

# Universities as drivers of AI research and innovation

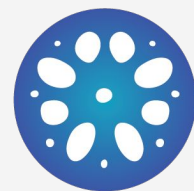
Lav R. Varshney

Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Principal Research Scientist, Salesforce Research  
Chief Scientist, Ensaras, Inc.

@lrvarshney

December 3, 2019





# ENSARAS

Intelligence for Wastewater





### ***National Science Foundation***

- Foundations of Belief Sharing in Human-Machine Systems
- Towards an Information Theory of Attention
- Food and Data: Interoperability through the Food Pipeline
- Matching Non-Native Transcribers to the Distinctive Features of the Language Transcribed

### ***DARPA and MARCO***

- Systems on Nanoscale Information fabriCs (SONIC) Center
- Energy Efficient Image Storage and Compression with RRAM Arrays

### ***IBM***

- Center for Cognitive Computing Systems Research
- Toward Cognitive Systems for Scientific Discovery

### ***Chan Zuckerberg Initiative***

- Compression of Structural, Cartographic, and Multimodal Cell Data

### ***FACE Foundation (Thomas Jefferson Fund)***

- Reliable Artificial Intelligence on Energy-Efficient Hardware

### ***Air Force Research Laboratory***

- UMIMMI: Universal Multivariate Information Measures for Multisensor Inference [Phase I]
- UMIMMI: Universal Multivariate Information Measures for Multisensor Inference [Phase II]

### ***USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture***

- Comparative Connectome of the Soybean Cyst Nematode and Establishment of an Online Anatomical Atlas

### ***Siebel Energy Institute***

- Incentives, Choices, and Analytics for Electric Vehicle Fleets in Jointly Managing Urban Traffic and the Smart Grid

