

Jessica Sidman
Department of Mathematics
Amherst College
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Curriculum Vitae

Education

Ph.D., 2002, University of Michigan.
M.S., 1999, University of Michigan.
B.A., 1997, Scripps College.

Employment

Brian E. Boyle Professor in Mathematics and Computer Science, 2024-present.
Professor of Mathematics, Amherst College, 2023-2024.
Professor of Mathematics on the John S. Kennedy Foundation, 2017-2023.
Professor (and department chair), Mount Holyoke College, 2014-2017.
Associate Professor, Mount Holyoke College, 2009-2014.
Assistant Professor, Mount Holyoke College, 2008-2009.
Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor, Mount Holyoke College, 2003-2008

Postdoctoral positions

NSF Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley, 2002-2003
NSF Postdoctoral Fellow at UMass Amherst, 2004-2005.

Journal publications (*=undergraduate coauthor)

M. DiPasquale, J. Sidman, and W. Traves, *Geometric Aspects of the Jacobian of a Hyperplane Arrangement*, IMRN, **2025** (2025), no. 13, 1-33.

J. Sidman, W. Traves, and A. Wheeler, *Geometric Equations for Matroid Varieties*, Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Series A, **178** (2021).

Z. Rosen, J. Sidman, and L. Theran, *Algebraic Matroids in Action*, The American Mathematical Monthly, **127** (2020), no.3, 199-216.

J. Farre*, H. Kleinschmidt*, J. Sidman, A. St. John, S. Stark*, L. Theran, X. Yu*, *Algorithms for detecting dependencies and rigid subsystems for CAD*, Computer Aided Geometric Design **47** (2016), 130-149.

A. Lee-St.John and J. Sidman, *Combinatorics and the rigidity of CAD systems*, Computer-Aided Design, **45** (2013), no. 2, 473-482.

J. Sidman, *An Introduction to Algebraic Geometry: Polygons, Parameterizations, and Equations*, American Mathematical Monthly, **19** (2012), no.3, 183-198.

J. Sidman and G. Smith, *Linear determinantal equations for all projective schemes*, Algebra and Number Theory, **5** (2012), no. 8, 1041-1061.

J. Sidman and P. Vermeire, *Syzygies of the secant variety of a curve*, Algebra and Number Theory, vol. 3, No. 4, 2009.

J. Sidman and S. Sullivant, *Prolongations and computational algebra*, Canadian J. Math, Vol. 61, No. 4, 2009, p. 930-949.

D. Cox and J. Sidman, *Secant varieties of toric varieties*, J. Pure and Applied Algebra (2007) vol. 209, no. 3, pp. 651-669.

J. Sidman, A. Van Tuyl, and H. Wang, *Multigraded regularity: coarsenings and resolutions*. J. Algebra, (2006) 301, no. 2, 703-727.

J. Sidman and A. Van Tuyl, *Multigraded regularity: syzygies and fat points*, Beiträge (2006) **47**, no. 1, 67-87. (Due to a mixup of electronic files at the journal an older version was printed, and the correct version is only available online at the journal webpage.)

A. Bjorner, I. Peeva, and J. Sidman, *Subspace arrangements defined by products of linear forms*, J. London Math. Soc., (2005) **71** no.2, 273--288.

A. Conca, J. Sidman, *Generic Initial ideals of points and curves*, J. Symb. Comp. (2005) **40**, 1023--1038.

J. Sidman, *Defining equations of subspace arrangements embedded in reflection arrangements*, IMRN, (2004), no. 15, 713—727.

H. Derksen, J. Sidman, *Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity by approximation*, Adv. in Math. (2004) **188**, no. 1, 104-123.

H. Derksen and J. Sidman, *A sharp bound for the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of subspace arrangements*, Adv. in Math., **172** (2002), no. 2, 151--157.

J. Sidman, *On the Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity of products of ideal sheaves*, Adv. in Geom., **2** (2002), no. 3, 219--229.

Preprints

Z. Rosen, J. Sidman, and L. Theran, *Linearizing Algebraic Matroids*, arXiv: 2507.07220.

Conference proceedings

G. Burnham*, Z. Rosen*, J. Sidman, P. Vermeire, *Line arrangements modeling curves of high degree*, Recent Advances in Algebraic Geometry, 52-70, London Mathematical Society Lecture Notes Series, **417**, Cambridge, 2015.

