most abundant. These large, extremely fuzzy bees are eusocial, living in large hives underground. According to Gibbs et al. 2017, there are nine species of bumble bees in Gogebic County. These bees are generalist feeders, showing no loyalty
ity to any specific type of flower. One the Svastra sp. found, Svastra obliqua, was at three plots. This species has a
scattered range in MI, and is not confirmed to be present in this
county. However, I am reasonably confident in my identifica-
tion, and believe that based on scattered presence throughout
the state that it is reasonable for it to occur here. S. obliqua live
in loose aggregations of females, nesting underground. These
bees are pollen specialists, feeding only on pollen from flowers
in the Asteraceae family, though adults may also feed on nectar
from other flowers. The genus Halictus has one species in this
county; H. rubicundus *(7)*. This species displays a range of so-
cial behaviors, with some individuals nesting in single
societies, and other showing solitary nesting behavior. H. rubicundus is a generalist species, without specificity in feed-
ing. Lasioglossum species were the second most commonly ob-
served bees. There are nine species of Lasioglossum in Gogebic
County, of which is an exotic species. Without identifying
the bees observed to species, I do not know whether this exotic
species was observed or not. Lasioglossum is a large genus of
small sweat bees. These bees are generalists for the most part, although some exceptions exist. They are extremely abundant in the United States and are important pollinators of many wild-
flowers (the genus includes solitary, primitively eusocial, semi-
social, and parasitic species). Two genera in this family were observed in
my project. The family Megachilidae can be identified by the unique positioning of their pollen collecting hairs. Two genera in this family were observed in my project. The family Megachilidae can be identified by the unique positioning of their pollen collecting hairs. The introduced flowers could be closely related to native flowers so as to be appealing to bees, or could fulfill some other criteria bees use to choose their food. Of the 10 introduced flower species I examined, four genera do not have native species, and five genera do have native representatives in MI and WI. (One genus observed had two invasive species included in this project. Bumble bees have been shown to have color biases toward certain colors of flowers (10, 11), and this innate choosing of flower color, shape, size, or some other criteria could matter more than evolutionary familiarity.

Figure 2. Comparing bee visits by genus to introduced and native flowers. Bars show the total number of visits summed across all flowers, separated into native and introduced flows-
er. Error bars are standard deviation, calculated with R (10). Five of the six genera showed no preference for either native or introduced flowers. Lasioglossum sp. showed a preference for introduced flowers, with non-overlapping error bars. Plots made with ggplot2 (13).

Figure 3. Lasioglossum sp. visits to introduced and native flowers. Bars show the total number of visits summed over all flowers observed, split into introduced and native bees. These bees showed a significant preference for introduced species *(p=0.0281)*. Plots made with ggplot2 (13).

A future study could do well to extend this research. Very little is known about bee preference or avoidance of invasive
plants, and while this project began that research, more could be done. This project was limited in size and time, as I was taking classes in addition to collecting data. This meant that I was not able to collect data evenly throughout the season, which aligned with research needs and did not have the chance to collect data on all the wildflowers
found here. Further, this project was conducted in an area

| Figure 2 | Figure 3 |
relatively lacking in bee diversity. Fewer than 50 species of bee are found in this county, and far fewer were found in this experiment. Extending the research throughout the summer would give a more complete picture of the floral and bee diversity. Repeating this experiment in an area with higher bee diversity could reveal if these patterns extend across more genera, especially specialist feeders.

These findings have implications for land management and pollinator conservation. Land set aside for pollinators, be it roadsides, abandoned farmland, or empty lots are all capable of supporting at least some wild bee diversity. Ensuring that plants in these areas be native is ideal, though non-native flowers will not necessarily detract from overall species composition and pollinator recovery. As native bees face threats from habitat loss, this research shows that habitat containing any flowers, not just native flowers, can help recover declining bee populations. More research is needed to determine whether all bee genera show this lack of necessity, but these preliminary results suggest that flowers, regardless of their native or invasive status are capable of supporting wild bee populations. Invasive flowers pose different threats, and should be managed appropriately, but they do not necessarily pose a threat to wild bees.

Acknowledgments
I would like to thank Dr. Rose-Marie Muzika for her help and guidance in this project, as well as Dr. Gary Belovsky and Dr. Michael Cramer for their help and lessons throughout my time at UNDERC. Immense gratitude to the Bernard J. Hank Family Endowment for funding my project and time at UNDERC. Thank you to the UNDERC staff and TAs for all their help this summer. I would like to acknowledge Hadley Wickham for writing the R packages that allowed me to organize and graph my data in a coherent and aesthetically pleasing way. Special thanks also to Alanna Post for driving me all over property and helping me count the many, many bees.

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About the Author
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What does the LANCE of St. George Do? Analyzing Data from a Nuclear Accelerator

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Abstract
A detailed analysis of the cross sections of nuclear fusion reactions is important for understanding numerous other properties of stars, including isotope formation, energy generation, and stellar lifetimes. One specific type of nuclear reaction, called an alpha-gamma (α,γ) reaction, is frequent in intermediate-mass stars in their helium burning phase. 12C(α,γ)16O is one such reaction, and will serve as an example. This work focuses on resolving some of the difficulties involved in studying these cross sections by modeling aspects of them in a laboratory setting. This is done by sending a beam through the Sta. Ana accelerator, having it impinge on a helium target, and by feeding the resultant beam through St. George (1) in Notre Dame’s Nuclear Science Lab (NSL). A primary difficulty in calculating the (α,γ) nuclear reaction cross section is knowing the charge state fraction of the resultant selected ions. Knowing the charge state of the beam and recoil products after they have traveled through the target is also difficult, since the incoming beam has a statistical probability of gaining or losing electrons due to interactions with particles in the target. To resolve some of these issues, a program, ETACHA (2), that models these processes is used. This work outlines the development and preliminary usage of a Python interface, LANCE, which was designed to run ETACHA and process its output data.

