

Self-motivated research scientist in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning with strong communication and teamwork skills in addition to problem-solving and analytical abilities looking to advance the field of machine learning and contribute to innovative solutions for complex problems.

## Skills

Machine Learning, Information Theory, Quasistatic Approximation, Neural Networks, Simulated Annealing, Particle Swarm Optimization, Boids, Ant Colony Optimization, K-means++, Evolutionary Algorithms, Recurrent Neural Networks, Gradient Descent, Theta Sparse Grouping, Hierarchical Agglomerative Clustering, Graph Theory, Graph Embedding, Graph Clustering, Dynamical System Analysis, Cellular Automata, Hopfield Networks, Convolutional Neural Networks, Transformers, Level Set Method, Bootstrapping, Topological Data Analysis, Computational Topology, Lifetime Learning, Backpropagation,

## Software

PyTorch, TensorFlow, NumPy, SciPy, MongoDB, Hadoop, Spark, Matplotlib, Plotly, Git, SQL, Python, Scikit-learn, Pandas, Jupyter,  $\LaTeX$

## Publications & Conferences

- Laborde, Z., & Izquierdo, E. J. (2023). Spatial embedding of edges in a synaptic generative model of *C. elegans*. *ALIFE 2023: Ghost in the Machine: Proceedings of the 2023 Artificial Life Conference, ALIFE 2023: Ghost in the Machine: Proceedings of the 2023 Artificial Life Conference*(26). [https://doi.org/10.1162/isal\\_a\\_00611](https://doi.org/10.1162/isal_a_00611)
- Severino, G. J., Laborde, Z., & Barwich, A.-S. (2023). The degeneracy of control architectures in cell lineages: Implications for tissue homeostasis. *ALIFE 2023: Ghost in the Machine: Proceedings of the 2023 Artificial Life Conference, ALIFE 2023: Ghost in the Machine: Proceedings of the 2023 Artificial Life Conference*(23). [https://doi.org/10.1162/isal\\_a\\_00608](https://doi.org/10.1162/isal_a_00608)
- Laborde, Z., Toler, W., Velhal, K., Farag, T., & Chakra, A. (2019). Method and system for implementing a holistic umbrella drone. <https://priorart.ip.com/IPCOM/000257353>
- Laborde, Z., Stephenson, D., Reiss, A., Beaton, E., & Cohen, J. (2017). Anterior-posterior insular cortex bisection plugin for mango [Poster presentation]. *Cognitive Neuroscience Society*.
- Laborde, Z., & Cohen, J. (2016). Nostalgia and the perception of time. *XULAnEXUS*, 14(1). <https://digitalcommons.xula.edu/xulanexus/vol14/iss1/1>

## Education

- Indiana University Bloomington* Aug. 2021 - Present  
Neuroscience & Cognitive Science Ph.D.\*
- Xavier University of Louisiana* Aug. 2013 - May 2017  
Psychology Bachelor of Science  
Computer Science (minor)

## Research Experience

- Indiana University Bloomington* Aug 2021 - Present  
Dr. Eduardo Izquierdo & Dr. Justin Wood
- Pioneered the evolution of optimal sensorimotor configurations in simulated agents utilizing Continuous Time Recurrent Neural Network (CTRNN) controllers achieving neural networks that were simultaneously smaller and more performant
  - Modeled development of a *C. elegans* connectome leading to improved accuracy versus existing models and new perspectives on its structure
  - Discovered a new biologically-realistic dynamic control system for cellular lineages with potential applications in synthetic biology and regenerative medicine
  - Developed and launched an online application for the dynamical analysis of cellular differentiation in multi-compartment systems integrating multiple control mechanisms (see <https://nanohub.org/resources/dynsysregen>)
  - Conceived and implemented a novel level set approximation algorithm for high-dimensional manifolds significantly reducing computational complexity and resource usage by 90%.

## Work Experience

- IBM* July 2017 - Aug 2021  
Software Engineer
- Developed features to automate event analytics analysis and prediction for operation engineers using machine learning

\* coursework complete