

# Michiel Straat

## Curriculum Vitae

Nijenborgh 9, office 594  
9747AG Groningen  
The Netherlands

✉ [michielstraat@gmail.com](mailto:michielstraat@gmail.com) / [m.j.c.straat@rug.nl](mailto:m.j.c.straat@rug.nl)  
🌐 [michielstraat.com](http://michielstraat.com)

Date of Birth: 30.12.1994 - Nationality: Dutch

### Current position

- 10/2018-Present **PhD candidate**, *Statistical Physics of Learning and Machine Learning in Industrial Environments*, Intelligent Systems, Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence  
University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 12/2020-Present **Philips**, *Machine Learning in Industrial Environments*, Drachten, The Netherlands

### Previous Positions and Experience

- 06/2017-12/2017 **Philips**, *Data Science Internship: Machine Learning in Industrial Environments*, Drachten, The Netherlands
- 07/2010-06/2014 **Software consultant**, *Self-employed entrepreneur*, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

### Education

- 09/2016-09/2018 **Master's Degree in Computing Science (Specialization: Intelligent Systems and Visualization)**, *University of Groningen*, Faculty of Science and Technology, Distinction: Cum Laude, avg. grade 9.0  
Thesis: [On-line Learning in Neural Networks with ReLU Activations](#)  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Michael Biehl and Dr. Kerstin Bunte
- 09/2013-08/2016 **Bachelor's Degree (Dutch Dipl.- Inform.) in Computing Science**, *University of Groningen*, Faculty of Science and Technology  
Thesis: [Time Series Classification in Complex Fourier Space](#)  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Michael Biehl and MSc. Friedrich Melchert
- 08/2007-07/2013 **High School**, *Stedelijk Gymnasium (Grammar school)*, Leeuwarden, Degree: Nature and Technology + Health (Dutch: Natuur en Techniek + Gezondheid (NT/NG))  
Additional courses: Computer Science and Economics

### Languages

Dutch (mother tongue), English (fluent), German (Limited Working Proficiency), Russian (Limited Working Proficiency)

### Publications

- 2021 Münch, M. et al. (2021). "Complex-valued embeddings of generic proximity data". In: *Structural, Syntactic, and Statistical Pattern Recognition*. Vol. 12644. Springer International Publishing, pp. 14–23. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-030-73973-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-73973-7). URL: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.13454>.
- Oostwal, E., M. Straat, and M. Biehl (Feb. 2021). "Hidden unit specialization in layered neural networks: ReLU vs. sigmoidal activation". In: *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications* 564, p. 125517. ISSN: 0378-4371. DOI: [10.1016/j.physa.2020.125517](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2020.125517).
- Straat, M., F. Abadi, Z. Kan, et al. (Apr. 2021). "Supervised learning in the presence of concept drift: a modelling framework". In: *Neural Computing and Applications*. ISSN: 1433-3058. DOI: [10.1007/s00521-021-06035-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00521-021-06035-1).
- 2019 Straat, M. and M. Biehl (2019). "On-line learning dynamics of ReLU neural networks using statistical physics techniques". In: *Proc. European Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks (ESANN) 2019, Bruges/Belgium*. Ed. by M. Verleysen.

- Straat, M., M. Kaden, et al. (Mar. 2019). "Learning vector quantization and relevances in complex coefficient space". In: *Neural Computing and Applications*. ISSN: 1433-3058. DOI: [10.1007/s00521-019-04080-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00521-019-04080-5). URL: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00521-019-04080-5>.
- 2018 Straat, M., F. Abadi, C. Göpfert, et al. (2018). "Statistical Mechanics of On-Line Learning Under Concept Drift". In: *Entropy* 20.10. ISSN: 1099-4300. DOI: [10.3390/e20100775](https://doi.org/10.3390/e20100775). URL: <http://www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/20/10/775>.
- 2017 Straat, M., M. Kaden, et al. (July 2017). "Prototypes and matrix relevance learning in complex fourier space". In: *2017 12th International Workshop on Self-Organizing Maps and Learning Vector Quantization, Clustering and Data Visualization (WSOM)*, pp. 1–6. DOI: [10.1109/WSOM.2017.8020019](https://doi.org/10.1109/WSOM.2017.8020019).

---

## Teaching

### Teaching Assistant

- 11/2020-02/2021 **Neural Networks and Computational Intelligence**, *Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 09/2020-11/2020 **Modelling and Simulation**, *Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 11/2019-01/2020 **Advanced Algorithms and Data Structures**, *Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 09/2019-11/2019 **Modelling and Simulation**, *Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 09/2017-11/2017 **Information Security**, *Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 09/2016-11/2016 **Information Security**, *Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

### (Co-)Supervision

- 2021 **MSc. Thesis**, *P. Eilers*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 2020 **MSc. Internship**, *P. Eilers*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 2020 **MSc. Internship**, *N. Tamboli*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 2020 **MSc. Thesis**, *E. Oostwal*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 2019 **MSc. Internship**, *E. Oostwal*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- 2019 **MSc. Thesis**, *Z. Kan*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

---

## Awards and accomplishments

- 2017 **Best Paper Award**, *Computer Science Student Colloquium*, Paper: [Segmentation of Blood Vessels in Retinal Fundus Images](#)
- 2016 **Best Presentation Award**, *BSc. Thesis Symposium*, Thesis: Time Series Classification in Complex Fourier Space, Average expert grade: 8.8  
Thesis grade: 9

---

## Talks

- 03/03/2021 **Feedback Alignment methods for training neural networks**, *Intelligent Systems March seminar*, Groningen, The Netherlands, [Slides](#)
- 12/08/2020 **Dynamics of on-line learning in two-layer neural networks in the presence of concept drift**, *Summer Workshop on Statistical Physics and Machine Learning*, Les Houches, France, [Recording and Slides](#)
- 02/07/2020 **Dynamics of on-line learning in two-layer neural networks in the presence of concept drift**, *The 12th Mittweida Workshop on Computational Intelligence*, Mittweida, Germany (online), [Abstract](#)
- 12/09/2019 **Towards a statistical physics analysis of multilayer ReLU neural networks**, *The 11th Mittweida Workshop on Computational Intelligence*, Hochschule Mittweida, Germany, [Slides](#) [Abstract](#)

- 26/04/2019 **On-line learning dynamics of ReLU neural networks using statistical physics techniques**, *European Symposium on Artificial Neural Networks, Computational Intelligence and Machine Learning - ESANN 2019*, Bruges, Belgium, [Slides](#)
- 29/06/2017 **Prototypes and matrix relevance learning in complex Fourier space**, *12th International Workshop on Self-Organizing Maps and Learning Vector Quantization, Clustering and Data Visualization*, Laboratoire lorrain de recherche en informatique et ses applications (Loria), Nancy, France, [Slides](#)
- 04/2017 **Segmentation of blood vessels in retinal fundus images**, *University of Groningen*, The Netherlands, [Slides](#)

---

## Schools attended

- 09/2021-09/2021 **Gaussian Process and Uncertainty Quantification Summer School, 2021**, *University of Sheffield (online)*
- 08/2020-08/2020 **Summer Workshop on Statistical Physics and Machine Learning**, *École De Physique des Houches*, Les Houches, France
- 09/2014-04/2015 **C++**, *University of Groningen*, Lecturer: Prof. Dr. F.B. Brokken