C. Clement*, A. Lee-St.John, J. Sidman, *Hyperbanana Graphs*, Proceedings of the 25th Canadian Conference on Computational Geometry, (2013), 199-204.

J. Sidman, P. Vermeire, *Equations defining secant varieties: geometry and computation*. Combinatorial aspects of commutative algebra and algebraic geometry, Abel Symp., 6, Springer, Berlin, 2011.

Book chapters

J. Sidman, *Polynomials and Rigidity Theory*, in Applications of Polynomial Systems, D. Cox with contributions from Carlos D'Andrea, Alicia Dickenstein, Jonathan Hauenstein, Hal Schenck, and Jessica Sidman, CBMS Regional Conference Series in Mathematics, Vol. 134, 2020.

J. Sidman and W. Traves, "Cayley Factorization and Special Positions" in the Handbook of Geometric Constraint Systems Principles, 85-106, Chapman and Hall/CRC, New York, 2018.

H. Schenck and J. Sidman, "Commutative algebra of subspace arrangements and hyperplane arrangements," in *Commutative Algebra: Expository Papers Dedicated to David Eisenbud on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday*, 639-666, Springer Verlag, New York, 2013.

J. Sidman, "Resolutions and Subspace arrangements" in *Syzygies and Hilbert Functions*, 249-265, Lect. Notes Pure Appl. Math., 254, Chapman&Hall/CFC, Boca Raton, FL, 2007.

D. Eisenbud, Lectures on the geometry of syzygies. With a chapter by Jessica Sidman. Math. Sci. Res. Inst. Publ., 51, *Trends in Commutative Algebra*, 115-152, Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, 2004.

Notes

C. Hacon and J. Sidman, *Lessons From Our advisor*, Notices of The American Mathematical Society, Volume 68, Number 8, September 2021, pp. 1313-1315.

J. Sidman, *Congratulations! You have Tenure! And Now What?*, Notices of The American Mathematical Society, Volume 66, Number 9, October 2020, pp. 1442-1444.

J. Sidman, *Thoughts on Helping Students to Feel Included*, Notices of The American Mathematical Society, Volume 66, Number 7, August 2020, pp. 1047-1048.

J. Sidman and A. St. John, *The Rigidity of Frameworks: Theory and Applications*, Notices of The American Mathematical Society, Volume 64, Number 9, October 2017, pp. 973-977.

Awards

Merten M. Hasse Prize (joint with Zvi Rosen and Louis Theran)
Algebraic Matroids in Action, The American Mathematical Monthly, **127** (2020), no.3, 199-216.

Best Paper Award

Symposium on Solid and Physical Modeling, SPM 2012
University of Burgundy, Dijon, France, October 29-31st, 2012.

2012 Meribeth E. Cameron Faculty Award for Scholarship

Mount Holyoke College, 2012.

Conference talks

Minisymposium on Matroids and Applications

SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry, Madison, July 10, 2025.

Workshop on Matroids, Rigidity, and Algebraic Statistics

ICERM, March 21, 2025

Workshop on Constraint Systems: Distance Geometry, Structured Polynomials, Matrix Completion, and Kinematics

Fields Institute, August 9, 2023

Special Session on Matroids and Rigidity Theory

Southeastern Int'l Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory & Computing, March 10, 2022

Virtual Discrete Math 2-Day at Albany

Hosted virtually by SUNY Albany, April 26, 2020.

Texas Algebraic Geometry Seminar 2019

Texas A&M University, College Station, October 5th, 2019.

Algebraic Geometry Northeast Section

UMass Amherst, Amherst, March 22, 2019.

Combinatorial Algebra

AWM Research Symposium 2019, Rice University, Houston, April 7, 2019.

AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra and Complexity

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, October 20, 2019.

Applications of Polynomial Systems an NSF/CBMS Regional Conference in the Mathematical Sciences

Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, June 7, 2018.

AMS Special Session on Gaussian Graphical Models and Combinatorial Algebraic Geometry

Atlanta, January 4, 2017.

Geometry Rigidity Theory and Applications

International Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Edinburgh, June 2, 2016.

Minimal Free Resolutions, Betti Numbers, and Combinatorics

International Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Edinburgh, June 4, 2015.

