

Umut Varolgunes

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Employment

Postdoc positions

- Researcher at Bogazici University: November 2021 - present
(under TUBITAK 2236 CoCirculation2; New Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Cofund Program, on leave Nov. 2021 - Feb. 2022 at University of Edinburgh)
- Researcher at University of Edinburgh: September 2021 - November 2021
- Szego Assistant Professor at Stanford University: September 2018 - June 2021

Education

Graduate - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- September 2013 - May 2018
- PhD. in Mathematics
- Advisor: Paul Seidel
- Thesis title: Mayer-Vietoris property for relative symplectic cohomology

Undergraduate - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- September 2009 - May 2013
- Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematics and Physics
- GPA: 4.8/5

Research Interests

symplectic geometry, Floer theory, algebraic geometry

Awards and Honors

Gold Medals in 2008 and 2009 International Mathematics Olympiads.
MIT Praecis Presidential Fellowship 2013 - 2014

Languages

Turkish (native), English (fluent)

Publications

Quantum cohomology as a deformation of symplectic cohomology (joint with Nick Sheridan and Strom Borman), JFPTA Viterbo 60 Volume 24.2 (2022): 1-77

Seifert form of chain type singularities, accepted for publication in Kyoto Journal of Math. (33 pages)

Super-rigidity of certain skeleta using relative symplectic cohomology (joint with Dmitry Tonkonog), accepted for publication in Journal of Topology and Analysis (49 pages)

Mayer-Vietoris property for relative symplectic cohomology, Geometry & Topology 25-2 (2021), 547–642

On the equatorial Dehn twist of a Lagrangian nodal sphere, Proceedings of the 22nd Gokova Geometry/Topology conference (2017), 112–137

Preprints

On certain quantifications of Gromov's non-squeezing theorem (joint with Kevin Sackel, Antoine Song and Jonathan Zhu) - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.00586> (26 pages)

On homological mirror symmetry for chain type polynomials (joint with Alexander Polishchuk) - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.03808> (48 pages)

Locality of relative symplectic cohomology for complete embeddings (joint with Yoel Groman) - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.08891> (87 pages)

Organizational Activity

Cofounder for Kylerec graduate student workshops

The first of these was organized in 2016 in New Orleans as a Talbot style event for symplectic geometry: <https://math.mit.edu/~kyler/workshop/main.html>. We used Emmy Murphy's funds along with a small NSF contribution. The next year we started using the name Kylerec and were able to get one year of funding from NSF to organize the second annual event in Truckee: <https://kylerec.wordpress.com/kylerec-2017/>. In the third year the organizers were able to secure NSF funding for three years based on the success of the first two events. After a COVID-19 related hiatus Kylerec continued with its fifth edition in 2022. For more information <https://kylerec.wordpress.com/>.

Organizer for Stanford Symplectic Geometry Seminar 2018-2020

Organizer for North California Symplectic Geometry Seminar 2018-2020

Organizer for the conference "Mirror symmetry for Looijenga interiors and beyond"

This was a two week hybrid event that was organized using my grant from TUBITAK. It consisted of a summer school at the Feza Gursev Institute on 18-22 July, 2022 and a research conference on 25-29 July, 2022 at the Math Department of Bogazici University. Please see <https://umutvg.github.io/Looijenga.html> for details on the mathematical content including a complete set of notes and video recordings. We hosted a number of graduate students and speakers in Istanbul. Even when the speaker was not physically present their talk was watched together using a projection system. Feza Gursev Institute did not have any funding for a long period so we used this chance to revitalize this institute with a long history, buying many necessary appliances and so on.

Mentoring

During my graduate student years at MIT

- Lead a knot theory reading group for three high school students via the PRIMES program (at least one of them is in math still: Rohil Prasad, PhD student in symplectic geometry at Princeton Uni.)
- Conducted a guided reading with the undergraduate student Julian Chaidez on symplectic geometry via the DRP program (currently postdoc in symplectic geometry at Princeton Uni.)
- Mentored the high school student Valerie Zhang on a project that involved programming and braid groups again via PRIMES (currently undergrad in math at Harvard Uni.)
- Mentored the undergrad student Yuchen Fu on a project regarding Maslov indices of random paths in the group of symplectic matrices via UROP+, which lead to <https://arxiv.org/abs/1610.08614>

During my time as a postdoc at Stanford University :

- Conducted a summer guided reading with PhD student Daren Chen of Kontsevich's "Feynman diagrams and low dimensional topology"
- Acted as one of the mentors in the graduate student workshop Kylerec 2019 <https://kylerec.wordpress.com/kylerec-2019/>

At Bogazici University (present)