Introduction & Theory
Nuclear astrophysics is a subfield of nuclear physics, whose specific goals are to understand and describe the nuclear processes in stars. In galaxies throughout the universe, clouds of dust, primarily hydrogen, clump together due to the gravitational force each particle exerts on every other. As the cloud collapses, the pressure in the center becomes very high, and the core of the protostar becomes very hot. As these hydrogen nuclei accumulate kinetic energy, they eventually gain enough for the quantum tunneling effect to allow the positively charged nuclei to fuse and form helium through a succession of reactions. This chain of reactions releases energy in the form of electromagnetic radiation, which exerts positive pressure on the surrounding atoms, counterbalancing the negative gravitational pressure and thus stabilizing the star. This is precisely the reaction chain powering the Sun.

Generally speaking, the various reaction chains converting four hydrogen nuclei into helium are known as the hydrogen burning phase in the life of a star. A star in its hydrogen burning phase finds its helium concentrated near its center, with its hydrogen surrounding it, due to the helium’s greater mass. If a star is massive enough, then at the end of its hydrogen burning phase, the gravitational pressure will produce enough energy for the helium nuclei to fuse together, and the star enters the helium burning phase. In extremely massive stars, there is enough energy to fuse even heavier nuclei, producing all the elements up to iron. Fusion stops there, since the binding energy of fusion reactions (with a couple interesting exceptions) increases from isotopic hydrogen to iron, and then decreases nearly monotonically to uranium. In these very massive stars, after each phase of burning, there is a residual layer surrounding the core, with the lightest element, hydrogen, being the farthest out. Thus, a cross section of a star right before exploding as a supernova looks a bit like the layers of an onion (Fig. 1).

The reaction that occurs when an atom fuses with a helium nucleus (alpha particle) and releases nothing but gamma rays, is known as an alpha radiative capture or an alpha-gamma (α,γ) reaction. These gamma rays, after experiencing lots of scattering, eventually escape the center of the star and propagate away, carrying energy with them. These reactions are important to the understanding of stellar lifetimes (by studying their reaction rates and energy outputs) and the formation of the elements since many other elements also fuse with helium in stars. One interesting (α,γ) reaction which is quite difficult to study in the lab at stellar energies, yet interesting to model and analyze, is 12C (α,γ), which forms 16O. This equation can be written as

\[ ^{12}\text{C} + ^4\text{He} \rightarrow ^{16}\text{O} + \gamma. \]
PHYSICS

When analyzing this reaction in the lab, it is important to know how much of the carbon beam reacts with helium nuclei, and how much of it merely interacts with the electrons in the helium target. ETACHA models this interaction, providing more details on the incoming beam’s charge state distribution, and thus allowing for a better understanding of when the reaction does occur. In this paper, an exposition on the experimental methods used to study radiative capture with the St. George recoil separator will be presented. The need for an estimate of the charge state fraction of ions passing through or produced in the target will be discussed, and an interface to ETACHA providing that calculation will be introduced and described.

Laboratory Method

In the Notre Dame Nuclear Science Laboratory, the study of this reaction is performed using the Stable Ion Accelerator for Nuclear Astrophysics (St. ANA accelerator) via a process known as inverse kinematics, in which the heavier isotope (carbon in this case) is accelerated into the target filled with the lighter element (here, helium). The resultant beam and the few nuclear reaction products are then sent through the Strong Gradient Electromagnetic Online Recoil separator for capture of Gamma-ray Experiments (St. George). (1). St. George uses dipole magnets to steer the desired beam particles and select a single charge state, quadrupole magnets to focus them, and a Wien Filter to select only the recoils (reaction products) with a desired velocity as a result of their charge-to-mass ratio. Dipole magnets are two coils of wire above and below the beam to ensure as uniform a magnetic field as possible. The necessary current for a specific isotope to be sent through can be calculated from the Lorentz Force and the Biot-Savart Law for current. In a loop, $F = q(v \times B)$, $B = \frac{E l}{2h}$, where $C$ is dependent on the region through which the magnetic field lines point. Knowing that $v = B \times v$ since the two are perpendicular, setting the Lorentz Force equal to the centripetal force, rearranging, multiplying by $N$ turns of the loop, and setting the two equal gives $\frac{m_{\text{payload}}}{r} = \frac{q v B}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{m_{\text{payload}}}{C_{\text{th}}}$, and $F = \frac{2m_{\text{payload}}}{C_{\text{th}}}$. Quadrupole magnets operate under the same principle but are usually lined up with two or three next to each other since each one “sandwiches” the beam, i.e., compressing it along the $x$-axis but elongating it along the $y$-axis, for example. Having multiple quadrupole magnets next to each other with alternating focusing planes provides a way to compress the beam in both transverse axes. The Wien Filter operates in a similar way to a dipole magnet but with an added complexity: a perpendicular electric field and no change of direction. With the same Lorentz Force from the magnetic field, but also a Lorentz Force from the electric field, we can select a specific velocity from the beam by balancing the two forces: $q v B = q v E = v \frac{F}{B}$.

