

Giovanni Bordiga

Curriculum Vitae

Research interests

Mechanical intelligence · Inverse design · Differentiable physics · Optimization · Mechanical metamaterials · Material instabilities · Wave propagation · Homogenization theory

Education

- Nov. 2016 – **PhD in Solid and Structural Mechanics**,
Apr. 2020 *Doctoral School of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,*
University of Trento (Italy),
Curriculum: Modeling and Simulation
- PhD Thesis: “Homogenization of periodic lattice materials for wave propagation, localization, and bifurcation”,
Advisors: Andrea Piccolroaz and Davide Bigoni,
Evaluation Committee: Basile Audoly and Pedro M. Reis,
Final grade: *Cum Laude*.
- Sep. 2014 – **MSc in Civil Engineering**,
Oct. 2016 *Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,*
University of Trento (Italy),
Curriculum: Structures
- MSc Thesis: “Micromechanical modeling of masonry” (in Italian),
Advisor: Davide Bigoni,
Final grade: *110/110 Cum Laude*.
- Sep. 2011 – **BSc in Civil Engineering**,
Sep. 2014 *Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,*
University of Trento (Italy)
- BSc Thesis: “Non-uniform torsion of thin-walled open cross-section beams” (in Italian),
Advisor: Massimiliano Gei,
Final grade: *110/110 Cum Laude*.

Research experience

- Sep. 2021 – **Postdoctoral Fellow**,
Present *Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences,*
Harvard University (US),
Advisors: Katia Bertoldi
- Development of a differentiable simulation framework for automating the design of flexible mechanical metamaterials with target dynamic responses.
 - Inverse design of flexible mechanical metamaterials for shape morphing, nonlinear wave guiding, energy focusing, shock mitigation, and cloaking of nonlinear waves.
- May 2020 – **Postdoctoral Researcher**,
Aug. 2021 *Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,*
University of Trento (Italy),
Advisors: Andrea Piccolroaz and Davide Bigoni

- Homogenization of elastic lattices prestressed by circulatory (follower) forces demonstrating the existence of hypoelastic continuum materials displaying flutter instability at the macroscale.
- Analytical and numerical investigation of tensile buckling in periodic lattice materials endowed with sliding constraints.

Nov. 2016 – **PhD Student in Solid and Structural Mechanics**,
 Apr. 2020 *Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering*,
University of Trento (Italy),
 Advisors: Andrea Piccolroaz and Davide Bigoni

- Analytical and numerical investigation of the free and forced dynamic response of Rayleigh-beam lattices leading to sharp frequency-dependent wave localization.
- Modeling and tuning of the prestress state in a lattice domain to realize dynamic interfaces designed for total reflection, negative refraction, and wave channeling.
- Development of static and dynamic homogenization methods for beam lattices prestressed by conservative and non-conservative positional forces.
- Analytical and numerical analysis of macroscopic and microscopic bifurcations in prestressed anisotropic lattices and their connection to shear bands formation and short-wavelength instabilities.

Entrepreneurial experience

Apr. 2024–present **Founder & Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**,
SoftPulse, Inc., Cambridge, MA (US),
 Mission: Develop a passive implant for lasting blood pressure control. A drug-free solution for millions with hypertension.
 Team: Adel Djellouli, Giovanni Bordiga, and Katia Bertoldi.
 Funding: [\\$160K from the Harvard Grid Accelerator](#).

