Javier Nieto, Ph.D. Candidate

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

distributed algorithms, decentralized systems, applied cryptography

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Aug 2023 – *Present*
Ph.D., Computer Science — GPA: 3.9/4.0

- **Advisor:** Ling Ren
- **Coursework:** Advanced Algorithms, Distributed Algorithms, Cryptography, Multi-Party Computation, Advanced Computer Security, Game Theory

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Aug 2020 – May 2023
B.S. Liberal Arts and Science Statistics & Computer Science — GPA 3.98/4.0

PUBLICATIONS

*DENOTES LEAD AUTHOR

Nieto J. , Efron Y. , Neu J. , and Ren L. . Fully Fluctuating Sleepy Consensus from Minimal Assumptions. In Moses Jr. W. K. and Censor-Hillel K. , editors, *40th International Symposium on Distributed Computing (DISC 2026)*, volume 397 of *Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics (LIPIcs)*, pages 44:1–44:21, Dagstuhl, Germany, 2026. Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik. Invited to Distributed Computing special issue.

Nieto J. , Neu J. , and Ren L. . On the limits of consensus under dynamic availability and reconfiguration. In *Proceedings of the 2026 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, CCS '26, pages 5166–5178, New York, NY, USA, 2026. Association for Computing Machinery.

Das S. , Camacho P. , Xiang Z. , **Nieto J.** , Bünz B. , and Ren L. . Threshold Signatures from Inner Product Argument: Succinct, Weighted, and Multi-threshold. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security*, CCS '23, pages 356–370. Association for Computing Machinery, 2023.

HONORS AND AWARDS

NSF GRFP Honorable Mention	2024
Support for Underrepresented Groups in Engineering (SURGE) Fellowship	2023
Graduate College Fellowship	2023
Sloan Scholar, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's University Center of Exemplary Mentoring	2023
1st place ($10,000) as team lead, WWT STEM Student Forum hackathon	2020
3rd place ($2,500) as team lead, GlobalHack VII international hackathon	2018

EXPERIENCE

Category Labs New York, New York
Research Intern May – Aug 2026

- Self-stabilizing Byzantine fault tolerant clock synchronization for globally distributed protocols (work in progress)
- Mentors: Jovan Komatovic, Mussadiq Jalalzai, Tobias Klenze

Amazon Robotics Boulder, Colorado
Software Development Engineer Intern May – Aug 2022

- Built a Python dashboard that attributes robot test errors to the responsible teams and flags flaky tests

AASI - Applied Aeronautical Systems INC. Remote
Consultant Aug 2021 – May 2022
- Optimized flight paths in C++ over 10,000 airports and 500 refueling routes for AROPS, Rolls-Royce's planning system for over 600 U.S. Air Force tanker aircraft

DecisionQ Arlington, Virginia
Software Engineer Intern May 2021 – Jan 2022
- Designed concurrent Go pipelines that load over 14 terabytes of Ethereum-based blockchain data into PostgreSQL

Technical Skills

Programming Languages
- C/C++
- Go
- JavaScript/TypeScript
- Python
- R
- Solidity
- SQL
- Java