All other beam particles will be deflected to the side. Each of these electromagnetic apparatuses is intended to guide the ions that emerge from the helium target in such a way as to transmit as high a percentage of the desired recoil ions as possible to the detector system at the end of St. George. The equation governing the number of particles counted by the detector at the end of St. George is $N_{\text{detector}} = N_{\text{payload}} \times \text{transm} \times \epsilon \times \text{TGC} \times \text{PS}$. $\text{transm}$ is the cross section of the reaction, and $\epsilon$ is the charge state fraction, i.e., the probability of finding the isotope of interest in the desired charge state. When running the experiment, the number of projectiles and the amount of target ions are known, and fortunately the transmission of St. George is nearly 100%, so the charge state fraction (i.e., the ratio of the number of particles in a specific charge state to the number of total particles) is a critical quantity to measure an accurate cross-section reaction section.

ETACHA is a program that models the charge state distribution of the ions as they travel through a target, resulting in the distribution of $p_{\text{e}}$. The evolution of the charge state distribution is important for understanding properties of this reaction and the incident ion’s affinity for electrons as a function of energy, depth, initial charge, and other parameters. The Laborsaving Algorithm for Navigating the Code ETACHA (LANCE) is written to process the data file with the progression of the beam charge state, which ETACHA outputs. It is used to simulate the charge state of the beam and of the products of reaction through the target.

Implementation & Results

Part of the motivation for LANCE to be written is to provide and interface for ETACHA. ETACHA gives the user the option to enter parameters into the program after starting it, to change values if they have better ones than the ones used in the program itself. LANCE makes it possible for the user to specify all of their input parameters beforehand, so that they can simply hit start, and the program would run from start to finish. As with any program, there are multiple versions of ETACHA, four to be exact (3). The earliest versions were designed for lighter elements in the beam, and as ETACHA was updated, it was built to include heavier isotopes (higher proton number, Z, and higher quantum number, n), including properties that some heavy metals have that lighter ones either lack or only have to a very minute degree. In the later versions, some assumptions were made, such as excitation to higher $n$, to calculate the charge state evolution at higher $Z$, which introduce error when used to analyze lighter nuclei, compelling us to use earlier versions when studying a beam of carbon, for example. To make a comparison of the outputs of each version of ETACHA a little easier, LANCE takes a command line argument that specifies which version of ETACHA to use and extracts the final data from that specific output file. This makes comparing experimental data from St. George with the model more simple since it’s all in the same place. The output file from ETACHA are data files with all of the input parameters labeled and in a table, but this is not very convenient since it doesn’t give a visual image of how the charge state distribution of the incident beam actually evolves as the beam moves through the target. Furthermore, the data from the experiments are organized in a way that enables the progression of the charge state distribution to be clearly seen along the $x$-axis (depth). For this reason, LANCE takes only the data from the table in the output file, sorts it, and plots it with thickness along the $x$-axis, and fraction of the beam in a given charge state on the y-axis, with a legend for each charge state, as can be seen in (Fig. 2).

![Figure 2. Charge State Evolution. A sample plot of the data file produced by LANCE. The legend indicates the number of electrons on the atom passing through a target of 50μm. The incoming beam has 3 electrons, but as the beam travels through the target, most of the atoms are stripped of their electrons, leaving most of the beam with no electrons. Other plots are similar.](image2)

LANCE is also split up into modules for the purpose of debugging and upgrading, allowing the author to update it with much more convenience. A schematic of the current working version can be seen in (Fig. 3). The 12C($\alpha$,n)2 reaction was modeled on all four versions of ETACHA at a typical beam energy and on a Helium target of a typical depth for this type of reaction, and their outputs can be seen in Fig. 4-7.

![Figure 4. Plots of LANCE. 12C+ on He at 10.5 MeV. The output of ETACHA3 plotted by LANCE. The units of Thickness are micrometers (μm).](image4)

![Figure 5. Plots of LANCE. 12C+ on He at 10.5 MeV. The output of ETACHA3 plotted by LANCE. The units of Thickness are micrometers (μm).](image5)

![Figure 6. Plots of LANCE. 12C+ on He at 10.5 MeV.](image6)

![Figure 7. Schematic of LANCE. The structure of package in which LANCE resides and how it functions.](image7)
Conclusion & Future Work

There are a number of steps to be taken with LANCE, some of the most exciting being the ability to stitch together the output files for charge states larger than 6 (for versions 23, 3, and 34) or 9 (for version 4) and the availability of a more idealized input parameter system. With the parameter upgrade, there will most likely be a new module for retrieving and storing the data and potentially the creation of a new data file with information that is easier to access as well. In addition, the simulation of the evolution of the charge state of reaction products will be enabled. This will involve the calculation of all possible charge state fractions of the beam prior to the reaction, and then follow all of the reaction products to the end of the target. For this purpose, there will be the addition of new input parameters, specifying the desired energies at which to run, and a loop over those parameters, feeding a new input parameter every time it is required. With this, the plots could take on multiple extra dimensions, including energy, depth, initial charge state, version of ETACHA, etc. Then the user will have yet another visual indication as to how each of these variables influences the evolution of the charge state distribution. In summary, LANCE, written as an interface to ETACHA, a program that calculates the charge state fractions of ions passing through some material, is currently used to compare experimental work with the predictions of ETACHA. Once validated, it will be used to predict the expected charge state fraction of the ions involved in radiative capture measurements with St. George.

