Samuel Talkington talkington@gatech.edu

samueltalkington.com

Education

2020-26	Georgia Institute of Technology
	Ph.D. Electrical and Computer Engineering
2016-20	West Virginia University
	B.S. Electrical Engineering, summa cum laude, minor in Chinese

Research Experience

2020-	Graduate Research Assistant, Georgia Institute of Technology,
	(Advisor: Dr. Daniel K. Molzahn)
2022	Graduate Research Intern, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory,
	(Host: Colin Ponce, Cyber and Infrastructure Resilience Program)
2018-2020	Undergraduate Research Assistant, West Virginia University,
	(Advisors: Dr. Sarika Khushalani Solanki, Dr. Natalia Schmid)

Awards & Honors

2025	Georgia Tech Schmidt Science Fellows Nominee
2025	NextProf Nexus Future Faculty Workshop Invitee
2025	Georgia Tech Student Recognition for Excellence in Teaching: Annual CIOS Award
2025	Georgia Tech Course Instructor Opinion Survey (CIOS) Fall 2024 Honor Roll
2024	Georgia Tech ECE Supporting Teaching Experience Fellowship
2023	National Science Foundation Power and Energy Conference Travel Grant
2022	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2021	Georgia Tech Strategic Energy Institute/EPICenter Spark Award
2021	IEEE Power and Energy Conference at Illinois Best Paper Award
2021	U.S. Department of Energy Solar District Cup, Second Place
2020	Georgia Tech School of ECE Alek and Halina Szalm Fellowship
2020	U.S. Department of Energy Solar District Cup, Second Place
2019	West Virginia University Honors EXCEL Student Research Proposal Grant
2019	U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge, Finalist
2016	West Virginia University President's, Engineering Excellence, and other scholarships
2016	U.S. Department of State National Security Language Initiative (program info)

Publications

G Google Scholar • **D** 0000-0001-5768-8115

- $\dagger \rightarrow$ Equal contribution
- $\star \to \text{Supplemental information}$

Preprints

- [S1] **S. Talkington**, A. Rangarajan, P. A. Alcântara, L. Roald, D. K. Molzahn, and D. Fuhrmann, *Error Bounds for Radial Network Topology Learning from Quantized Measurements*, submitted, Aug. 2025. arXiv: 2508.05620 [eess.SY].
- [S2] **S. Talkington** and D. K. Molzahn, *VARsity: Can Language Models Keep Power Engineering Students in Phase?* submitted, Jul. 2025. arXiv: 2507.20995 [cs.CY].
- [S3] B. Ashebo, **S. Talkington**, S. Zonouz, and D. K. Molzahn, *Covert Distribution Load Tripping Attacks*, submitted, Jun. 2025, eprint available.

Journal Articles

- [J1] P. Buason, S. Misra, **S. Talkington**, and D. K. Molzahn, "A Data-Driven Method for Locating Sensors and Selecting Alarm Thresholds to Identify Violations of Voltage Limits in Distribution Systems," *Electric Power Systems Research*, vol. 232, no. 110387, Jul. 2024. DOI: 10.1016/j.epsr.2024.110387.
- [J2] **S. Talkington**, S. Grijalva, M. J. Reno, J. A. Azzolini, and J. Peppanen, "Localized Structure in Secondary Distribution System Voltage Sensitivity Matrices," *Electric Power Systems Research*, vol. 226, p. 109788, Jan. 2024. DOI: 10.1016/j.epsr.2023.109788.
- [J3] **S. Talkington**, D. Turizo, S. Grijalva, J. Fernandez, and D. Molzahn, "Conditions for Estimation of Sensitivities of Voltage Magnitudes to Complex Power Injections," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 478–491, Jan. 2024. DOI: 10.1109/TPWRS.2023.3237505.
- [J4] **S. Talkington**, S. Grijalva, M. J. Reno, and J. A. Azzolini, "Solar PV Inverter Reactive Power Disaggregation and Control Setting Estimation," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, vol. 37, no. 6, pp. 4773–4784, Jan. 2022. DOI: 10.1109/TPWRS.2022.3144676.
- [J5] **S. Talkington**, S. Grijalva, M. J. Reno, J. A. Azzolini, and D. Pinney, "A Measurement-Based Approach to Voltage-Constrained Hosting Capacity Analysis with Controllable Reactive Power Behind-the-Meter," *Electric Power Systems Research*, vol. 221, no. 109395, Aug. 2023. DOI: 10.1016/j.epsr.2023.109395.
- [J6] **S. Talkington**, S. Grijalva, and M. J. Reno, "Power Factor Estimation of Distributed Energy Resources Using Voltage Magnitude Measurements," *Journal of Modern Power Systems and Clean Energy*, vol. 9, no. 4, pp. 859–869, 2021. DOI: 10.35833/MPCE.2021.000086.