- Conducting a research project on finding flexible/subcritical Weinstein domains as complements of ample divisors in complex projective varieties with the undergrad student Mert Akdenizli

Teaching

TA for 18.01/02A (Expedited single and multi variable calculus), Fall 2015, MIT

TA for 18.03 (Differential equations), Spring 2016, MIT

TA for 18.095 (Winter break lecture series), Winter 2018

Lecturer for Math 113 (Linear algebra with proofs, undergraduate), Winter 2019, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 215B (Differential topology, graduate), Winter 2019, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 257C (Hamiltonian Floer theory, advanced graduate), Autumn 2019, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 257A (Symplectic geometry, graduate) Fall 2019, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 147 (Differential topology, undergraduate) Fall 2019, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 53* (Ordinary differential equations, undergraduate) Spring 2020, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 215B (Differential topology, graduate), Winter 2021, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 53* (Ordinary differential equations, undergraduate) Spring 2021, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 113 (Linear algebra with proofs, undergraduate), Spring 2021, Stanford

Lecturer for Math 58J (Cohomology of manifolds, undergraduate), Fall 2022, Bogazici University

Mini course on my thesis (4 lectures) - Columbia University, Spring 2017

Mini course on relative symplectic cohomology (8 lectures) - Edinburgh, Fall 2021

*=more than 100 students

Invited talks

Preprint seminar on symplectic geometry and related topics - Columbia University, October 12, 2015

23rd Gokova Geometry and Topology Conference - May 30 - June 4, 2016

Symplectic Geometry Seminar - Stanford University, January 30, 2017

Student Symplectic Seminar - Stanford University, February 9, 2017

Math-Physics Joint Seminar - UPenn, April 18, 2017

Symplectix seminar - Paris, September 15, 2017

Geometry/Physics seminar - Northwestern University, September 28, 2017

Topology and Symplectic Geometry / Math of Gauge Fields seminar - Stony Brook University, October 5, 2017

Symplectic Geometry Seminar - Stanford University, October 9, 2017

Seminar on Mirror Symmetry - UC Berkeley, October 13, 2017

Topology Seminar - Princeton University, October 19, 2017

Geometry/Topology Seminar - UC Davis, January 22, 2019

North Carolina Symplectic Geometry Seminar - Stanford, May 6, 2019

Mathematics seminar - Korean Institute of Advanced Study, Seoul, August 30, 2019

Symplectic seminar - Stony Brook University, September 12, 2019

Symplectic geometry, Gauge theory and Categorification Seminar - Columbia University, September 13, 2019

Simons Colloboration on Homological Mirror Symmetry Annual meeting - New York, November 14, 2019

Topology Seminar - University of Oregon, March 10, 2020

Geometry, Symmetry and Physics Seminar - Rutgers University (online), May 14, 2020

M-Seminar - Kansas State University (online), May 28, 2020

Western Hemisphere Symplectic Geometry Seminar (online) - June 26, 2020

UCGEN Seminar (online) - September 23, 2020

Montreal, Princeton/IAS, Paris, Tel-Aviv Symplectic Zoominar (online) - October 16, 2020

Boston University Geometry & Physics seminar (online) - March 24, 2021

Beijing-Novosibirsk seminar on geometry and mathematical physics (online) - April 15,

2021

Shafarevich Seminar - Steklov Institute, September 21, 2021

3CinG Annual Congress (online) - September 22, 2021

Friday seminar (?) - Higher School of Economics, September 24, 2021

Freemath (online) - September 28, 2021

Differential geometry and topology seminar - Cambridge University, October 27, 2021

Hodge Seminar - Bayes Center, Edinburgh, November 4, 2021

Geometry and dynamics seminar - Tel-Aviv University (online), November 10, 2021

Symplectic and Poisson geometry seminar - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (online), November 29, 2021

Geometry and Topology seminar - Michigan State University (online), December 7, 2021

Workshop on Mirror symmetry and Related Topics - Kyoto (online), December 13, 2021

Global Youth Forum - USTC-IGP, Hefei (online), January 11, 2022

Nick Sheridan's postdoc seminar - Bayes Center, Edinburgh, January 19, 2022

GeNeSys: Geneva-Neuchâtel Symplectic geometry seminar, January 24, 2022

Montreal, Princeton/IAS, Paris, Tel-Aviv Symplectic Zoominar (online) - February 18, 2022

IMBM - Istanbul, February 17-22-25, 2022

Geometry and dynamics seminar (TIDY Distinguished Speaker) - Tel-Aviv University, April 27, 2022

Pure Maths Colloquium - Sheffield University (online), May 25, 2022