Raúl Astudillo

Homepage: https://raulastudillo.netlify.app/ ◇ Email: rastudil@caltech.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence *August 2025-Present*
Department of Machine Learning
Assistant Professor

California Institute of Technology *September 2022-July 2025*
Department of Computing and Mathematical Sciences
Postdoctoral Fellow
Supervisor: Yisong Yue

EDUCATION

Cornell University *August 2016-August 2022*
Ph.D. in Operations Research and Information Engineering
Advisor: Peter Frazier
Minors: Computer Science and Statistics

University of Guanajuato & Center for Research in Mathematics *August 2011-June 2016*
B.Sc. in Mathematics
GPA: 9.7/10
Highest GPA of the 2011-2016 class

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on data-efficient adaptive learning and decision-making in complex environments, with applications spanning personalized healthcare, engineering design, and scientific discovery.

PUBLICATIONS & PREPRINTS

1. J. Yang, W. Chu, D. Khalil, R. Astudillo, F. Arnold, and Y. Yue, "Steering generative models with experimental data for protein fitness optimization", *Submitted*.
2. V. Mishra, R. Astudillo, P. Frazier, and F. Zhang, "Probably-convergent source seeking with mobile agents", *Submitted*.
3. F. Huber, S. Rojas Gonzalez, and R. Astudillo, "Bayesian preference elicitation for decision support in multi-objective optimization", *Submitted*.
4. R. Astudillo, K. Li, M. Tucker, X. Chen, A. Ames, and Y. Yue, "Preferential multi-objective Bayesian optimization", *Transactions on Machine Learning Research, 2025*.
5. J. Yang, R. Lal, J. Bowden, R. Astudillo, M. Hameedi, Y. Yue, and F. Arnold, "Active learning-assisted directed evolution", *Nature Communications, 2025*.
6. C. Cheng, R. Astudillo, T. Desautels, and Y. Yue, "Practical Bayesian algorithm execution via posterior sampling" (Finalist in the 2024 INFORMS Undergraduate Operations Research Prize Competition), *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2024*.
7. Q. Xie, R. Astudillo, P. Frazier, Z. Scully, and A. Terein, "Cost-aware Bayesian optimization via the Pandora's box Gittins index" (Finalist in the 2024 INFORMS Data Mining Best Paper Competition), *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2024*.

8. B. Sha, R. Astudillo, and P. Frazier, "Multi-attribute optimization under preference uncertainty" (Finalist in the 2020 INFORMS Undergraduate Operations Research Prize Competition), *Winter Simulation Conference, 2024*.

9. P. Buathong, J. Wan, R. Astudillo, S. Daulton, M. Balandat, and P. Frazier, "Bayesian optimization of function networks with partial evaluations", *International Conference on Machine Learning, 2024*.

10. J. Jannink, R. Astudillo, and P. Frazier, "Insight into a two-part plant breeding scheme through Bayesian optimization of budget allocations", *Crop Science, 2023*.

11. R. Astudillo, Z. Lin, E. Bakshy, and P. Frazier, "qEUBO: A decision-theoretic acquisition function for preferential Bayesian optimization", *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics, 2023*.

12. Z. Cosenza, R. Astudillo, P. Frazier, K. Baar, and D. Block, "Multi-information source Bayesian optimization of culture media for cellular agriculture" (Spotlight in the ICML 2022 Adaptive Experimental Design and Active Learning in the Real World Workshop), *Biotechnology and Bioengineering, 2022*.

13. Z. Lin, R. Astudillo, P. Frazier, and E. Bakshy, "Preference exploration for efficient Bayesian optimization with multiple outcomes", *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics, 2022*.

14. R. Astudillo, and P. Frazier, "Thinking inside the box: A tutorial on grey-box Bayesian optimization", *Advanced Tutorial in the Winter Simulation Conference, 2021*.

15. R. Astudillo, D.R. Jiang, M. Balandat, E. Bakshy, and P. Frazier, "Multi-step budgeted Bayesian optimization with unknown evaluation costs", *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2021*.

16. R. Astudillo and P. Frazier, "Bayesian optimization of function networks", *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2021*.

17. S. Cakmak, R. Astudillo, P. Frazier and E. Zhou, "Bayesian optimization of risk measures", *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2020*.

18. R. Astudillo and P. Frazier, "Multi-attribute Bayesian optimization with interactive preference learning", *International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics, 2020*.