### ***Illinois OTM***

- Machine Learning for Nanopore Bio-Detection

### ***Los Alamos National Laboratory***

- Computational Creativity for Materials

### ***Illinois Learning Science Design Initiative***

- Investigating the Neural Correlates of Learning in Cognitive Training

### ***Living Analytics Research Centre (Singapore Management Univ.)***

- Crowdsourcing, Choice Modelling, and Prediction for Healthy Eating

### ***Zhejiang University***

- Universal Compression of Deep Networks at the Information-Theoretic Limit

### ***Center for Digital Agriculture***

- Virtual Farming Networks for Smallholders through Digital Communities of Trust

### ***Facebook***

- AI Tools for Localized Concrete Formulation

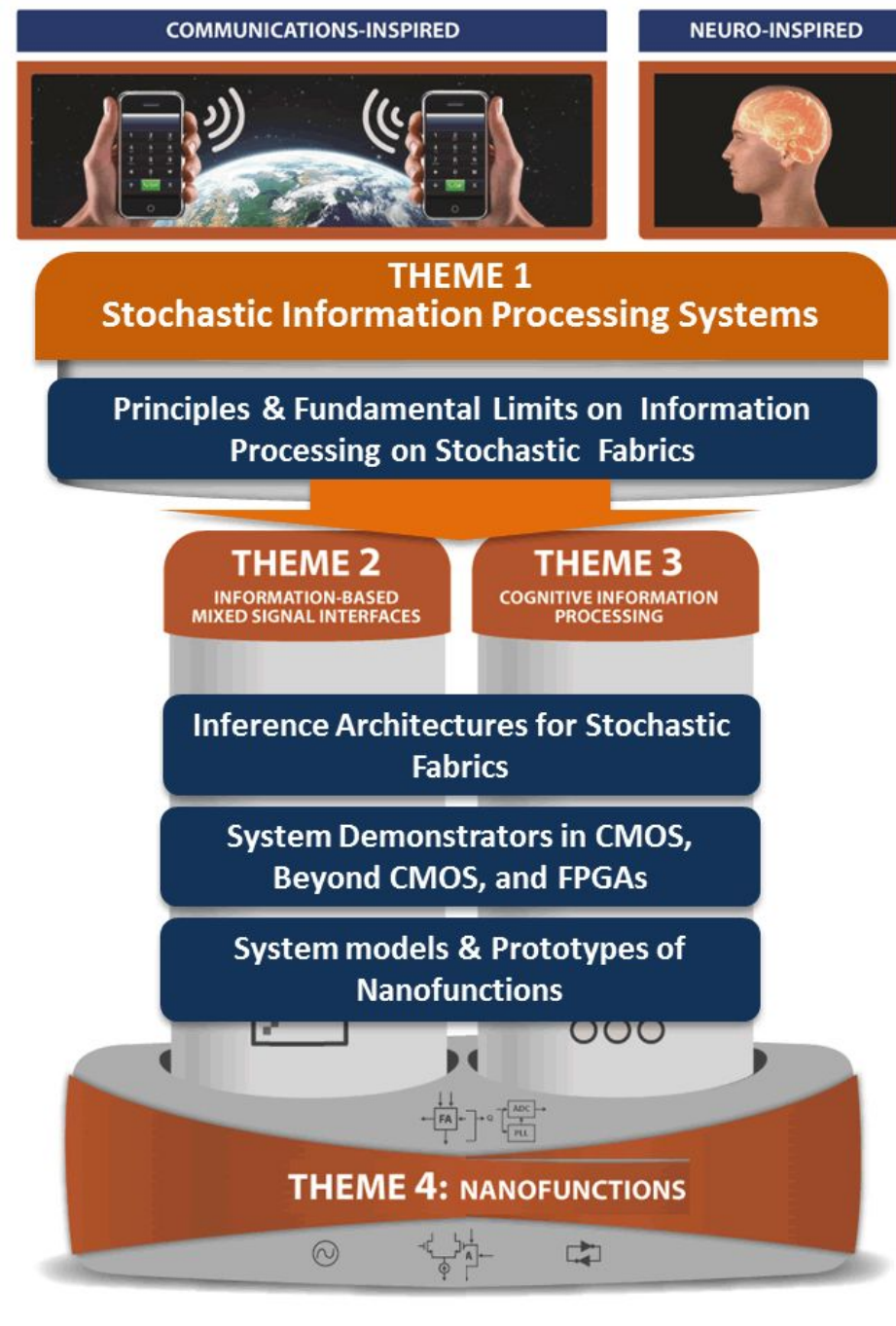






#### Members

Analog Devices, Inc.	Arm Limited
EMD Performance Materials (a Merck KGaA affiliate)	IBM Corporation
Intel Corporation	Lockheed Martin Corporation
Micron Technology, Inc.	Northrop Grumman Corporation
Raytheon Company	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.
SK hynix Inc.	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited





center for  
cognitive computing  
systems research

#### Blockchain

#### C3SR System for Review Assignment



#### Comm|Scope

CUDA- and NUMA-Aware Multi-CPU /  
Multi-GPU communication  
benchmarks for C3SR Scope.

#### Creative Experiential Learning Advisor

#### DISCvR

#### Near Memory Acceleration

#### TensorCore

Leverage the TensorCore in modern  
GPUs and DNN accelerators to  
implement a high performance  
reduction and scan primitives.



#### MLModelScope (CarML)

A hardware/software agnostic,  
extensible and customizable  
platform for evaluating and profiling  
ML models across  
datasets/frameworks/hardware, and  
within AI application pipelines.

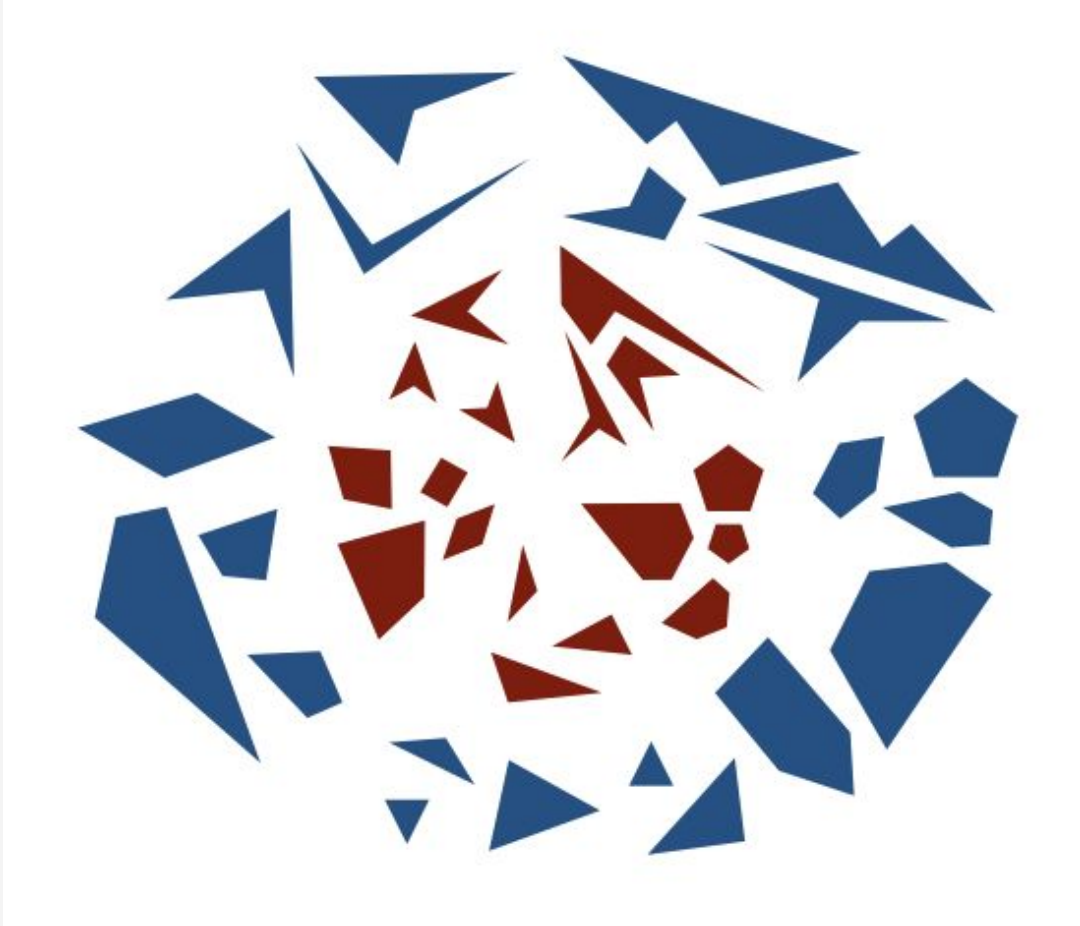
#### Cognitive Application Builder

Cognitive Application Builder



# A Group-Theoretic Approach to Computational Abstraction

salesforce



[H. Yu, I. Mineyev, and L. R. Varshney, “A Group-Theoretic Approach to Abstraction: Hierarchical, Interpretable, and Task-Free Clustering,” arXiv:1807.11167 [cs.LG].]