References


About the Author

Michael Kurkowski is a junior physics and math major from the Chicago suburbs, living in Knott Hall. He is also a Sorin Scholar and the president of the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir. He conducts research with Professor Manoel Couder in computational nuclear astrophysics. He focuses on charge state calculations specific to stellar nuclear reactions. These experiments are conducted using the Sta. Ana accelerator and the St. George recoil separator in the Nuclear Science Lab in the basement of Nieuwland Science Hall.
Simulation of the ND Cube Active-Target Time Projection Chamber

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Abstract
Studies of detectors are necessary for major advances in nuclear physics techniques. To make such advances, detectors with high efficiency are needed to study reactions with radioactive beams. These radioactive beams are used to study nuclei that are important for advancing nuclear theory, but these beams have low intensities. One way to address this problem is to use an Active Target Time Projection Chamber (TPC). Active Target TPCs are a kind of the next generation detectors that improve efficiency by using a thick gas target with track imaging. At the University of Notre Dame, we are developing an Active-Target TPC called the ND Cube. Upon completion, the ND Cube will be able to track reaction trajectories and provide good resolution for reactions. Before using the ND Cube, it is necessary to understand its behavior through simulation to optimize its efficiency. I simulated the electric field and the behavior of electron drift lines inside the ND Cube using the finite element analysis software COMSOL and CERN’s Garfield++ toolkit. Based on the simulation, the resolution and the expected transport of the electrons in the detector can be determined. We found a standard deviation of $\sigma = \pm 0.85$ cm for each electron drifting in 55 cm of air at 1 atm, which determines the resolution of our imaged tracks. In the future, the simulation results will be used to compare and analyze the experimental data. Finally, I simulated Micromegas of a similar Active Target TPC detector to resolve possible systematic errors due to non-uniform electric fields.

Introduction
The Active Target Time Projection Chamber is a detector that opens a wide range of possibilities for nuclear physics studies. The concept of the Time Projection Chamber (TPC) was first proposed in the early 1970s (1). In the half century since its development, the Active Target TPC has become one of the latest and most advanced nuclear reaction detectors. In 2016, the Prototype Active Target TPC was used to study the Beryllium and Carbon nucleus and test the prediction of a molecular dynamics’ calculation (2), which proves that the Active Target TPC is a kind of the next generation detectors that improves efficiency by using a thick gas target with track imaging. When the radioactive beams hit the gas inside the chamber, electrons are emitted along the trajectory of the reaction. The electrons then drift downward through the chamber and are collected by the Micromegas. The Micromegas is an electron collector that amplifies the drifting electrons and converts them into electronic signals. Ideally, the electrons drift downward in straight-lines in a uniform electric field. However, due to the non-uniformity of the electric field inside the Active Target TPC, the electron will follow these non-uniform field lines and thus the drift lines will not be straight. Therefore, simulation is necessary to understand the drift lines’ behavior and to figure out the resolution of the Active Target TPC.

Simulation of Electron Drift
Electrons drift through the gas in the field cage under the influence of a strong electric field. In this simulation, COMSOL, a commercial Finite Element Analysis (FEA) software, is used to simulate the electric field inside the chamber. Finite Element Analysis is a numerical approach to the solution of boundary-value problems in physics and engineering (3). Using computer simulation, I efficiently and economically calculated the deviation caused by the non-uniformity of the field. Next, I imported the simulated electric field data into the Garfield++ toolkit to calculate electron drift lines. Garfield++ is a package based on C++ developed by The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Garfield++ is designed for the detailed simulation of particle detectors that use gas as a sensitive medium like the Active Target TPC (4). Garfield++ provided positions of the starting points and the end points of the electrons drifting in the detector. These data of starting points and end points were collected and analyzed. Finally, I used COMSOL to simulate the electric field of a developing Micromegas.

Figure 1. On-Building Active Target Time Projection Chamber
The field cage shown in red in Fig. 1 is the part that the electrons drift through under the influence of a strong electric field. In this simulation, COMSOL, a commercial Finite Element Analysis (FEA) software, is used to simulate the electric field inside the chamber. Finite Element Analysis is a numerical approach to the solution of boundary-value problems in physics and engineering (3). Using computer simulation, I efficiently and economically calculated the deviation caused by the non-uniformity of the field. Next, I imported the simulated electric field data into the Garfield++ toolkit to calculate electron drift lines. Garfield++ is a package based on C++ developed by The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Garfield++ is designed for the detailed simulation of particle detectors that use gas as a sensitive medium like the Active Target TPC (4). Garfield++ provided positions of the starting points and the end points of the electrons drifting in the detector. These data of starting points and end points were collected and analyzed. Finally, I used COMSOL to simulate the electric field of a developing Micromegas.
Simulation of the Electric Field

The first step of this simulation is to analyze the uniformity of the electric field inside the chamber using COMSOL. In this simulation step, the Active-Target TPC is simplified as two parallel plates with a voltage difference of 120 V. In the simplified model (Fig. 2), the two plates have radius 0.5 m and of thickness 0.1 m. These plates are separated by 0.9 m and are surrounded by air.

Fig. 3 shows the simulated result for a cross-section of the electric field of the Active Target TPC. The electric field is uniform at the center of the plates, but not near the edges. This non-uniformity will cause the electron drift lines to be tilted.

Simulation of Straggling

Next, the simulation result of the electric field is imported into the Garfield++ toolkit. Using the electric field data, the Garfield++ toolkit simulates the behavior of an electron drifting through the chamber. It automatically tracks the trajectory of the electron and the endpoints of the drift lines. The electron starts drifting in the z-direction from +25 cm to -30 cm with x, y coordinates both set to zero. Since the x-direction is symmetric to the y-direction, only the deviation in the x is recorded. Fig. 4 shows an electron drift line in detail.

To study the effect of straggling, I used Garfield++ to determine the deviation of each individual electron drifting from the same initial location. In the simulation, Garfield++ ran one thousand times, calculating one thousand drift lines starting from the same initial location. The deviation was calculated based on the endpoints of these one thousand drift lines.

Electric Field Simulation of a New Micromegas

Micromegas is the part of the Active Target TPC that detects the drifting electrons. It has two plates that contain strong electric fields inside. The uniformity of the electric field will determine the accuracy of the electrons’ positions. The developing new Micromegas has a big hole in the middle of the plates because a beam will pass through the hole in our new setup. Thus, understanding how the electric field distortion caused by the hole will provide crucial information to the design of the new Micromegas. My simulation helped determine the magnitude of the distortion area and analyze its impact on the electron position’s precision.