Publications

Peer-reviewed journals

- [9] C. Perez-Garcia, R. Zaera, J. Aranda-Ruiz, **G. Bordiga**, G. Risso, M. L. Lopez-Donaire, K. Bertoldi, D. Garcia-Gonzalez, “Reprogrammable Mechanical Metamaterials via Passive and Active Magnetic Interactions”. In: *Adv. Mater.* (2025), p. 2412353. DOI: [10.1002/adma.202412353](#).
- [8] A. S. Meeussen, **G. Bordiga**, A. X. Chang, B. Spoettling, K. P. Becker, L. Mahadevan, K. Bertoldi, “Textile Hinges Enable Extreme Properties of Kirigami Metamaterials”. In: *Adv. Funct. Mater.* (2024), p. 2415986. DOI: [10.1002/adfm.202415986](#).
- [7] **G. Bordiga**, E. Medina, S. Jafarzadeh, C. Bösch, R. P. Adams, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi, “Automated Discovery of Reprogrammable Nonlinear Dynamic Metamaterials”. In: *Nat. Mater.* 23.11 (2024), pp. 1486–1494. DOI: [10.1038/s41563-024-02008-6](#).
- [6] A. Kotikian, A. A. Watkins, **G. Bordiga**, A. Spielberg, Z. S. Davidson, K. Bertoldi, J. A. Lewis, “Liquid Crystal Elastomer Lattices with Thermally Programmable Deformation via Multi-Material 3D Printing”. In: *Adv. Mater.* (2024), p. 2310743. DOI: [10.1002/adma.202310743](#).
- [5] **G. Bordiga**, D. Bigoni, A. Piccolroaz, “Tensile Material Instabilities in Elastic Beam Lattices Lead to a Bounded Stability Domain”. In: *Philos. Trans. R. Soc. Math. Phys. Eng. Sci.* 380.2231 (2022), p. 20210388. DOI: [10.1098/rsta.2021.0388](#). (Cover article).
- [4] **G. Bordiga**, A. Piccolroaz, D. Bigoni, “A Way to Hypo-Elastic Artificial Materials without a Strain Potential and Displaying Flutter Instability”. In: *J. Mech. Phys. Solids* 158 (2022), p. 104665. DOI: [10.1016/j.jmps.2021.104665](#).
- [3] **G. Bordiga**, L. Cabras, A. Piccolroaz, D. Bigoni, “Dynamics of Prestressed Elastic Lattices: Homogenization, Instabilities, and Strain Localization”. In: *J. Mech. Phys. Solids* 146 (2021), p. 104198. DOI: [10.1016/j.jmps.2020.104198](#).

- [2] **G. Bordiga**, L. Cabras, D. Bigoni, A. Piccolroaz, “Free and Forced Wave Propagation in a Rayleigh-beam Grid: Flat Bands, Dirac Cones, and Vibration Localization vs Isotropization”. In: *Int. J. Solids Struct.* 161 (2019), pp. 64–81. DOI: [10.1016/j.ijsolstr.2018.11.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijsolstr.2018.11.007).
- [1] **G. Bordiga**, L. Cabras, A. Piccolroaz, D. Bigoni, “Prestress Tuning of Negative Refraction and Wave Channeling from Flexural Sources”. In: *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 114.4 (2019), p. 041901. DOI: [10.1063/1.5084258](https://doi.org/10.1063/1.5084258). (Editor’s Pick).

Preprints

- [1] A. A. Watkins, **G. Bordiga**, M. Mu, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi, *Arbitrary Mechanical Memory Encoding via Nonlinear Waves in Bistable Metamaterials*. 2025. DOI: [10.48550/arXiv.2508.20321](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2508.20321). Pre-published.

In conference proceedings

- [3] **G. Bordiga**. “In-Plane Floquet-Bloch Waves in Elastic Grids and Prestress Tuning of Structured Interfaces”. In: *RAMSS2019 - Recent Advances in Mechanics of Solids and Structures*. Trento, 2019. URL: <http://rgdoi.net/10.13140/RG.2.2.15758.82244>.
- [2] **G. Bordiga**. “Free and Forced Wave Propagation in a Rayleigh-beam Grid: Flat Bands, Dirac Cones, and Vibration Localization vs Isotropization”. In: *ESMC2018 - 10th European Solid Mechanics Conference*. Bologna, 2018. URL: <http://rgdoi.net/10.13140/RG.2.2.24679.09126>.
- [1] **G. Bordiga**. “Micromechanical Modelling of Masonry”. In: *CERMODEL2017*. Trento, 2017.

Software

- [3] **G. Bordiga**. *DiffFlexMM: Differentiable Flexible Mechanical Metamaterials*. Bertoldi Group, 2024. URL: <https://github.com/bertoldi-collab/DifFlexMM>.
- [2] **G. Bordiga**. *Simulation and Design of Shape-Morphing LCE Lattices*. Bertoldi Group, 2024. URL: <https://github.com/bertoldi-collab/morphing-lattices>.
- [1] **G. Bordiga**. *A Humble Image Tracking Code*. Bertoldi Group, 2023. URL: <https://github.com/bertoldi-collab/tracking-markers>.