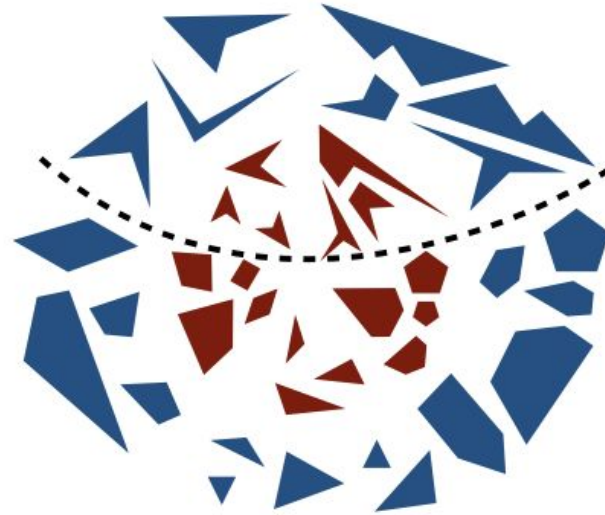


# A Group-Theoretic Approach to Computational Abstraction

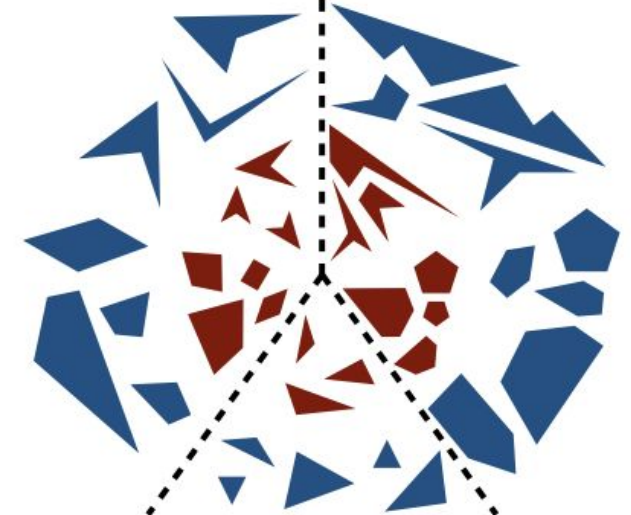
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{red, blue}



{convex, concave}



{trigon, tetragon, pentagon}

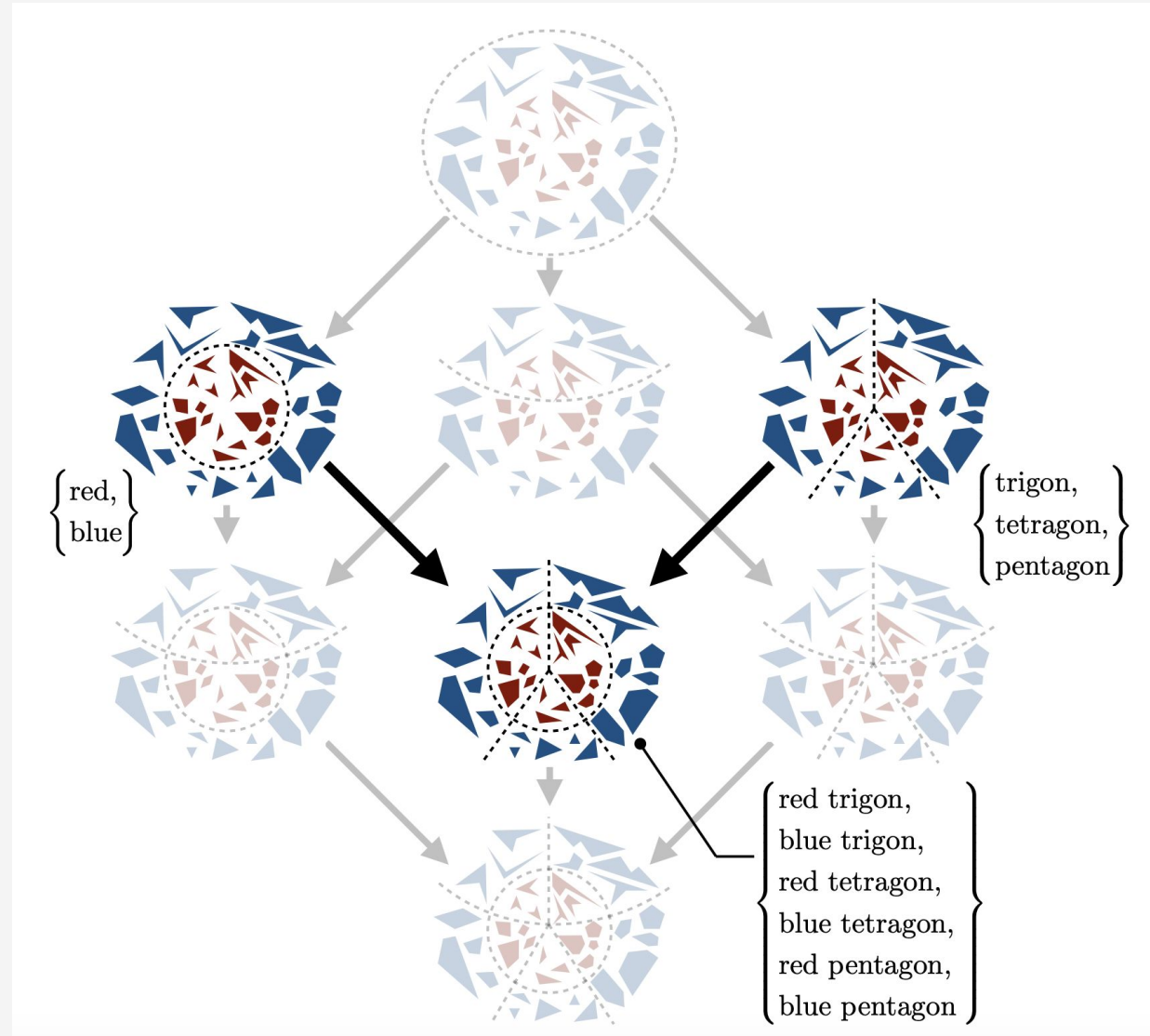
[H. Yu, I. Mineyev, and L. R. Varshney, "A Group-Theoretic Approach to Abstraction: Hierarchical, Interpretable, and Task-Free Clustering," arXiv:1807.11167 [cs.LG].]



