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Alexis Maguin Fenton, Jr.

Analytical electrochemist

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA (2016-present)

Ph.D. Candidate, Chemical Engineering, Brushett Research Group (GPA: 4.9/5.0)

Proposed Thesis Title: Combining Inference and Modeling to Extend the Capabilities of Analytical Electrochemistry Minor: Inference and Machine Learning

Certificates: Kaufman Teaching Certificate, issued 2020

Masters of Science in Chemical Engineering Practice, received 2018 (GPA: 4.9/5.0)

Rice University, Houston, TX (2012-2016)

Bachelors of Science in Chemical Engineering, Magna Cum Laude, received 2016 (GPA: 4.04/4.33)

Focus within Chemical Engineering major: Materials Science and Engineering

Professional Experience

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chemical Engineering; Cambridge, MA

Graduate Research Assistant, Brushett Research Group; January 2017-present

- Demonstrate that probabilistic inference and modeling can enhance voltammetric analysis
- Design a modified battery architecture to increase operational flexibility
- Characterize electrochemical systems via in situ (e.g., voltammetry) and ex situ (e.g., NMR, XRD) analyses

Royal Dutch Shell; Houston, TX

Technical Consulting Intern, MIT Practice School; August 2017-October 2017

- Evaluated approaches for integration of renewables into common processes (e.g., electrification)
- Consulted with expert scientists and presented findings to the company

Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA); Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Technical Consulting Intern, MIT Practice School; October 2017-December 2017

- Assessed plant processes to potentially save millions of \$ USD and to estimate greenhouse gas emissions
- EGA presented a fraction of this work at the 37th Conference and Exhibition of The International Committee for Study of Bauxite, Alumina, and Aluminium (ICSOBA) in Krasnoyarsk, Russia

Scholarly Publications

- J. A. Kowalski, A. M. Fenton, Jr., B. J. Neyhouse. F. R. Brushett, A Method for Evaluating Soluble Redox Couple Stability Using Microelectrode Voltammetry, Journal of The Electrochemical Society, 167, 160513, 2020
- B. J. Neyhouse, A. M. Fenton, Jr., F. R. Brushett, Too much of a good thing? Assessing performance tradeoffs of two-electron compounds for redox flow batteries, Journal of The Electrochemical Society, in press
- M. A. Jawi, E. A. Obaidli, R. Natesan, S. Pollé, M. Mahmoud, K. Williams, A. Fenton, and A. Wu, *Carbon Monoxide Emissions from Electrolysis Process in EGA Smelters*, 37th Conference and Exhibition of ICSOBA, 2019
- **A. M. Fenton, Jr.**, F. R. Brushett, *Chemical Identification in Multicomponent Electrolytes using Voltammetry, Physics-Based Modeling, and Bayesian Inference*, in prep (expected submission: April 2021)
- **A. M. Fenton, Jr.**, B. J. Neyhouse, K. M. Tenny, Y. M. Chiang, F. R. Brushett, *Simplifying Microelectrode Voltammetry through Closed-Form and Finite-Difference Modeling in Oblate Spheroidal Coordinates*, in prep

Technical Presentations

- A. M. Fenton, Jr., B. J. Neyhouse, K. M. Tenny, Y. M. Chiang, and F. R. Brushett, Analytical and Numerical Modeling of Microelectrode Voltammetry in Oblate Spheroidal Coordinates, 239th Electrochemical Society Meeting, Chicago, IL (virtual). May-June 2021
- **A. Fenton Jr.**, F. Brushett, *Using voltammetry augmented with physics-based modeling and Bayesian hypothesis testing to estimate electrolyte composition*, Battery Modeling Webinar Series 3-Minute Thesis Day, Cambridge, MA (virtual). April 2021
- **A. Fenton Jr.**, F. Brushett, Combining Experiment, Physics-Based Modeling and Bayesian Inference to Enhance Voltammetric Characterization, 2020 Virtual MRS® Spring/Fall Meeting and Exhibit, Boston, MA (virtual). November-December 2020
- **A. Fenton Jr.**, F. Brushett, *Automating Electroactive Compound Identification to Simplify Electrolyte Decay Analysis in Energy Storage Devices*, 2020 MIT A+B Applied Energy Symposium, Cambridge, MA (virtual). August 2020
- **A. M. Fenton Jr.**, F. Brushett, Combining Cyclic Square Wave Voltammetry Experiment and Modeling to Quantify Unknown Electron Transfer Mechanisms for Applications in Relevant Electrochemical Systems, 236th Electrochemical Society Meeting, Atlanta, GA. October 2019