Conference presentations

- Mar. 16–21, 2025 **APS2025**, Anaheim, CA (US),
Nonlinear mechanical metamaterial cloaks,
G. Bordiga, J. Argaud, A. A. Watkins, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi.
- Sep. 9–11, 2024 **SMASIS2024**, Atlanta, GA (US),
Automated design of flexible mechanical metamaterials with reprogrammable wave functionalities,
G. Bordiga, E. Medina, S. Jafarzadeh, C. Bösch, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi.
- Sep. 9–11, 2024 **SMASIS2024**, Atlanta, GA (US),
Mechanical metamaterial ‘brain’ for fully analog control of a mobile robot,
C. Bösch, **G. Bordiga**, C. McCann, S. Jafarzadeh, J. Wilt, M. Yuen, Y. Jin, A. Fichtner, K. Bertoldi.
- Jul. 3–4, 2024 **DynaMetaFlex**, Workshop on “Nonlinear dynamics of flexible mechanical metamaterials”, Laboratoire d’Acoustique de l’Université du Mans, Institut d’Acoustique – Graduate School, CNRS, Le Mans Université, Le Mans, (France),
Teaching reprogrammable dynamics to material structures,
G. Bordiga, E. Medina, S. Jafarzadeh, C. Bösch, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi.
- Oct. 8–11, 2023 **SES2023**, Minneapolis, MN (US),
Inverse-design of nonlinear mechanical metamaterial cloaks,
G. Bordiga, J. Argaud, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi.
- Mar. 5–10, 2023 **APS2023**, Las Vegas, NV (US),
Manipulating energy flows with non-periodic mechanical metamaterials,
G. Bordiga, E. Medina, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi.

- Oct. 16–19, 2022 **SES2022**, College Station, TX (US),
Non-periodic design discovery for optimal dynamic responses in flexible mechanical metamaterials,
G. Bordiga, E. Medina, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi.
- Jul. 4–8, 2022 **ESMC2022**, 11th European Solid Mechanics Conference, Galway (Ireland),
Non-hyper-elastic materials from follower prestress states reveal flutter instability in elastic lattices
 (Invited talk),
G. Bordiga, A. Piccolroaz, D. Bigoni.
- Mar. 14–18, 2022 **APS2022**, Chicago, IL (US),
Architected metamaterials for routing nonlinear mechanical pulses,
G. Bordiga, E. Medina, V. Tournat, K. Bertoldi.

Invited talks & seminars

- Mar. 31, 2025 **Seminar**, [Center for Fluid Mechanics Seminar](#), Brown University, Providence, RI (US),
Automating the discovery of nonlinear architected materials,
G. Bordiga.
- Jul. 25, 2024 **Seminar**, [Seismology and Wave Physics Lab](#), ETH, Zürich (Switzerland),
Teaching reprogrammable dynamics to material structures,
G. Bordiga.
- Jun. 13, 2024 **Seminar**, [Laboratory for Intelligent Probabilistic Systems](#), Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (US),
Teaching reprogrammable dynamics to material structures,
G. Bordiga.
- Jul. 4–8, 2022 **ESMC2022**, 11th European Solid Mechanics Conference, Galway (Ireland),
Non-hyper-elastic materials from follower prestress states reveal flutter instability in elastic lattices,
G. Bordiga, A. Piccolroaz, D. Bigoni.

Media coverage

About my research

- May 7, 2025 **Azo Materials**,
[Novel Mechanical Metamaterials with Magnetically Controlled Properties](#)
- May 6, 2025 **Tech Xplore**,
[Structurally reprogrammable magnetic metamaterials hold promise for biomedicine, soft robotics](#)
- Oct. 17, 2024 **Nature Materials News and Views**, Gary P. T. Choi,
[Designing flexible mechanical metamaterials with complex functionalities](#)
- Oct. 31, 2024 **Communication CNRS Ingénierie**,
[La conception de métamatériaux guidée par des outils de l'IA](#)
- [About SoftPulse, Inc.](#)
- Jul. 8, 2025 **The Harvard Gazette**, Kirsten Mabry, Harvard Office of Technology Development,
[3 tech solutions to societal needs will get help moving to market](#)

