

Lars Backstrom

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- Education** CORNELL UNIVERSITY Pursuing Ph.D. June 2009  
Dissertation: *Analysis of large-scale data from human activities.*  
Advisor: Prof. Jon M. Kleinberg.  
Supported by Yahoo Research Fellowship.
- CORNELL UNIVERSITY B.S. May 2004  
Cum laude in computer science.
- Professional Experience** CORNELL UNIVERSITY Ithaca, NY  
2005–present  
Research assistant
- YAHOO! Sunnyvale, CA  
2007–present  
Research Intern.
- TOPCODER, INC. Glastonbury, CT  
2001–present  
Algorithm Problem Coordinator
- SELF Ithaca, NY  
2004–present  
Various independent consulting jobs, mostly in web programming and other miscellaneous programming jobs.
- Awards and Honors** Best Student Paper Runner-Up: 15th ACM SIGKDD Conference, 2009.  
Nominated for Best Paper: 17th Intl. World Wide Web Conference, 2009.  
Best Paper: 16th Intl. World Wide Web Conference, 2007.  
ACM Programming Contest World Finals: 2002 and 2003  
Google Code Jam Semi-Finalist: 2008  
Programming Team Coach (two world finalist teams): 2005-2008
- Professional Activities** Conference program committee member:  
ECML PKDD Conference 2009  
Web Search and Data Mining Conference 2008  
World Wide Web Conference 2008
- Teaching Assistant Experience** CS 482 (Undergraduate): Algorithms:  
Spring 2004
- CS 578 (Masters): Empirical Method in Machine Learning:  
Fall 2003, Fall 2005
- CS 312 (Undergraduate): Data Structures and Functional Programming:  
Spring 2006

CS 685 (Graduate): The Structure of Information Networks:  
Fall 2007, Fall 2008

## Papers

L. Backstrom, J. Kleinberg, R. Kumar. Optimizing Web Traffic via the Media Scheduling Problem. Proc. 15th ACM SIGKDD Intl. Conf. on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2009.

J. Leskovec, L. Backstrom and J. Kleinberg. The Dynamics of the News Cycle. Proc. 15th ACM SIGKDD Intl. Conf. on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2009.

D. Crandall, L. Backstrom, D. Huttenlocher, J. Kleinberg. Mapping the World's Photos. Proc. 18th Intl. World Wide Web Conference, 2009.

J. Leskovec, L. Backstrom, R. Kumar, A. Tomkins. Microscopic Evolution of Social Networks. Proc. 14th ACM SIGKDD Intl. Conf. on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2008.

L. Backstrom, J. Kleinberg, R. Kumar, J. Novak. "Spatial variation in search engine queries." Proc. 17th Intl. World Wide Web Conference, 2008.

L. Backstrom, R. Kumar, C. Marlow, J. Novak, A. Tomkins. Preferential behavior in online groups. Proc. 1st ACM WSDM Intl. Conf. on Web Search and Data Mining, 2008.

L. Backstrom, C. Dwork, J. Kleinberg. "Wherefore Art Thou R3579X? Anonymized Social Networks, Hidden Patterns, and Structural Steganography." Proc. 16th Intl. World Wide Web Conference, 2007.

L. Backstrom, D. Huttenlocher, J. Kleinberg, X. Lan. Group Formation in Large Social Networks: Membership, Growth, and Evolution. Proc. 12th ACM SIGKDD Intl. Conf. on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2006.

L. Backstrom, R. Caruana. C2FS: An Algorithm for Feature Selection in Cascade Neural Nets. Proc. Intl. Joint Conference on Neural Networks, 2006.

R. Caruana, T. Joachims, L. Backstrom. KDD-Cup 2004: results and analysis. Proc. 10th ACM SIGKDD Intl. Conf. on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, 2004.

## Selected Press Citations

"Cornell team maps out 35M Flickr photos," *Guardian*, 27 April 2009

"Flickr users make accidental maps," *NewScientist*, 27 April 2009

"Finding The Local "Center" Of Search Queries," *SearchengineLand*, 28 April 2008.

"Data sharing threatens privacy," *Nature*, 10 October 2007.

"Mining the Yesternet," *ScienceNews*, 30 October 2006.

## References

Dan Huttenlocher  
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