Core Francisco Park

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Google Scholar

GitHub



EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D. in Physics, GPA: 3.945/4.0

Cambridge, MA, U.S.A. 2019–2025

Advisors: Dr. Aravinthan Samuel, Dr. Douglas Finkbeiner, Dr. Hidenori Tanaka, Dr. Michael Brenner

- Thesis: Deep Learning as a Scientific Tool and a Model Organism of Intelligence

SNU Seoul, South Korea

Graduate Coursework 2019

KAIST Daejeon, South Korea

B.S. in Physics, Advanced Major, GPA: 4.08/4.3, Summa Cum Laude

- Focus: Computational Physics

Ecole Polytechnique Palaiseau, France

Exchange Student 2017

Current Focus

Understanding Fundamental Cognitive Capabilities of AI

Collaborators: Dr. Hidenori Tanaka, Dr. Ekdeep Singh Lubana

Harvard University Feb 2024–Current

2015-2019

- Understanding phase changes of in-context learning: Understanding how AI models transition between different mechanisms for in-context learning depending on the data distribution and design choices.
- Understanding inference scaling: Understanding how in-context exemplars shape large language model's representation and mechanisms.
- Understanding hidden emergence of capabilities: Understanding hidden emergence of capabilities in text-to-image generative models: showed a hidden phase transition of a compositional capability.

Compositional Generalization in Spectral Space

Advisor: Dr. Cecilia Garraffo, Dr. Douglas Finkbeiner

Harvard University Sep 2023–Current

- MethaneSAT: Developed a spectral classification and correction algorithm, iterative logistic regression, to classify cloud covered regions and correct for the effect of shadows on the observed spectra
- TEMPO: Currently developing a convolutional variational auto-encoder to jointly compress and segment hyperspectral data from TEMPO. The goal is to enhance prediction of NO densities, which is a major public health concern.

EMPLOYMENT

Harvard University

Postdoctoral Fellow

Cambridge, MA, U.S.A. May 2025–Current

- **Supervisor**: Dr. Venkatesh Murthy, Dr. Hidenori Tanaka

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA, U.S.A.

Research Assistant Jun 2020–May 2025

- Supervisor: Dr. Aravinthan Samuel, Dr. Douglas Finkbeiner, Dr. Cecilia Garraffo

NTT Research

Sunnyvale, CA, U.S.A.

Research Intern Jan 2025

- Supervisor: Hidenori Tanaka

- **Project**: Understanding Mechanisms and Capabilities of AI

NTT Research Sunnyvale, CA, U.S.A.

Research Intern

Jul 2024–Sep 2024

- **Supervisor**: Hidenori Tanaka

- Project: Understanding Mechanisms and Capabilities of AI

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA, U.S.A.

Teaching Assistant

Jan 2022–May 2022

- Applied Physics 50: Physics as a Foundation for Science and Engineering, Dr. Eric Mazur

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA, U.S.A.

Teaching Assistant Sep 2021–Dec 2021

- Physics 141: The Physics of Sensory Systems in Biology, Dr. Aravinthan Samuel

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ML/AI Research: Large Language Models, Reinforcement Learning, In-Context Learning, Compositional Generalization
- Languages: Python, JavaScript, Java, C++, SQL, Matlab, Julia
- Computational Methods: Real time DAQ, High Performance Computing, GPU computing, Cache Optimization
- Data Analysis: Fourier Analysis, Time Series Filtering, Bayesian Inference
- DevOps: Experience in full product building: frontend, backend, VM, Kubernetes
- Experimental: Hardware control, Experiment Automation, PID Control, Lab Optics

PUBLICATIONS

First authors are marked with a *.

5.1 First Author or Significant Contribution

- 1. C.F. Park; "Deep Learning as a Scientific Tool and a Model Organism of Intelligence"; Ph.D. Thesis
- 2. C.F. Park*, T. Qin*, M. Kwun, A. Walsman, E. Malach, N. Anand, H. Tanaka, D. Alvarez-Melis; "Decomposing Elements of Problem Solving: What "Math" Does RL Teach? "; preprint
- 3. C.F. Park*, Z. Zhang*, H. Tanaka; "New News: System-2 Fine-tuning for Robust Integration of New Knowledge"; preprint
- 4. C.F. Park*, E.S. Lubana*, H. Tanaka; "Competition Dynamics Shape Algorithmic Phases of In-Context Learning"; ICLR 2025 Spotlight
- 5. C.F. Park*, A. Lee*, E.S. Lubana*, Y. Yang*, M. Okawa, K. Nishi, M. Wattenberg, H. Tanaka; "ICLR: In-Context Learning of Representations"; ICLR 2025