Mentoring

At Bertoldi Lab, Harvard University

- Sep., 2024 – present **Louis-Justin Tallot**, PhD student, **Harvard University (US)**,
 Project: *Differentiable origami simulation; Inverse-design of magneto-mechanical metamaterials.*
- Sep., 2024 – Jun., 2025 **Stijn de Bruin**, Master student, **TU Delft (Netherlands)**,
 Project: *Encoding dynamic bifurcations in mechanical metamaterials.*
- Sep., 2024 – Jan., 2025 **Antoine Fondeur**, Master student, **MINES Paris – PSL (France)**,
 Project: *Inverse design of magneto-mechanical metamaterials for reprogrammable static and dynamic responses.*

- Sep., 2024 – **Jian Zhimo**, PhD student, **Tsinghua University (China)**,
Jan., 2025 Project: *Mechanical metamaterials for sensing and control.*
- Sep., 2023 – **Tom Vreugdenhil**, Master student, **TU Delft (Netherlands)**,
Sep., 2024 Thesis: *Dynamic metamaterials for reprogrammable underactuated robotics.*
- Sep., 2023 – **Carlos Pérez García**, PhD student, **University Carlos III of Madrid (Spain)**,
Dec., 2024 Project: *Magneto-mechanical metamaterials for reprogrammable stress-strain response and energy absorption.*
- Feb.–Sep., 2023 **Jean-Gabriel Argaud**, Master student, **MINES Paris – PSL (France)**,
Project: *Cloaking in nonlinear mechanical metamaterials.*
- Jul.–Dec., 2022 **Cyrill Bösch**, PhD student, **ETH (Switzerland)**,
Project: *Mechanical metamaterial ‘brain’ enables fully analog robotic control.*
- Sep., 2022–present **Audrey Watkins**, PhD student, **Harvard University (US)**,
Project: *Nonlinear waves in multistable metamaterials for mechanical computing.*
- Feb.–Sep., 2022 **Ben Spoettling**, Master student, **ETH (Switzerland)**,
Thesis: *Automated design and discovery of shape-morphing metamaterials.*

Teaching experience

- 2018–2020 **Teaching assistant**,
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,
University of Trento (Italy),
Course: *Structural Dynamics*
- 40+ students.
 - Material: Created interactive Mathematica notebooks to teach the dynamics of single and multi-degree-of-freedom systems, modal analysis, free and forced vibrations of elastic beams.
 - Graded: oral exams.
- 2019–2020 **Lecturer and tutor**,
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,
University of Trento (Italy),
Course: *Solids and Structural Mechanics*
- 80+ students, 20 hours of lectures, and 5 hours of tutoring activities.
 - Taught: De Saint Venant theory and exercises, Principle of Virtual Work for statically indeterminate structures, structural symmetries, frame structures.
 - Graded: written and oral exams.
- 2018–2019 **Lecturer and tutor**,
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,
University of Trento (Italy),
Course: *Solids and Structural Mechanics*
- 80+ students, 20 hours of lectures, and 20 hours of tutoring activities.
 - Taught: De Saint Venant theory and exercises, Principle of Virtual Work for statically indeterminate structures, Mohr’s circles, elastic beam theory, frame structures.
 - Graded: written and oral exams.
- 2017–2018 **Lecturer and tutor**,
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering,
University of Trento (Italy),
Course: *Solids and Structural Mechanics*
- 80+ students, 30 hours of lectures, and 30 hours of tutoring activities.
 - Taught: De Saint Venant theory and exercises, Mohr’s circles, failure and yield criteria (Von Mises, Tresca, Mohr-Coulomb, Rankine, Drucker-Prager), Principle of Virtual Work for statically indeterminate structures, elastic beam theory.

- Graded: written and oral exams.