Analyzing the simulation result in Fig. 8, I found that the electron drift lines deviate the most near the edge of the plates because of the non-uniformity of the electric field as shown in Fig. 3. Based on the data from Fig. 8, the deviation caused by the non-uniformity of the electric field can be accounted for when solving for the initial position of the detected electrons.

Conclusion

The precision of the position of charged-particle tracks in detectors can be determined by simulations that combine the spread in detected positions due to collisions (straggling) and the deviation due to the non-uniformity of the electric field. In this experiment, the standard deviation caused by straggling in the ND Cube is $\sigma = \pm 0.85$ cm. Ideally, a mapping can be drawn from every starting point to the corresponding end point up to the precision limited by straggling. Therefore, the corresponding starting points can be obtained via a reverse calculation using this mapping. We can then calculate the trajectory of the reaction with a known calculated accuracy. Thus, Active Target TPC or the ND Cube will be an efficient tool for studying reactions of radioactive beams.

In this simulation, the Active Target TPC is simplified as two parallel plates. The next step of this research is to redo the simulation with the actual 3D CAD model. The gas surrounding the detector chamber in the simulation will be...
the same composition as the gas used in the actual experiment. Therefore, the accuracy of the simulation can be further improved.

The method used in my simulation can be applied to analyze other similar detectors as well. COMSOL can calculate electric and magnetic fields even with detectors of irregular shapes. The rest of the simulation will be the same. This method also can analyze the behavior of ions and positrons in the detector chamber to prevent possible sparks and distortion of the electric field inside the chamber. By improving our simulation, we can rigorously ensure that our final detector will be as efficient as possible for measuring rare nuclear reactions using radioactive beams.

Acknowledgement

Prof. Tan Ahn in Notre Dame’s physics department gave me many advice and guidance on this work. Notre Dame’s graduate Student Samuel Henderson and undergraduate Zach Serikow both helped me a lot in finishing this. This work was funded by the University of Notre Dame’s Eagan Summer Fellowship.

References


About the Author

Lihao Yan is a sophomore at Notre Dame from Beijing, China. He is a double major in physics and philosophy and lives in Zahm house. Lihao is a member of the executive board of Notre Dame's Chinese Culture Society and a member of the Student Government. As a researcher, he works with Professor Tan Ahn's research group on developing nuclear physics detectors. He is working in Notre Dame Nuclear Science Laboratory (NSL) on simulating and developing the next-generation nuclear detector. After graduation, Lihao is hoping to go to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. degree in theoretical physics.
Class Number Formulae

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Abstract
In this paper, we are going to follow a text written by Jarvis to explore the concept of class numbers and class groups; moreover, we are going to find ways to calculate the class number over number fields by deriving a class number formula through Analytic Number Theory with Dirichlet Unit Theorem. We will first explain some geometric techniques in order to prove the finiteness of class numbers and Dirichlet Unit Theorem, and then we will use Analytic Number Theory to derive the formula. This formula is very useful in computing the class number of a specific number field and deciding if the number field is a unique factorization domain by analyzing the class group of the number field.

Preliminaries

Definition 1. An ideal \( I \) in a commutative ring \( R \) is defined with the following properties:
(i) \( 0 \in I \)
(ii) if \( i \) and \( j \) are in \( I \), then \( i - j \) is in \( I \)
(iii) if \( i \in I \), \( c \in \mathbb{R} \), then \( ci \in I \).
An ideal with only one generator is called a principal ideal.

Definition 2. A field \( K \) is a number field if it is a finite extension of \( \mathbb{Q} \).

Definition 3. Let \( K \) be a number field, then \( \mathbb{Z}_K \) is the ring of integers of \( K \), with \( \mathbb{Z}_K = \{ \alpha \in K | \alpha \) is an algebraic integer\}.

Definition 4. A fractional ideal of \( \mathbb{Z}_K \) is the subset of \( K \) with the form \( \frac{1}{\gamma} \mathbb{Z}_K \), with \( \gamma \) a non-zero element of \( \mathbb{Z}_K \).
The fractional ideal is principal if \( \gamma \) is principal.

Definition 5. Let \( R \) be an integral domain, then \( R \) is a principal ideal domain if every ideal is principal.

Definition 6. Let \( R \) be a ring, and \( u \in R \). If there exists \( v \in R \) such that \( uv = 1 \), then \( u \) is a unit in \( R \).

Definition 7. Let \( p \in R \). Then \( p \) is irreducible if
(i) \( p \) is not a unit.
(ii) whenever \( p = ab \), then either \( a \) or \( b \) is a unit.

Definition 8. A ring \( R \) is a unique factorization domain if it is an integral domain in which every element \( a \in R \) can be written as \( a = p_1 \ldots p_n \), where \( a \) is a unit and each \( p_i \) is irreducible.

Fact 9. Let \( \phi : R \to S \) be a ring homomorphism. Then there is an isomorphism \( \frac{R}{\ker \phi} \cong \text{im} \phi \).

Definition 10. An \( n \)th roots of unity is a number \( \zeta \in \mathbb{C} \) such that \( \zeta^n = 1 \).

Definition 11. After choosing a basis for \( K \) a number field, represent \( a \in K \) as a matrix. Thus, we define \( \text{norm} \) as the determinant of \( a \), denoted by \( \text{norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a) \).