Conference Proceedings

- [C1] R. Asiamah, **S. Talkington**, M. A. Boateng, M. Vanin, F. Geth, and D. K. Molzahn, "Classifying Reactive Power Control Laws of Behind-the-Meter Solar Photovoltaic Inverters," in *2025 IEEE Kansas Power and Energy Conference (KPEC)*, Apr. 2025.
- [C2] **S. Talkington**, R. Gupta, R. Asiamah, P. Buason, and D. K. Molzahn, "Strategic Electric Distribution Network Sensing via Spectral Bandits," in *63rd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)*, Dec. 2024.

- [C3] **S. Talkington**[†], A. West[†], and R. Haider, "Locational Marginal Burden: Quantifying the Equity of Optimal Power Flow Solutions," in *Proceedings of the 15th ACM International Conference on Future and Sustainable Energy Systems*, ser. e-Energy '24, Singapore, Singapore: Association for Computing Machinery, Jun. 2024, pp. 97–107. DOI: 10.1145/3632775.3661947.
- [C4] A. D. Aquino, **S. Talkington**, and D. K. Molzahn, "Managing Vehicle Charging During Emergencies via Conservative Distribution System Modeling," in *2024 IEEE Texas Power and Energy Conference (TPEC)*, Mar. 2024, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/TPEC60005.2024.10472235.
- [C5] **S. Talkington** and S. Grijalva, "Phase Retrieval via Model-Free Power Flow Jacobian Recovery," in *Proceedings of the 14th ACM International Conference on Future Energy Systems*, ser. e-Energy '23, Orlando, FL, USA: Association for Computing Machinery, Jun. 2023, pp. 510–523. DOI: 10. 1145/3575813.3597357.
- [C6] J. A. Azzolini, M. J. Reno, J. Yusuf, **S. Talkington**, and S. Grijalva, "Calculating PV Hosting Capacity in Low-Voltage Secondary Networks Using Only Smart Meter Data," in *2023 IEEE Power & Energy Society Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference (ISGT)*, Mar. 2023, pp. 1–5. DOI: 10.1109/ISGT51731.2023.10066372.
- [C7] J. A. Azzolini, **S. Talkington**, M. J. Reno, S. Grijalva, L. Blakely, D. Pinney, and S. McHann, "Improving Behind-the-Meter PV Impact Studies with Data-Driven Modeling and Analysis," in *2022 IEEE 49th Photovoltaics Specialists Conference (PVSC)*, Nov. 2022, pp. 204–204. DOI: 10. 1109/PVSC48317.2022.9938462,
 - ★ Selected for Oral Presentation.
- [C8] S. Talkington, S. Grijalva, and M. J. Reno, "Sparse Time Series Sampling for Recovery of Behind-the-Meter Inverter Control Models," in 2022 IEEE Power & Energy Society Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference (ISGT), Jul. 2022, pp. 1–5. DOI: 10.1109/ISGT50606.2022.9817504.
- [C9] **S. Talkington**, S. Grijalva, M. J. Reno, and J. Azzolini, "Recovering Power Factor Control Settings of Solar PV Inverters from Net Load Data," in *2021 North American Power Symposium* (*NAPS*), Nov. 2021, pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/NAPS52732.2021.9654671.
- [C10] **S. Talkington** and S. Grijalva, "Rail Transit Regenerative Braking Energy Recovery Optimization to Provide Grid Services," in *2021 IEEE Power and Energy Conference at Illinois (PECI)*, May 2021, pp. 1−7. DOI: 10.1109/PECI51586.2021.9435279, ★ Best Paper Award.