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Teaching and Mentorship Experience

Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program, Cambridge, MA

Participant, MIT Teaching + Learning Lab; certificate issued December 2020

- Studied proven practices and philosophies in instruction to develop teaching skills
- Designed modules for an electrochemistry class (e.g., constructing a syllabus, formulating exam questions)
- Constructed and taught a short demo lesson on electrochemistry thermodynamics to fellow participants

Teaching Assistant (Graduate Chemical Reactor Engineering), Cambridge, MA

MIT, Department of Chemical Engineering; January 2020-May 2020

- Ranked highly by first-year graduate students (mean 5.8/7, standard deviation of 1.04)
- Developed content for recitations, and drafted both problem sets and exams
- Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by helping transition the class to an accessible and exclusively online format

Graduate Student Mentor, Cambridge, MA

MIT, Brushett Research Group; November 2020-present

- Guide a younger graduate student to become familiar with a field of study
- Teach electrochemistry fundamentals and counsel in experimental and research design

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Mentor, Cambridge, MA

MIT, Brushett Research Group; June 2019-October 2020

- Communicated research goals and concepts to 2 undergraduate students so they could contribute to project progression
 - o Both will be offered contributing authorship on a future paper
- Crafted funding proposals within MIT; one student secured UROP Direct Funding
- Pivoted ongoing experimental research to a remote modeling project in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Academic Fellow, Rice University, Houston, TX

McMurtry Residential College, 2014-2016

• Tutored students in organic chemistry, both individually and in larger groups

Service and Leadership Experience

ChemE Application Mentorship Program Mentor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA *Department of Chemical Engineering*, September 2020-November 2020

- Aided an undergraduate student of an underrepresented group with his MIT ChemE graduate school application
- Critically revised various application materials and offered advice over synchronous video calls

Vice-President of Residential Life, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Sidney Pacific Graduate Residence Executive Council, May 2018-May 2019

- Managed and oversaw 14 officers in charge of organizing events for Sidney Pacific residents
- Wrote successful proposals to MIT-wide funding sources (e.g., Graduate Student Council) for large events (300+ people)
- Communicated with other members of the Executive Council and Heads of House on a weekly basis

NetPals Program Mentor, Cambridge School Volunteers, Inc., Cambridge, MA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, January 2018-May 2018

• Coached and provided scientific guidance to a seventh-grade Cambridge public school student for his class project

Honors and Awards

- Dow Travel Award Recipient (2019) competitive travel grant awarded within MIT's Chemical Engineering department
- MIT Presidential Fellow (2016-2017)
- Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society (inducted 2016)
- Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society (inducted 2015)
- American Chemical Society Scholar (2013-2016)
- McMurtry Residential College Outstanding Senior Award (2016)
- T.W. Moore Scholarship (2015) awarded to the top six rising seniors by GPA in the Rice Chemical Engineering major
- Princeton Engineering Graduate Symposium (2015) travel award from Princeton
- L.J. Walsh Scholarship (2015)
- Houston Gas Processors Association Scholarship (2015)
- Fluor Daniel Engineering Scholarship (2015)
- 2013-2014 Donald F. Othmer Sophomore Academic Excellence Award (2014)
- Rice Trustee Brown Scholarship (2012-2016)