What is a Class Group and Class Number
In order to explain what a class group is and how it works, we need several facts. [Thm. 4.31, 5.30, 5.32] [Jar14]

Fact 12. A principal ideal domain (PID) is a unique factorization domain (UFD). If we do a contrapositive, we will see this fact as: If a domain doesn’t have unique factorization, then there are some ideals that are not principal.

Fact 13. Ideals in a ring of integers of number field can be uniquely factorized into prime ideals. This implies that we could use fractional ideals to represent ideals in the ring of integers.

Fact 14. Fractional ideals and principal fractional ideals form an Abelian group.

Definition 15. Let \( K \) be a number field, \( \mathcal{F}_K \) be the group of fractional ideals, and \( \mathcal{P}_K \) be the group of principal fractional ideals. Then we define the quotient group \( \mathcal{C}_K = \frac{\mathcal{F}_K}{\mathcal{P}_K} \) to be a class group of \( K \). And we call the number of elements in this group, \( h_K \), the class number.

Remark 16. From the definition, we observe that when \( h_K = 1 \), the class group \( C_K \) is trivial, meaning that the domain is a unique factorization domain; otherwise, it will not be a unique factorization domain.

Finiteness of Class Number and Dirichlet’s Unit Theorem
In this section, we will need some geometrical techniques. This will be introduced in the following sections.

Finiteness of Class Number

Definition 17. Let \( V \) be an \( n \)-dimensional real vector space. A lattice in \( V \) is a subgroup in the form
\[ \Gamma = \mathbb{Z} v_1 + \ldots + \mathbb{Z} v_m \]
where \( \{ v_1 \ldots v_m \} \) are linearly independent vectors in \( V \). The lattice is complete if \( m = n \).

Definition 18. The fundamental mesh or fundamental region associated to \( \Gamma \), \( \Phi_{\Gamma} \), is defined as
\[ \Phi_{\Gamma} = \{ \alpha v_1 + \ldots + \alpha_m v_m | 0 \leq \alpha_i < 1 \} \]

Definition 19. \( \Gamma \subset \mathbb{R}^n \) is discrete if for any radius \( r > 0 \), \( \Gamma \) contains only finitely many points within a disc of radius \( r \) centered at 0.

Definition 20. A region \( X \subset V \) is centrally symmetric if \( x \in X \) implies \( -x \in X \).

Definition 21. A region \( X \subset V \) is convex if \( x, y \in X \), and \( t \in [0, 1] \) then the line \( \{ (1 - t)x + ty \} \subset X \).

Now, we recognize three basic fact, to which I will not provide a proof in order to introduce a theorem faster.

Fact 22. A subgroup \( \Gamma \subset V \) is a lattice iff it is discrete.

Fact 23. A subgroup \( \Gamma \subset V \) is complete iff \( \exists \) a bounded \( B_V \in V \) such that \( \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} (B_V + \gamma) = V \).
Fact 24. Assume \( \Gamma \) is a lattice in \( \mathbb{R}^n \). If \( \nu = (a_1, \ldots, a_n) \), then the volume \( \text{vol}(\Gamma) = |\text{det}(\nu)| \).

Theorem 25. (Minkowski) Assume \( \Gamma \) is a complete lattice in \( \mathbb{R}^n \). Let \( X \) be a centrally symmetric convex subset of \( \mathbb{R}^n \). Suppose \( \text{vol}(X) > 2^n \text{vol}(\Gamma) \), then \( X \) contains at least one non-zero lattice point.

Proof. We prove this by contradiction. Assume there are no non-zero lattice points. Then it is clear that \( \frac{1}{2} (x + y) \in \Gamma \) for \( x, y \in \Gamma \), where \( x \) and \( y \) are distinct lattice points. If not, then we can find \( x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n \) such that \( \gamma = y - x = x_2 - x_1 \). Then, we know that \( \{\phi(\gamma) \mid \phi \in \Phi \} = \emptyset \). But this is a subset of \( \Phi \). Therefore, \( \text{vol}(\Gamma) > \text{vol}(\{\phi(\gamma) \mid \phi \in \Phi \}) = \frac{1}{2} \text{vol}(X) \), which is a contradiction.

Definition 26. If \( \kappa \in \mathbb{C} \) and \( \sigma(\kappa) \subset \mathbb{C} \), then \( \kappa \) is called a real embedding. Otherwise it is called a complex embedding. Its conjugate denoted by \( \bar{\kappa} \) is defined as \( \bar{\kappa} = \overline{\sigma(\kappa)} \).

Proposition 27. Let \( K_0 = \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{C} \) (Since \( \mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{R}^2 \), we could understand this space as a real space with \( (r_1 + 2r_2) \)-dimensional space). Then for a lattice \( K \), \( \Gamma = (\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}) \) is a complete lattice in \( K_0 \) and \( \text{vol}(D) = 1/2^n \).

Proof. Assume \( \Gamma = \mathbb{Z} \mathbf{e}_1 + \cdots + \mathbb{Z} \mathbf{e}_n \subset K_0 \). Let \( M \) be the matrix \( (\mathbf{e}_i) \). Then, by definition, we know that \( \det(M) = 1/2^n \).

Proposition 28. The discriminant of integral \( a \) if \( a = a_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + \cdots + a_n \mathbf{e}_n \), \( \Delta(\mathbf{a}) = \text{det}(\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n) \), and \( \text{det}(\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n) \) is the volume of \( \{x| \mathbf{a}_1 \mathbf{x} + \cdots + \mathbf{a}_n \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \} \).

Definition 29. If \( a \) is a non-zero ideal of \( \mathbb{Z}_K \), then \( \eta(a) \) is a complete lattice in \( K_0 \) with \( D(a) = \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a}) \sqrt{\text{vol}(\mathfrak{a})} \), and \( \text{vol}(\mathfrak{a}) \).