Technical Reports

- [TR1] J. Ero, K. Slatterly, X. Qin, **S. Talkington**, and D. K. Molzahn, *Optimizing State Estimation Er*ror in the LinDist3Flow Model, IEEE Opportunity Research Scholars' Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2025.
- [TR2] M. J. Reno, L. Blakely, R. D. Trevizan, B. Pena, M. Lave, J. A. Azzolini, J. Yusuf, C. B. Jones, A. F. Bastos, R. Chalamala, et al., IMoFi Intelligent Model Fidelity: Physics-Based Data-Driven Grid Modeling to Accelerate Accurate PV Integration (Final Report), Sandia National Lab. (SNL-NM), Albuquerque, NM (United States), Jan. 2022. DOI: 10.2172/1855058. [Online]. Available: https://www.osti.gov/biblio/1855058.

[TR3] M. J. Reno, L. Blakely, R. D. Trevizan, B. Pena, M. Lave, J. A. Azzolini, J. Yusuf, C. B. Jones, A. Furlani-Bastos, R. Chalamala, et al., IMoFi (Intelligent Model Fidelity): Physics-Based Data-Driven Grid Modeling to Accelerate Accurate PV Integration Updated Accomplishments, Sandia National Lab. (SNL-NM), Albuquerque, NM (United States), Sep. 2022. DOI: 10.2172/1888157.
[Online]. Available: https://www.osti.gov/biblio/1888157.

Presentations

 $\sharp \to \text{Indicates presenter(s)}$ when there are multiple authors

Talks

- [T1] **S. Talkington**[‡], A. West, R. Piansky, R. Haider, and D. K. Molzahn, *Embedding Affordability Goals into Grid Planning via Differentiable Optimization*, 2025 INFORMS Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA), Oct. 2025.
- [T2] **S. Talkington**, Randomness as a Resource: Scalable Algorithms for Grid Decision-Making, Power and AI Initiative (PAI) Seminar Series, Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, (Allston, MA), Aug. 2025.
- [T3] C. Khanpour[‡], D. Turizo, **S. Talkington**, and D. K. Molzahn, *A Procedure to Assess Nonconvexity via Shortest Feasible Paths*, <u>SIAM Conference on Applied Algebraic Geometry</u>, University of Wisconsin-Madison, (Madison, WI), Jul. 2025.
- [T4] S. Talkington, High-Dimensional Statistics for Electric Power Systems, NSF AI Institute for Advances in Optimization Spring 2025 Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) (Atlanta, GA), Apr. 2025, ★ Presentation Slides.
- [T5] **S. Talkington**, *High-Dimensional Statistics for Electric Power Systems*, <u>2025 Georgia Tech ECE</u> Research Rally (Atlanta, GA), Apr. 2025.
- [T6] **S. Talkington**, *High-Dimensional Statistics for Electric Power Systems*, Gridmatic Lunch and Nerd, Invited (Online), Mar. 2025.
- [T7] A. West[♯], **S. Talkington**, and R. Haider, Locational Marginal Burden: Equity Embedded in the Optimal Power Flow, 2024 INFORMS Annual Meeting (Seattle, WA), Oct. 2024, ★ Presentation Slides.
- [T8] **S. Talkington**[‡], A. West, and R. Haider, *Locational Marginal Burden: Quantifying the Equity of Optimal Power Flow Solutions*, The 15th ACM International Conference on Future Energy Systems (Singapore), Jun. 2024,
 - ★ Presentation Video.
- [T9] S. Talkington, Electric Distribution Network Sensing with Limited Communication Infrastructure, 2024 Georgia Tech ECE Research Rally (Atlanta, GA), Apr. 2024,