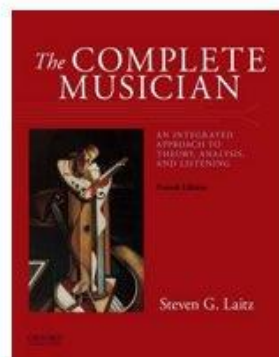


# A Group-Theoretic Approach to Computational Abstraction

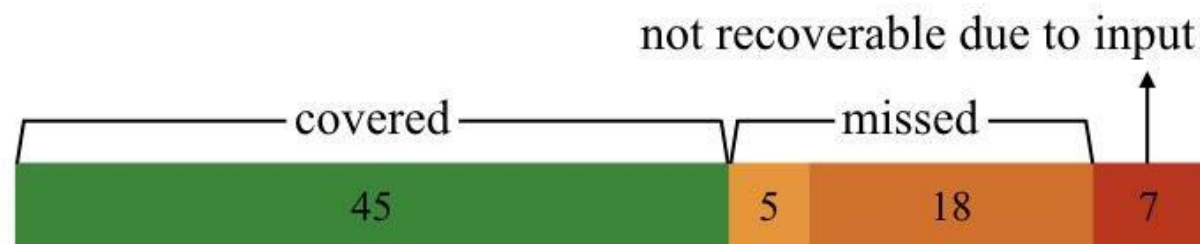
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# MUS-ROVER recovers most known music theory



MUS 101, 102, 201 (75 topics in total):



[H. Yu and L. R. Varshney, "Towards Deep Interpretability (MUS-ROVER II): Learning Hierarchical Representations of Tonal Music," in *Proc. 5th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, April 2017.]



# MUS-ROVER discovers new music theory



Interesting  
probabilistic  
pattern

Unresolved tritone (TT):

TT  $\longrightarrow$  m7

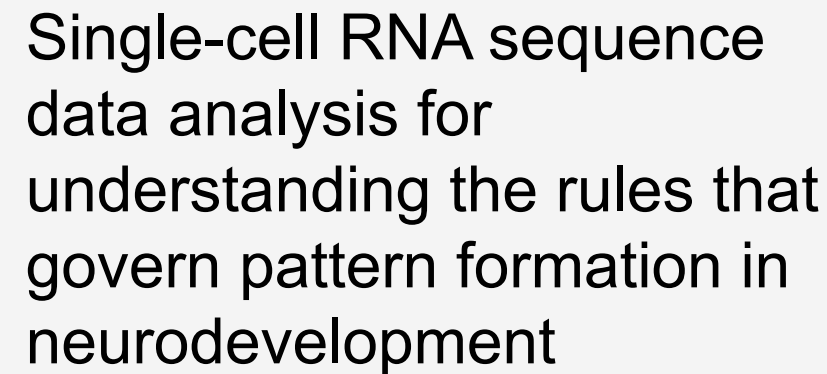
“harmonic” escape tone or changing tone?