Proposition 30. Let \( \Gamma \) be a lattice in \( K_0 \), and let \( c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}^n \) satisfy \( c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_n \in \mathbb{R}^n \) and \( c_i \not\in a \) for \( 1 \leq i \leq n \).

Proof. We want to prove that \( \Delta(\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n) < \text{vol}(X) \). Since \( \text{vol}(X) > 2^n \text{vol}(\Gamma) \), we know \( \Delta(\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_n) < \text{vol}(X) \).

Proposition 31. Let \( b \) be a non-zero ideal integral of \( \mathbb{Z}_K \). Then there exists a non-zero \( \alpha \) in \( K \) such that \( \{x| \mathbf{a}_1 \mathbf{x} + \cdots + \mathbf{a}_n \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \} \). Moreover, we have Arithmetic Mean-Geometric Mean inequality giving

\[
\left( \prod_{i=1}^{n} |x_i| \right)^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |x_i|.
\]

Therefore, \( \text{vol}(\mathfrak{a}) \).

Theorem 32. The class group \( C(\kappa) \) is finite.

Proof. We take \( b \in [a^*] \), where \( [a^*] \) denotes the ideal class of \( a^* \). If \( \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a}) \not\subset \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b}) \), then by Proposition 3.15 we have

\[
|\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b})| \leq |\mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a}) : \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b})| \leq |\mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a})|/|\mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b})|.
\]

Remark 35. We are going to introduce several mappings for future use:

\[
K \to \mathbb{R}^1 \times \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{R}^2
\]

Thus, we know that \( \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a}) \subset \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b}) \), and let \( a \leq b \).

Also, by last proposition, \( \mathfrak{a} \) is a complete lattice in \( \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{C} \).

Remark 36. The kernel of \( \kappa = \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a}) \), group of roots of unity in \( K \).

Proof. If \( \kappa \) is a complete lattice in \( \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{C} \), then it is discrete. Since \( \mathbb{C} \) is a lattice, thus it is discrete; thus it is finite. And since the kernel is closed under multiplication, we know every element has finite order. Thus it is a root of unity.

Corollary 37. \( \mathbb{R}^n \) is a subgroup of \( H \).

Remark 38. \( \Gamma(\kappa) \) is a lattice in \( \mathbb{R}^n \).

Proof. It suffices to prove that \( \Gamma \) is discrete. Thus, we want to show if \( B(h, H) = 0 \), then \( B(h, H) = 0 \). Consider \( \Gamma \).

Proposition 39. \( \exists \Gamma(\kappa) \) is a complete lattice in \( \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{C} \).

Proof. By Corollary 3.13, we take \( \text{vol}(X) > 2^n \text{vol}(\Gamma) \), then by Proposition 3.15 we have

\[
|\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b})| \leq |\mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a}) : \mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b})| \leq |\mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{a})|/|\mathbb{Q}(\mathfrak{b})|.
\]

Therefore, \( \text{vol}(\mathfrak{a}) \).

Corollary 40. \( \mathbb{C} \kappa = \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{C} \) is a complete lattice in \( \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{C} \).

Proof. By last proposition, \( S = \bigcup_{\mathfrak{a} \in \mathbb{C} \kappa} \mathfrak{a} \), then \( B(h, H) = 0 \). We know that \( B(h, H) \) is a translate of \( \mathbb{X} \).

Calculate Class Number through Analysis

Riemann Zeta Function

Definition 43. We define the Riemann Zeta Function as following:

\[
\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s},
\]

Definition 44. We define the Gamma function as following:

\[
\Gamma(s) = \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-x} x^{s-1} dx.
\]

Definition 45. We define the functional equation as following:

\[
\zeta(1-s) = \frac{2\pi}{s\Gamma(s)} \zeta(s).
\]

Definition 46. We define the Dedekind zeta function as following:

\[
\zeta_K(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\text{vol}(\mathfrak{a})^s}.
\]

Fact 27. We can write the Riemann Zeta Function as

\[
\zeta(s) = 2\sin\left(\pi\frac{s-1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s-1}{2}\right) \zeta\left(1-s\right).
\]

Fact 48. \( \zeta(s) \), \( s \in \mathbb{C} \), converges absolutely for all \( s > 1 \), and diverges for \( s < 1 \).

Fact 49. If \( B(s) > 1 \), then

\[
\zeta(s) = \frac{1}{1-s} - \int_{1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{-s}}{x-1} dx.
\]
Theorem 53. In this section, we are going to derive the Analytic Class Number Formula:

\[ \lim_{s \to 1} (s-1)^{r} \zeta(s) = \frac{2^{r+\mu} \pi^r R_k \log R_k}{\Delta(K)^{1/2}} \]

Where \( R_k \) is the regulator of \( K \), \( h_k \) is the class number of \( K \), and \( r \) is the number of units in \( K \).

Definition 45. Let \( r \) be a set of fundamental units, \( r = r_1 + r_2 + \ldots + r_k \) be the logarithm mapping. The regulator, \( R_k \), is the absolute value of the determinant of any \( r \times r \) matrix with \( \epsilon_l \)s.

Definition 55. A cone in \( R^n \) is a subset \( X \subset R^n \) such that if \( x \in X \) and \( \lambda \in R \), then \( \lambda x \in X \).