 ★ Presentation Video.
- [T10] A. D. Aquino, **S. Talkington**[‡], and D. K. Molzahn, *Managing Vehicle Charging During Emergencies via Conservative Distribution System Modeling*, 2024 IEEE Texas Power and Energy Conference (College Station, TX), Feb. 2024.
- [T11] **S. Talkington**, Complex Power Inverse Problems, ACM SIGEnergy Graduate Student Seminar Series (Online), Aug. 2023,
 - ★ Presentation Slides.

- [T12] **S. Talkington**[♯] and S. Grijalva, *Phase Retrieval via Model-Free Power Flow Jacobian Recovery*,

 The 14th ACM International Conference on Future Energy Systems (Orlando, FL), Jun. 2023,

 ★ Presentation Slides.
- [T13] **S. Talkington**[‡], S. Grijalva, M. J. Reno, and J. A. Azzolini, Recovering Behind-the-Meter Power Factor Control Settings of Solar PV Inverters from Net Load Data, 2021 North American Power Symposium (NAPS 2021) (College Station, TX), Nov. 2021, ★ Presentation Slides.
- [T14] A. Fan[#], K. Kang, J. Churchill, M. Warner, **S. Talkington**, T. Pilet, and D. K. Molzahn, *Solar PV* and Storage Integration for the Denver, CO and Auraria, CO Higher Education Center, U.S. Department of Energy Solar District Cup Finalist Presentation (Virtual), Apr. 2021, ** Presentation Video.
- [T15] S. Talkington[‡], J. T. Tanner[‡], M. Kashon[‡], J. W. Gain[‡], and S. K. Solanki, Solar PV and Storage Integration for New Mexico State University, U.S. Department of Energy Solar District Cup Finalist Presentation (Virtual), Apr. 2020,

 ★ Presentation Video.
- [T16] **S. Talkington**[‡], J. T. Tanner, J. Bauer[‡], J. Turner[‡], L. Yost[‡], J. Yaeger, D. Korakakis, and C. Haddox, *Victorian Net-Zero Energy Home for Morgantown, West Virginia*, U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge Finalist Presentation, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, (Golden, CO), Apr. 2019.

Posters

- [P1] **S. Talkington**[‡], A. West, R. Haider, and D. K. Molzahn, *Electricity Market Regulation via Differentiable Optimization*, NSF AI Institute for Advances in Optimization Spring 2025 Retreat (Atlanta, GA), Mar. 2025.
- [P2] **S. Talkington**, *Randomized Algorithms for Infrastructure Networks*, Meet the Faculty Candidates Poster Session, 63rd IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (Milan, Italy), Dec. 2024.
- [P3] S. Talkington[‡], R. Gupta, and D. K. Molzahn, Sample Complexity of Distribution Network Sensing, Winter 2024 PSERC Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting, Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ), Dec. 2024.
- [P4] **S. Talkington**[‡], R. Gupta, R. Asiamah, P. Buason, and D. K. Molzahn, *Strategic Electric Distribution Network Sensing*, Spring 2024 PSERC Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting, Cornell University (Ithaca, NY), May 2024.
- [P5] R. Asiamah[‡], **S. Talkington**[‡], R. Gupta, and D. K. Molzahn, *Smart Meter-Driven Distribution Grid Visibility and Control*, Winter 2023 PSERC Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting, Georgia Tech (Atlanta, GA), Dec. 2023.
- [P6] **S. Talkington**[‡], S. Grijalva, and M. J. Reno, *Sparse Time Series Sampling for Recovery of Behind-the-Meter Inverter Control Models*, 2022 PES Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference, NA, (New Orleans, LA), Apr. 2022.
- [P7] D. Foual[‡], N. A. Schmid, and **S. Talkington**, Camera Authentication Based on a Gaussian Model for PRNU and a GLRT Detection Rule, West Virginia University Undergraduate Research Symposium (Morgantown, WV, USA), Nov. 2020,
 - ★ Presentation Video.
- [P8] **S. Talkington**[#] and N. A. Schmid, *Digital Forensics for Iris Image Spoof Detection*, <u>Undergraduate</u> Research Day at the West Virginia State Capitol (URDC) (Charleston, WV, USA), Feb. 2020.