Interesting  
abstraction

## Rule Trace

1	order $\circ w_{\{1,2,3,4\}}$
2	order $\circ$ diff $\circ$ sort $\circ w_{\{1,2,4\}}$
3	order $\circ$ diff $\circ$ mod <sub>12</sub> $\circ w_{\{1,2,3\}}$
4	order $\circ$ <u>diff</u> $\circ$ <u>diff</u> $\circ w_{\{1,2,3,4\}}$
5	order $\circ$ sort $\circ$ mod <sub>12</sub> $\circ w_{\{2,3,4\}}$
6	order $\circ$ sort $\circ$ mod <sub>12</sub> $\circ w_{\{1,3,4\}}$
7	order $\circ$ sort $\circ$ mod <sub>12</sub> $\circ w_{\{1,2,3,4\}}$
8	mod <sub>12</sub> $\circ w_{\{1\}}$
9	mod <sub>12</sub> $\circ$ diff $\circ w_{\{2,3\}}$
10	mod <sub>12</sub> $\circ$ diff $\circ w_{\{3,4\}}$





[H. Yu, L. R. Varshney, and G. Stein-O'Brien, "Towards Learning Human-Interpretable Laws of Neurogenesis from Single-Cell RNA-Seq Data via Information Lattices," to be presented at *Learning Meaningful Representations of Life Workshop at NeurIPS 2019*, December 2019.]

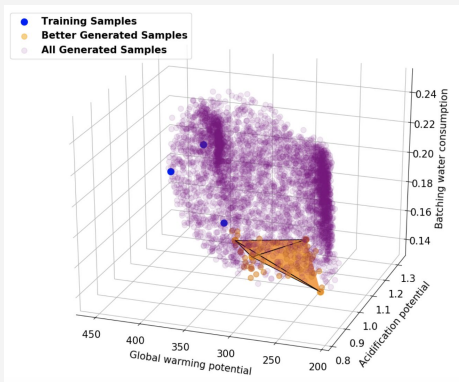
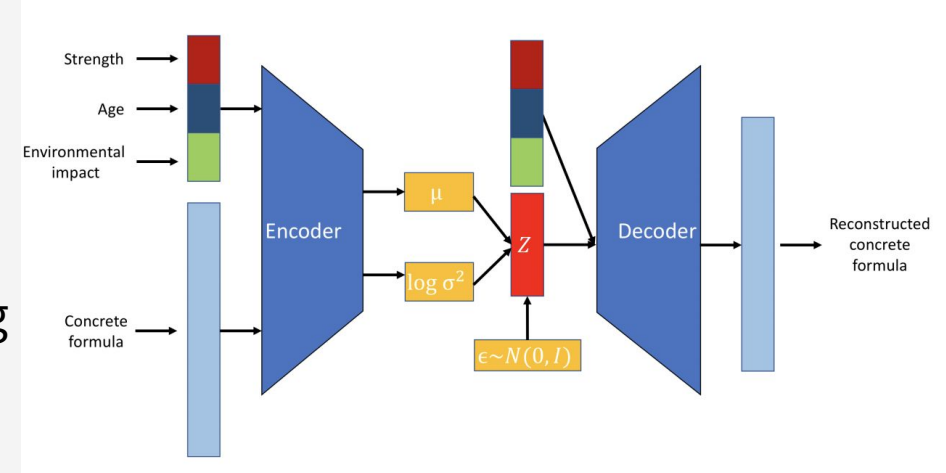




# Sustainable Building Materials



- Concrete is the most widely used engineered material in the world with more than 10 billion tons produced annually
- Significant burden in terms of energy, water, and release of greenhouse gases and other pollutants
- We develop generative models to create novel concrete formulations that minimize environmental burden, while satisfying engineering performance requirements
  - Low carbon footprint concrete impacts Indicator 9.4.1 of SDG



New formulation: 44.86 MPa at 7 days, 56.60 MPa at 14 days (as experimentally tested)

- 51.45% reduction in global warming potential
- 33.50% reduction in acidification potential
- 6.29% reduction in batch water consumption

[X. Ge, R. T. Goodwin, J. R. Gregory, R. E. Kirchain, J. Maria, and L. R. Varshney, "Accelerated Discovery of Sustainable Building Materials," in *Proceedings of the AAAI Spring Symposium on Towards AI for Collaborative Open Science*, Palo Alto, California, 25-27 March 2019.]