Proposition 60. Let \( X \) be a cone in \( R^n \), \( F : X \to R_m \), be a function satisfies: \( F(x) = \sum_i F_i(x) \) with \( x \in X \), \( \xi \in R_m \). Let \( T = \{ x \in X | F(x) \leq 1 \} \) be bounded, and non-zero volume \( v = vol(T) \). Let \( \Gamma \) be a lattice in \( R^n \), with \( \lambda \in vol(\Gamma) \). Then \( Z(\xi) = \sum_{x \in \Gamma} f(x) \) converges for \( Re(s) > 1 \) and

\[ \lim_{s \to 1}(s-1)Z(s) = \frac{\lambda}{\xi} \]

Proof. First, we notice \( \lim_{s \to 1} (s-1)^{r} \xi(s) = \frac{\lambda}{\xi} \). Let \( N(\lambda) \) be the number of points in \( \Gamma \cap \xi^{-1}(\xi) \). Then \( N(\lambda) \) is also the number of points in \( \{ x \in \Gamma \cap \xi^{-1}(\xi) \} \). Thus, \( v \lambda \xi = \sum_{x \in \Gamma \cap \xi^{-1}(\xi)} f(x) \). This gives

\[ \lim_{s \to 1}(s-1)^{r} \xi(s) = \frac{\lambda}{\xi} \]

Therefore, we know it converges when \( Re(s) > 1 \). And if we multiply \( \lim_{s \to 1}(s-1)^{r} \) on both sides, since the pole of \( \xi(s) \) is at \( s = 1 \), we get the equation we want.
New to the Journal: Student Spotlight

Several Notre Dame students publish their research in renowned peer-reviewed journals every year. The Student Spotlight section is a new addition to the journal to celebrate and learn from some of these students.

We interviewed senior physics and honors mathematics major Maciej Olszewski and sophomore science-business major Jon Klein for insight on their research and publication experiences.

How did you get involved in research?

Maciej: Fall semester of freshman year, I went around to various professors in the physics department asking for research positions. In the course of three weeks, I met with about 10 professors both in the physics and chemistry departments. What really intrigued me about Professor Morten R Eskildsen’s proposed project was that it was an independent project, which he described as "high risk, high reward." For that reason, I decided to take on the project and spent the next six months trying to figure out what the project was about. After I started getting some preliminary results, I was hooked and have continued working on the project ever since.

Jon: I was attempting to brainstorm an idea for my high school science fair project. Around that time, the "ALS Ice Bucket Challenge" was making a lot of headlines on local TV channels and social media. I became curious and have continued working on the project ever since.

What kind of research have you done, with what professor/lab?

Maciej: I have worked with Professor Morten Eskildsen in the physics department. His group conducts various types of experiments to quantify the motion and structure of how the vortex lattice form different structures. These structures corresponded to experimentally observed lattice structures by Professor Eskildsen’s group. The bulk of my work is focused on figuring out new ways to classify these structures and find measures that best summarize my results and make them easy to compare to experimental results.

Jon: With the guidance and help of my research mentor, Dr. Nathan Staff at the Mayo Clinic, I have learned how to extract relevant information from protein databases and previously published literature. Data compiling is very time consuming but an essential step towards completing any bioinformatics-based research. Figuring out the most appropriate tool to conduct analysis is also critical for the success of any project, and it took me a lot of trial and error until I eventually found a very powerful protein network analysis tool called Cytoscape. The software is open-source and supported by community users, mostly protein bioinformaticians. Over the course of a few years, I compiled data and learned how to effectively use protein network analysis tools to obtain some encouraging information on potential network links and drug targets for ALS in connection to retroviral diseases such as HIV. In addition to my own research, I’ve worked in a microscopy lab, imaging mitochondria in neurons.

To what journal have you submitted/will you submit your work?

Maciej: I have been published twice: “Structural transitions in vortex systems with anisotropic interactions”—M W Olszewski, M Eskildsen, C Reichhardt and C J O Reichhardt 2018 New J. Phys. 20 023005


I also have another manuscript in preparation to be submitted to Physical Review B, should be submitted by end of March:

“Rotational transition, dislocations and domain formation in vortex systems with combined six- and 12-fold anisotropic interactions”—M W Olszewski, M Eskildsen, C Reichhardt and C J O Reichhardt, n.d.

Jon: I have submitted “Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration” to BMC Bioinformatics, and my paper was accepted.

What helped you to get published, and what advice would you give to other ND students?

Maciej: My main advice is for students to try and engage as much as possible in research and try to find new opportunities to take advantage of. There are many ways to excel at research, but in order to do so you need to create opportunities and work hard to achieve your goals. I had the amazing opportunity of spending three and a half months working at Los Alamos National Laboratory with two of my collaborators, which led to my first paper. I also had a chance to study abroad at Oxford, where I found a research group that was interested in my work, to whom I proposed a possible collaboration, which ended up leading to another publication. The opportunities for you to do good research are around you, you just need to be able to find them and capitalize on them.

Jon: The paper is currently under review; I am waiting to hear back. It’s a stressful but also exciting process! Personally, I’ve learned that perseverance is absolutely essential for scientific research, and a big component of research is learning from failures. You should not get frustrated if your research doesn’t yield the results you are hoping for, because at the end of the day, you’ve probably grown for the better and you’ll be able to help others do the same.
Talk Science

**September 20, 2018**

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Department of Biological Sciences  
*On Biomedical Research: How Can We Make an Impact?*

**Prof. Michael Kurkowski**  
Physics and Mathematics ’20  
*St. George’s Weapon of Choice: the LANCE*

**Prof. Patricia Clark**  
Department of Biochemistry  
*Protein Origami: Where do We Begin Folding?*

**Prof. Yanting Lao**  
Biological Sciences ’20  
*Merkel Cell Carcinoma Cells Possess Features That Allow Evasion From Natural Killer Cell Cytotoxicity*

**Prof. Haifeng Gao**  
Department of Chemistry  
*Synthesis and Application of Functional Polymers with Highly Branched Nanostructures*

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Department of Biological Sciences  
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