Teaching

Certificate

2025 CIRTL Associate Certificate, Tech to Teaching Program (Program Info)

Georgia Institute of Technology

Roles and courses taught

2025	Co-Instructor, Power Sys	tem Analysis & Control (ECE 4320, 29 students)
2025	Scribe, Special Topics on	Mathematical Data Science (ISYE 8803, 9 students)
2024	Instructor of Record*, Di	gital System Design (ECE 2020-IE, 50 students)
	★Student Recognition	of Excellence in Teaching: Class of 1938 Teaching Award
	⋆ Instructor evaluation	s (88% response rate):
	Overall Effectiveness:	4.92/5.00
	Feedback Helpfulness:	4.94/5.00
	Enthusiasm:	4.97/5.00
	Stimulates Interest:	4.85/5.00
	Inclusiveness:	4.99/5.00
	Respect for Students:	4.99/5.00
2022	Guest Lecturer, Power Sy	vstem Control & Operation (ECE 6320, 20 students)

West Virginia University

Roles and courses taught

2018-2019	Statler College Peer Tutor, Introduction to Electrical Engineering (EE 221)
2018-2019	Statler College Peer Tutor, Electrical Circuits (EE 223)
2018-2019	Statler College Peer Tutor, General Physics 2 (PHYS 112)
2018-2019	Statler College Peer Tutor, Multivariable Calculus (MATH 157)
2017-2018	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Calculus 1 (MATH 155)
2017-2018	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Business Calculus (MATH 150)
2017-2018	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, College Algebra (MATH 128)
2017-2018	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Concepts of Mathematics (MATH 120)

Mentorship and Advising

Peer mentorship

2024	Cameron Khanpour, Georgia Tech, Ph.D. ECE.
2024	Betelihem Kebebe Ashebo, Georgia Tech, Ph.D. ECE. Mentored on project that led to [S3].
2022	Richard Asiamah, Georgia Tech, Ph.D. ECE. Mentored with the Georgia Tech ECE Graduate
	Student Organization Mentorship program, and on projects that led to [C1], [C2], [P4].

Dana Foual, West Virginia University, B.S. CS 2022, M.S. CS 2024. Mentored on project that led to a research symposium poster [P7].

Formal advising

2024	Xianhe (Ken) Qin, B.S. ECE, Georgia Tech. Project: Algorithms for Distribution Grid State
	Estimation, led to symposium paper [TR1].
2024	Jeslyn Ero, B.S. ECE, Georgia Tech. Project: Algorithms for Distribution Grid State Estimation,
	led to symposium paper [TR1].
2024	Kieran Slattery, B.S. ECE, Georgia Tech. Project: Algorithms for Distribution Grid State
	Estimation, led to symposium paper [TR1].
2020	Katie Kang, B.S. ChemE, Georgia Tech, now R&D Engineer, PepsiCo. Project: 2021 U.S.
	Department of Energy Solar District Cup, led to second place win [T14].
2020	Austin Fan, B.S. ChemE, Georgia Tech, now Ph.D. student, Princeton University. Project:
	2021 U.S. Department of Energy Solar District Cup, led to second place win [T14].