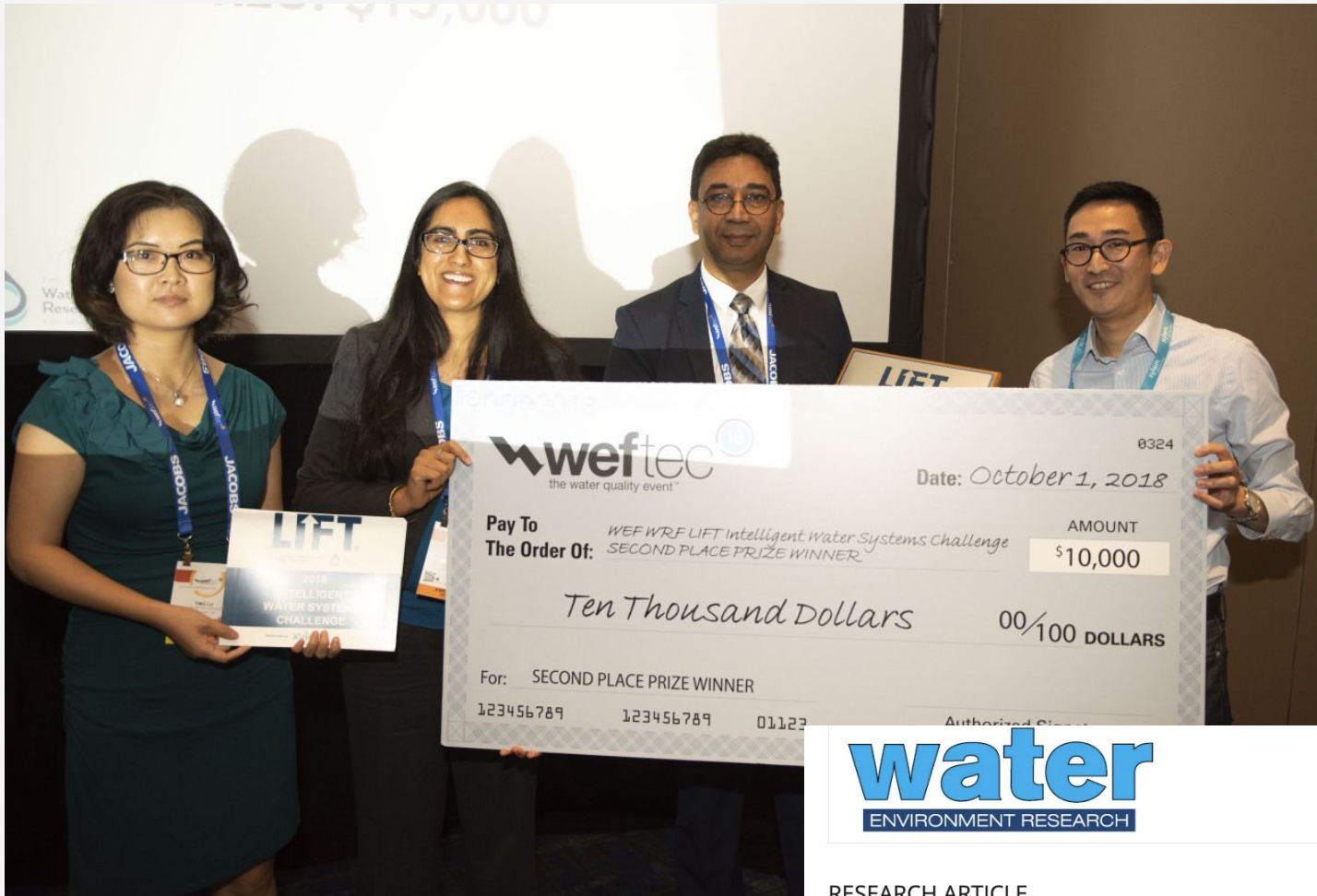


Nina Kshetry, President



Lav Varshney, Chief Scientist





**water**  
ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH

**Water Environment  
Federation**  
the water quality people®

#### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Prediction of odor complaints at a large composite reservoir in a highly urbanized area: A machine learning approach

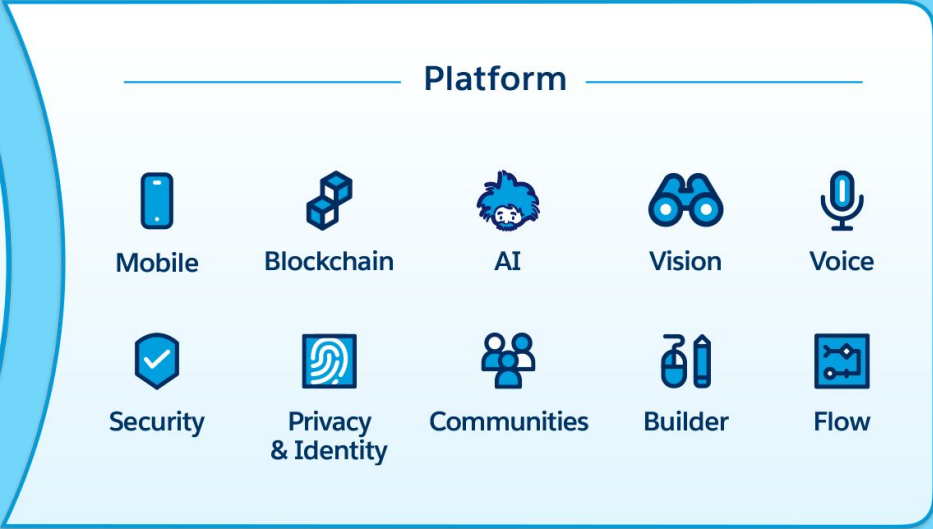
John Mulrow✉, Nina Kshetry, Dominic A. Brose, Kuldip Kumar, Darshan Jain, Mohil Shah, Thomas E. Kunetz, Lav R. Varshney

First published: 06 August 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/wer.1191>