AMS-SIAM Special Session on Mathematics of Computation: Algebra and Number Theory
San Diego, January 11, 2013.

SIAM Mini-symposium: Combinatorial Algebraic Geometry
Minneapolis, July 11, 2012.

Special session: Algebraic Geometry and Commutative Algebra
AWM Anniversary Conference at Brown University September 17, 2011.

AMS Special Session on The Algebraic Geometry and Topology of Hyperplane Arrangements

College of the Holy Cross, April 9th, 2011

Combinatorial Algebra meets Algebraic Combinatorics

Lakehead University, January 22nd, 2011

Abel Symposium I

Voss, Norway, June 2, 2009.

Commutative algebra and its interactions with algebraic geometry

Banff International Research Station, Banff, Canada, June 11, 2007.

AMS special session: toric varieties

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, October 6, 2007.

Hilbert Functions and syzygies in commutative algebra and combinatorics

Cortona, Italy, September 18, 2007.

Castelnuovo-Mumford regularity and related topics I

CIRM, Luminy, May 12, 2006.

AMS special session: combinatorial algebraic geometry I

Notre Dame University, South Bend, April 9, 2006.

AMS special session: algebraic statistics

Joint Meetings, San Antonio, January 13, 2006.

Conference of the School on Commutative Algebra and Interactions with Algebraic Geometry and Combinatorics

Trieste, Italy, June 10, 2004.

Workshop on Combinatorial Aspects of Hyperplane Arrangements

MSRI, Berkeley, November 1, 2004.

Tutorials and short courses

Analytic and Algebraic Geometry: Common Problems – Different Methods.

Undergraduate Summer School Lecturer

Park City Mathematics Institute, Park City, July 21-26 2008.

Women and mathematics: Algebraic Geometry and Group Actions

Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, May 21-24, 2007.

Tutorial: What is algebraic geometry?

Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications, Minneapolis, April 13, 2007.

Colloquia and seminars

Commutative Algebra and Algebraic Geometry Seminar

University of Minnesota, April 30, 2025.

Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences Colloquium

Pomona College, October 23, 2024

Matroids – Combinatorics, Algebra, and Geometry Seminar

Fields Institute, October 11, 2022

Algebraic Geometry Seminar

Stony Brook University, April 6, 2022

AWM Distinguished Speaker Series

University of Oregon, January 11, 2022

Taters

Boise State University, October 22, 2021

Mathematics Department Colloquium Series

US Naval Academy, October 13, 2021

Virtual seminar on algebraic matroids and rigidity theory

MIT, May 21, 2020.

MAXIMALS Algebra Seminar

University of Edinburgh, December 4, 2017

Pure Mathematics Colloquium

St. Andrews University, November 30, 2017

Colloquium

Wesleyan University March 3, 2011

Colloquium

Canada/USA Mathcamp July 6th, 2010

Valley Geometry Seminar

UMass, Amherst February 5, 2010

Reed Mathematics Colloquium

October 25, 2007.

Queen's algebraic geometry seminar

Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, January 17, 2005 and November 5, 2007.

University of Connecticut Department Colloquium

November 15, 2007.

Department Colloquium

Wellesley College, March 14, 2005.

Algebraic geometry seminar

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, October 12, 2004.

Algebraic geometry seminar

Università di Genova, Italy, June 15, 2004.

Mathematics Colloquium

SUNY Albany, April 23, 2004.

Geometry-Algebra-Singularities-Combinatorics seminar

Northeastern University, Boston, March 15, 2004.

Claremont Colleges Mathematics Colloquium

Pomona College, November 13, 2002.

Local expository talks**Math Forum**

Smith College April 6th, 2017

REU Colloquium

Yale University, June 27, 2016.

Math Forum

Smith College February 14th, 2013.

Prime Time Talk

Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics July 13th, 2010

Math Club

University of Connecticut October 6th, 2010

Prime Time Talk

Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics July 28, 2009

Math Forum

Smith College September 22, 2009

Working commutative algebra/algebraic geometry seminar: Green's conjecture

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, February 8, 15, 29, 2008.

Westfield State Math Club

Westfield State College, Westfield, October 16, 2007.

The "What is ...?" seminar

UMass, Amherst, April 9, 2004 and March 29 and April 5, 2007.