Media Mentions

2025	Georgia Tech School of Electrical and Computer Engineering News, Nine ECE Instructors Receive Fall 2024 Course Instructor Opinion Survey Honors
2022	The Bridge, 2022 Issue 1 Volume 118, Samuel Talkington: IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu Graduate
2021	Research Spotlight Georgia Tech School of Electrical and Computer Engineering News, GT Students Place
	Second in US DOE Solar District Cup
2021	Georgia Tech School of Electrical and Computer Engineering News, Talkington Selected for
	PECI 2021 Best Paper Award
2020	The Exponent Telegram (West Virginia Newspaper), Bridgeport, West Virginia's Samuel
	Talkington exploring niche research during Ph.D. program at Georgia Tech
2020	The Exponent Telegram (West Virginia Newspaper), West Virginia University team, includ-
	ing a Bridgeport graduate, among top Solar District Cup teams

Service

Journal Refereeing

2023, 24, 25	IEEE Transactions on Power Systems
2023, 24	IEEE Transaction on Smart Grid
2023, 24	Electric Power Systems Research
2023	Measurement (Elsevier)

Conference Refereeing

2024 Power System Computation Conference (PSCC)

2022, 23, 24	IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)
2024, 25	IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications (CCTA)
2022, 23, 24	IEEE PES Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference (ISGT)
2024	IEEE PES Transmission and Distribution Conference (T&D)
2022, 23	IEEE PES General Meeting (PESGM)
2021	IEEE Power and Energy Conference at Illinois (PECI)

Departmental Service (Georgia Tech)

2024-	Ph.D. mentor, Opportunity Research Scholars' (ORS) undergraduate research program.
2023	Student panel member, School of ECE Industrial Advisory Board
2022-	Peer mentor, ECE Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Mentorship Program
2021-	Annual volunteer in various panels, tours, and activities for ECE Ph.D. admissions
2020-	Energy Club at Georgia Tech (VP of Operations 2021, Member 2020-)
2021-2023	"Power Buddy" graduate student mentor, IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES)

Departmental Service (West Virginia University)

2019-2020	Chapter President, IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu Beta Rho Chapter
2019-2020	Student Advisory Council, Lane Department of CSEE
2018-2020	Student Advisory Council, Statler College of Engineering
2018 - 2020	Statler College Ambassador, Statler College of Engineering
2018-2019	DiscoverWVU outreach events for West Virginia high school students
2018-2019	SheCanCode coding bootcamps for West Virginia high school students
2018-2019	EngineerFest outreach events for first-year engineering students
2018-2019	DecideWVU outreach event weekends for undeclared/undecided admitted students
2017-2019	Outreach Coordinator and Webmaster, IEEE West Virginia University Chapter

Extramural Service

2025	Student volunteer at the 2025 INFORMS Annual Meeting
2025-2027	IEEE Task Force on Benchmarking Multiconductor OPF for Distribution Systems
2025	Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School, Volunteer, STEM Tutor.
2021	Georgia Tech Southeastern Energy Conference (SEEC), Advertising Chair, Research Chair
2018-2020	IEEE Region 2, Pittsburgh Section Student Representative
2018-2019	IEEE Region 2 Student Activities Conference, Sponsorship Chair, Executive Board Member
	Team raised approximately \$10,000 from industry sponsors.
	Co-authored successful proposal to host IEEE SAC 2019 at West Virginia University, attended
	by > 300 students.

Membership in Professional Organizations

2025	Georgia Tech Energy, Policy, and Innovation Center Student Affilitate
2023	ACM; ACM SIGEnergy
2023	ASA; ASA Georgia Chapter

2018	Eta Kappa Nu
2018	Tau Beta Pi
2017	IEEE; IEEE Power and Energy Society

Industry Experience

2020	Power Controls R&D Intern, Mitsubishi Electric Power Products—Warrendale, PA.
	(Contributed hardware and software designs and conducted laboratory testing for the
	development of a static synchronous compensator/Volt-VAR control product.)
2019	Power System Studies Intern Mitsubishi Electric Power Products—Warrendale, PA.
	(Conducted electromagnetic transient overvoltage studies for consulting projects pertaining
	to electric power substation planning and operation.)

Last updated: August 12, 2025