# Salesforce Customer 360

Trusted · Smart · Flexible · Sustainable





Salesforce

# Customer 360 Analytics

World's #1 trusted analytics solution

## Einstein: Analytics Embedded in CRM

Actionable insights

AI-powered analytics

Enterprise-scale data platform

## Datorama: Marketing Intelligence

Centralize your data

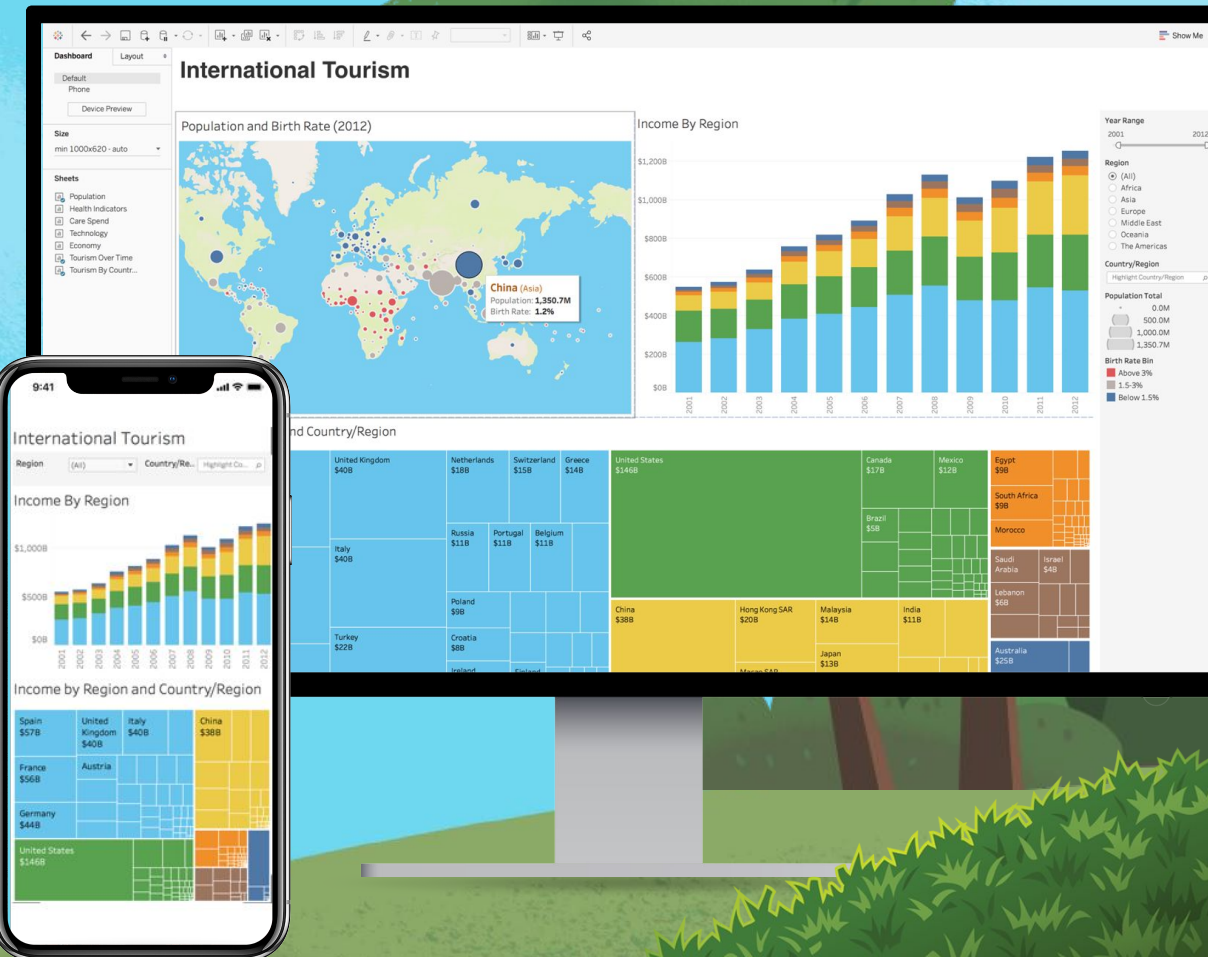
Get deeper insights more quickly from your data

## Tableau: Enterprise-Wide Analytics for All Your Data

An integrated platform with powerful analytics

Flexibility to connect to all kinds of data on prem or in the cloud

Provides strong security and governance model



# Creating a Better World, Together



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Signatory to the United Nations Global Compact