Minimal Model Program Seminar

UMass, Amherst, April 20, 2007.

Working commutative algebra seminar

UMass, Amherst, September 17 and November 12, 2004, and February 25, 2005.

Combinatorics Study Group

Mount Holyoke College, October 21, 2004.

Workshops and Conferences attended

The Grading Conference

Virtual, June 3-4, 2022.

Women in Commutative Algebra and Algebraic Geometry

Fields Institute (virtual), February 5-6 and June 3, 2022

Grants and fellowships

Hudson River Undergraduate Math Conference Grant

Co-PI (with Giuliana Davidoff, Margaret Robinson, Dylan Shepardson), NSF Conference Grant.

ICMS Research in Groups: Graph Rigidity and Control of Robot Formations. CoPI (with Bernd Schulze, Anthony Nixon, Audrey St. John, Louis Theran, Daniel Zelazo), July 25 – August 3, 2022.

Ideals, Varieties, and Applications

Co-PI (with Nathan Pflueger, Gregory Call, Robert Benedetto), NSF Conference Grant, DMS-1903186.

RUI: Computational and Combinatorial Commutative Algebra

NSF grant DMS-0600471, 2006-2009.

NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

NSF grant DMS-0201607

Selected Department Service at Amherst

Putnam Co-Coordinator, 2025-present

Comprehensive Exam Co-Coordinator, 2025-present

Associate Chair, 2025-present
Math Fellows Co-Coordinator, 2023-2024
Math Faculty Community Building, 2023-2024
Math Q Fellow Hiring Committee, 2024
ARHS contact, 2024

College Service at Amherst

Health Professions Committee, 2025-present

Selected Department Service at Mount Holyoke

Search chair, Problem Solving Club Advisor, Math Modeling Club Advisor, Math/Stat/DS Lunch coordinator, TA and Grader coordinator, Course assignments and scheduling

Selected College Service at Mount Holyoke

Faculty Advisor for the Student AWM Chapter, 2022-2023

Faculty Advisor for STEMPOC, 2022-2023

Faculty Marshall, 2022-present

Advisory Committee on Appointments, Reappointments and Promotion 2016-2020

Department Chair, 2014-2017

Faculty Planning and Budget Committee, 2016, 2006-2011.

Faculty Conference Committee, 2012-2103

College Planning Committee, 2010-2011

Disciplinary Service

Co-organizer of Women in Commutative Algebra Workshop

Fields Institute, March 10-14, 2025.

Co-organizer of the Workshop on Real Algebraic Geometry and Algorithms for Geometric Constraint Systems

Fields Institute, June 14-18, 2021.

Education Advisory Board

ICERM, Brown University 2019-2022.

Co-organizer: Discrete Math Day

November 16, 2019

Co-organizer: Ideals, Varieties, and Applications

Amherst College, June 10-14, 2019.

Co-director: Career Mentoring Workshop

Mount Holyoke College, June 24-26, 2018.

Co-organizer: Algebraic methods in rigidity theory mini-symposium

SIAM AG '17, Georgia Tech, August 1, 2017.

Co-organizer: Combinatorial Algebraic Geometry: Introductory Workshop

Fields Institute in August, 2016.

Co-organizer: Algebraic Geometry Northeast Section Workshop

UMass, Amherst, March 31-April 1st, 2012.

Co-organizer: Algebraic Geometry Northeast Section Poster Session

UMass, Amherst, April 9-11, 2010.

Co-organizer: Connections for Women: Algebraic Geometry and Related Fields

MSRI, January 26-30, 2009.

Co-coordinator of the Sky Dot Project NExT sessions for Mathfest

Providence, August 11, 2004.

A Walk Through the Math Pipeline from End to End (sponsored by the Committee on Science Policy and the Committee on the Professions)

Panelist, Joint Mathematical Meeting, Phoenix, January 9, 2004.

Editorial work

Associate Editor for the American Mathematical Monthly

Series Editor for Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics, Springer-Verlag.

Refereeing

Advances in Mathematics

SIAM Journal of Applied Algebra and Geometry

Combinatorica

Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society

Journal of the London Mathematical Society

Journal of Algebra

Journal of Symbolic Computation

Journal of Algebraic Geometry