Peer reviews

- Journal of the Mechanics and Physics of Solids
- Science Advances
- Advanced Engineering Materials
- International Journal of Solids and Structures
- European Journal of Mechanics - A/Solids
- Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences
- Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering
- Journal of Elasticity
- Mechanics of Materials
- Journal of Sound and Vibration
- Meccanica
- Journal of Mechanics of Materials and Structures
- ACS Photonics

Events & Conferences service

- Sep. 9–11, 2024 **SMASIS2024**, *Special Symposium: Embodying Physical Computing and Mechano-Intelligence*, Atlanta, GA (US)
Served as: Session chair.
- Jul. 22, 2024 **Git + GitHub Workshop: Version control for scientists**, Harvard SEAS, Cambridge, MA (US)
Served as: Organizer and presenter.
- Jul. 29, 2022 **Git + GitHub Workshop: Version control for scientists**, Harvard SEAS, Cambridge, MA (US)
Served as: Organizer.
- Sep. 27, 2019 **Researchers' night**, Trento (Italy)
Served as: Co-organizer and presenter for the Solid and Structural Mechanics exhibition stand.
- Jun. 6–7, 2019 **RAMSS2019 — Recent Advances in Mechanics of Solids and Structures**, Trento (Italy)
Served as: Conference assistant.
- Sep. 28, 2018 **Researchers' night**, Trento (Italy)
Served as: Co-organizer and presenter for the Solid and Structural Mechanics exhibition stand.
- Jul. 2–6, 2018 **ESMC2018 — 10th European Solid Mechanics Conference**, Bologna (Italy)
Served as: Co-organizer for conference program.
- Sep. 29, 2017 **Researchers' night**, Trento (Italy)
Served as: Co-organizer and presenter for the Solid and Structural Mechanics exhibition stand.

Awards & Honors

- 2024 **\$160K from the Harvard Grid Accelerator** to de-risk and develop **SoftPulse** hypertension implant towards animal trials.
- 2017 Graduation Award for Merit, University of Trento (Italy)
- 2016 University Scholarship for Merit, Italian government, INPS
- 2015 University Scholarship for Merit, Italian government, INPS
- 2015 Graduation Award for Merit, University of Trento (Italy)
- 2014 University Scholarship for Merit, Italian government, INPS
- 2013 University Scholarship for Merit, Italian government, INPS
- 2012 University Scholarship for Merit, Italian government, INPS

Community activities

- Jun.–Aug., 2024 **Beach volleyball tournament**, *Harvard Rhino League*, Cambridge, MA (US)
Role: Team captain for the Bertoldi Lab (Championship winner).
- Jun.–Aug., 2023 **Beach volleyball tournament**, *Harvard Rhino League*, Cambridge, MA (US)
Role: Team captain for the Bertoldi Lab (Championship winner).

Skills

Programming

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Scientific computing | Wolfram Language | <i>Highly specialized</i> | Python | <i>Highly specialized</i> |
| | MATLAB | <i>Advanced</i> | R | <i>Intermediate</i> |
| Markup | L ^A T _E X | <i>Highly specialized</i> | Markdown | <i>Advanced</i> |
| | HTML/CSS | <i>Basic</i> | | |
| Others | Java | <i>Advanced</i> | C/C++ | <i>Intermediate</i> |
| | Javascript | <i>Advanced</i> | Bash | <i>Intermediate</i> |
| | Android | <i>Basic</i> | SQLite | <i>Basic</i> |

Application software

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|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Modeling & Simulation | Mathematica | <i>Highly specialized</i> | COMSOL | <i>Advanced</i> |
| | ABAQUS | <i>Intermediate</i> | SAP2000 | <i>Intermediate</i> |
| CAD | AutoCAD | <i>Highly specialized</i> | SketchUp | <i>Advanced</i> |
| IDE | VSCode | <i>Highly specialized</i> | IntelliJ IDEA | <i>Advanced</i> |
| | Android Studio | <i>Intermediate</i> | | |
| Graphics | Inkscape | <i>Advanced</i> | GIMP | <i>Intermediate</i> |
| Others | Git | <i>Advanced</i> | GitHub | <i>Advanced</i> |
| | Zotero | <i>Advanced</i> | | |

Operating systems

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|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Linux | <i>Highly specialized</i> | Windows | <i>Advanced</i> |
| Android | <i>Advanced</i> | MacOS | <i>Intermediate</i> |

Languages

- **Italian:** Native language
- **English:** Professional proficiency
- **Chinese:** Duolingo