# Business is the Greatest Platform for Change



\$90M donated for public education



100% renewable energy by FY2022



LEED Platinum offices  
Supply chain engagement



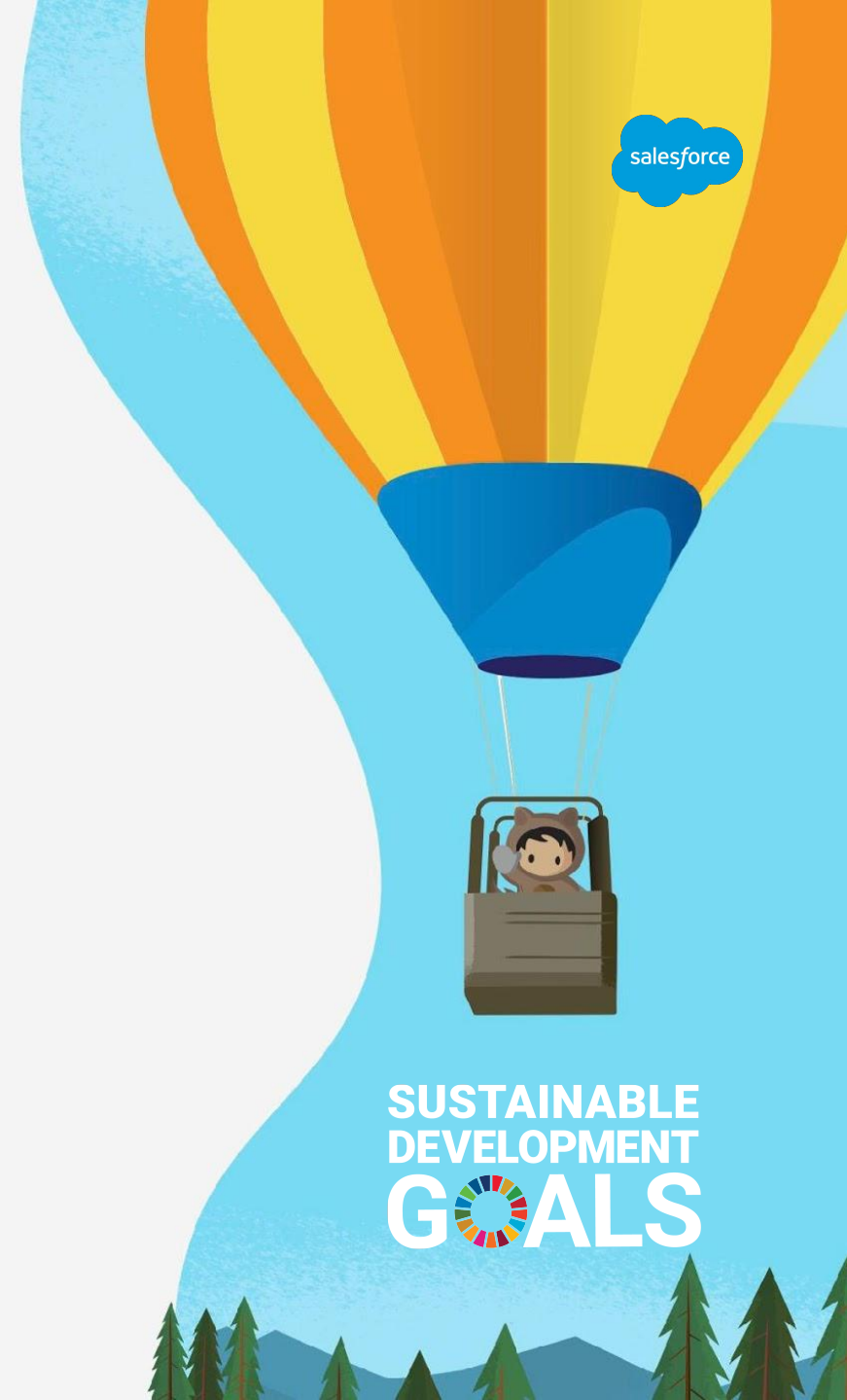
\$10M+ for equal pay



Pledge to America's Workers 1M jobs



Net-zero emissions  
Carbon neutral cloud  
Step Up Coalition



# The Salesforce Economy

salesforce



Global Jobs

**4.2M**

New Salesforce economy jobs by 2025

Global Economic Impact

**\$1.2T**

New business revenue by 2025



Source: IDC white paper sponsored by Salesforce, The Salesforce Economic Impact: 4.2 Million New Jobs, \$1.2 Trillion of New Business Revenues from 2019 to 2024, October 2019. The statements are based on the data from 2019 through 2024.





# Pretrained AI Models: Performativity, Mobility, and Change

**Lav R. Varshney**  
Salesforce Research  
Palo Alto, CA, USA  
lvarshney@salesforce.com

**Nitish Shirish Keskar**  
Salesforce Research  
Palo Alto, CA, USA  
nkeskar@salesforce.com

**Richard Socher**  
Salesforce Research  
Palo Alto, CA, USA  
rsocher@salesforce.com

## CTRL: A CONDITIONAL TRANSFORMER LANGUAGE MODEL FOR CONTROLLABLE GENERATION

**Nitish Shirish Keskar\*, Bryan McCann\*, Lav R. Varshney, Caiming Xiong, Richard Socher**  
Salesforce Research<sup>†</sup>

# Summary



## Universities as key drivers of AI research and innovation

- Transfers of people, knowledge, entrepreneurship
- Functionally new applications in numerous domains, including fine-tuning of large-scale models
- New approaches to AI that are more robust (generalization, safety), resource-efficient (data, energy, volume, etc.), and bound by holistic view of ethics

## Successful university AI labs

- Able to drive the development of new algorithmic approaches, fundamental limit theorems, and novel applications (often outside the core interest of large computing companies and startups)
- Examples throughout the world, including in places like Urbana-Champaign, Illinois that are not as close to industrial corridors like Silicon Valley

## Academia-industry partnerships in AI

- Funded and joint research, leaves/sabbaticals/dual appointments, internships



# THANK YOU