19. R. Astudillo and P. Frazier, "Bayesian optimization of composite functions", *International Conference on Machine Learning, 2019*.

SELECTED AWARDS

Rising Star in Data Science - UChicago and UC San Diego	*2024*
Rising Star in Management Science & Engineering - Stanford University	*2024*
Finalist - INFORMS Data Mining Best Paper Competition	*2024*
Finalist - INFORMS Undergraduate Operations Research Prize Competition (Mentee's Award)	*2024*
Computing, Data, and Society Postdoctoral Fellowship - Caltech	*2024*
Spotlight Presentation - ICML Workshop on Adaptive Experimental Design in the Real World	*2022*
Outstanding Reviewer Award - NeurIPS	*2021*
Finalist - INFORMS Undergraduate Operations Research Prize Competition (Mentee's Award)	*2020*
Second Prize - XXII International Mathematics Competition for University Students	*2015*
Orgullo UG Academic Excellence Award - University of Guanajuato	*2014*
Academic Excellence Fellowship - Center for Research in Mathematics	*2012-2016*

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

1. "Bayesian optimization with Bayesian deep kernel learning", *SIAM Conference on Uncertainty Quantification, Trieste, Italy, 2024*.

2. "Composite Bayesian optimization for efficient and scalable adaptive experimentation", *Online Reading Group on Modern Adaptive Experimental Design and Active Learning in the Real World, Virtual, 2024*.
3. "Multi-information source Bayesian optimization of culture media for cellular agriculture", *SIAM Conference on Computational Science and Engineering, Amsterdam, Netherlands 2023*.
4. "Composite Bayesian optimization for efficient and scalable adaptive experimentation", *Georgia Tech's ISyE Seminar, 2022*.
5. "qEUBO: A decision-theoretic acquisition function for preferential Bayesian optimization", *INFORMS Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN 2022*.
6. "Thinking inside the box: A tutorial on grey-box Bayesian optimization", *Advanced Tutorial in the Winter Simulation Conference, Phoenix, AZ, October 2021*.
7. "Grey-box Bayesian optimization", *Young Researchers Workshop, Cornell University's School of Operations Research and Information Engineering, Ithaca, NY, 2021*.
8. "Interactive Bayesian optimization with user preferences", *Facebook Adaptive Experimentation Workshop, New York City, NY, 2020*.
9. "Bayesian optimization of composite functions with application to computationally-expensive inverse problems", *Applied Inverse Problems Conference, Grenoble, France, 2019*.
10. "Bayesian optimization of composite functions", *2nd Uber Science Symposium, San Francisco, CA*, 2019.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Facebook

Visiting Researcher — *October 2020-March 2021*
Supervisor: Eytan Bakshy

Research Intern — *June-September 2020*
Supervisor: Daniel Jiang

ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company

Research Intern — *June-August 2019*
Supervisors: Liz Curry and Xiao-Hui Wu

Research Intern — *June-August 2018*
Supervisors: Damian Burch and Xiao-Hui Wu

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Students

- Felix Huber - University of Stuttgart — *April 2024-Present*
- Qian Xie - Cornell University — *August 2023-December 2024*
- Poompol Buathong - Cornell University — *June 2022-May 2024*

Undergraduate Students

- Andrew Zabelo - California Institute of Technology — *March 2024-Present*
- Chu Xin (Cloris) Cheng - California Institute of Technology — *November 2022-December 2024*
- Bhavik Sha - Cornell University — *February 2020-October 2020*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- Probabilistic Machine Learning (Graduate) - California Institute of Technology *Spring 2023*
- Engineering Stochastic Processes (Undergraduate) - Cornell University *Summer 2021*

Teaching Assistant

- Statistical Principles (Graduate) - Cornell University *Fall 2018*
- Engineering Stochastic Processes (Undergraduate) - Cornell University *Fall 2017*
- Basic Probability and Statistics (Undergraduate)- Cornell University *Fall 2016*
- Measure Theory and Probability (Graduate) - Center for Research in Mathematics *Fall 2015*
- Complex Analysis (Undergraduate) - University of Guanajuato *Spring 2015*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Conference Reviewing
AISTATS, ICLR, ICML, NeurIPS

Journal Reviewing
Artificial Intelligence, INFORMS Journal on Computing, Neural Computation, Operations Research, SIAM Review, Technometrics

LANGUAGES

English (proficient), Spanish (native)