- Y. Yang*, C.F. Park, E.S. Lubana, M. Okawa, W. Hu, H. Tanaka; "Dynamics of Concept Learning and Compositional Generalization"; ICLR 2025
- 7. C.F. Park*, E.S. Lubana, H. Tanaka; "Understanding the Transient Nature of In-Context Learning: The Window of Generalization"; NeurIPS 2024 Workshop on Scientific Methods for Understanding Deep Learning, Dec 2024
- 8. C.F. Park*, A. Lee*, E.S. Lubana, K. Nishi, M. Okawa, H. Tanaka; "Structured In-Context Task Representations"; preprint; NeurIPS 2024 Workshop on Symmetry and Geometry in Neural Representations, Dec 2024
- 9. C.F. Park*, M. Okawa*, A. Lee, H. Tanaka, E.S. Lubana; "Emergence of Hidden Capabilities: Exploring Learning Dynamics in Concept Space"; NeurIPS 2024 Spotlight, Dec 2024
- 10. C.F. Park*, M. Okawa, A. Lee, E.S. Lubana, H. Tanaka; "Hidden Learning Dynamics: Capability Emerges Before Behavior in Compositional Generalization"; ICML 2024 Workshop on High-dimensional Learning Dynamics, Jul 2024
- 11. C.F. Park*, N. Mudur, C. Cuesta-Lazaro, Y. Ni, V. Ono, D.P. Finkbeiner; "3D Reconstruction of Dark Matter Fields with Diffusion Models: Towards Application to Galaxy Surveys"; ICML 2024 Workshop: AI for Science, Jul 2024
- 12. V. Ono*, C.F. Park, N. Mudur, Y. Ni, C. Cuesta-Lazaro, F. Villaescusa-Navarro; "Debiasing with Diffusion: Probabilistic reconstruction of Dark Matter fields from galaxies with CAMELS"; The Astrophysical Journal 970 (2), 174, Jul 2024
- 13. C.F. Park*, M.B. Keshteli*, K. Korchagina, A. Delrocq, V. Susoy, C.L. Jones, A.D.T. Samuel, S.J. Rahi; "Automated neuron tracking inside moving and deforming animals using deep learning and targeted augmentation"; Nature Methods, Jan 2024
- 14. C.F. Park*, V. Ono, C. Cuesta-Lazaro, Y. Ni, N. Mudur; "Probabilistic reconstruction of Dark Matter fields from galaxies using diffusion models"; NeurIPS 2023 Workshop on Machine Learning and the Physical Sciences, Oct 2023
- 15. C.F. Park*, C. Garraffo; "Hyperspectral shadow removal with iterative logistic regression and latent Parametric Linear Combination of Gaussians"; NeurIPS 2023 Workshop on Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning, Oct 2023
- Y. Meirovitch*, C.F. Park*, L. Mi*, P. Potocek*, S. Sawmya, Y. Li, Y. Wu, R. Schalek, H. Pfister, R. Schoenmakers, M. Peemen, J.W. Lichtman, A.D.T. Samuel, N. Shavit; "SmartEM: machine-learning guided electron microscopy"; *Under Review at Nature Methods*, Oct 2023
- 17. N. Mudur*, C.F. Park, D.P. Finkbeiner; "Stellar Reddening Based Extinction Maps for Cosmological Applications"; The Astrophysical Journal 949 (2), 47, May 2023
- 18. C.F. Park*, E. Allys, F.V. Navarro, D.P. Finkbeiner; "Quantification of high dimensional non–Gaussianities and its implication to Fisher analysis in cosmology"; The Astrophysical Journal 946 (2), 107, Apr 2023
- 19. C.F. Park*; "Real time DAQ setup and dead-time measurement for CAPP 18T Dark Matter Axion Search and its first results"; B.S. Thesis; Dec 2018

5.2 Contributing Authored Publications

- 1. M.I. Pérez-Carrasco, M. Nasr, S. Roche, C.C. Miller, Z. Zhang, C.F. Park, E. Walker, C. Garraffo, D. Finkbeiner, R. Gautam, S. Wofsy; "Deep Learning for Clouds and Cloud Shadow Segmentation in Methane Satellite and Airborne Imaging Spectroscopy"; SSRN, Jun 2025
- 2. D. Wurgaft*, E.S. Lubana*, **C.F. Park**, H. Tanaka, G. Reddy, N.D. Goodman; "In-Context Learning Strategies Emerge Rationally"; arxiv, Jun 2025
- 3. L. Phan et al.; "Humanity's last exam"; arxiv, Jan 2025
- 4. X. Wan, T. Zhou, V. Susoy, C.F. Park, A. Groaz, J.F. Brady, A.D.T. Samuel, P.W. Sternberg; "Efficient pheromone navigation via antagonistic detectors"; bioarxiv, Nov 2024

- Y. Li*, C.F. Park, D. Xenes, C. Bishop, D.R. Berger, A.D.T. Samuel, B. Wester, J.W. Lichtman, H. Pfister, W. Li, Y. Meirovitch; "EM-Compressor: Electron Microscopy Image Compression in Connectomics with Variational Autoencoders"; Medical Optical Imaging and Virtual Microscopy Image Analysis @ MICCAI 2024, Jul 2024
- E.C. Pavarino*, E. Yang*, N. Dhanyasi, M. Wang, F. Bidel, X. Lu, F. Yang, C.F. Park, M.B. Renuka, B. Drescher, A.D.T. Samuel, B. Hochner, P.S. Katz, M. Zhen, J.W. Lichtman, Y. Meirovitch; "mEMbrain: an interactive deep learning MATLAB tool for connectomic segmentation on commodity desktops"; Front. Neural Circuits Vol 17, June 2023
- 7. L. Mi*, T. He*, C.F. Park, H. Wang, Y. Wang, N. Shavit; "Revisiting Latent-Space Interpolation via a Quantitative Evaluation Framework"; arxiv, Oct 2021
- 8. V. Susoy*, W. Hung, D. Witvliet, J.E. Whitener, M. Wu, C.F. Park, B.J. Graham, M. Zhen, V. Venkatachalam, A.D.T. Samuel; Natural sensory context drives diverse brain-wide activity during C. elegans mating; Cell, Sep 2021

Talks & Oral Presentations

- 1. **C.F. Park**; "Exploring Compositional Generalization of Neural Networks through Synthetic Experiments"; *Invited Tutorial Speaker*, Astro AI Workshop 2025, July 10 2025
- 2. C.F. Park; "New News: System-2 Fine-tuning for Robust Integration of New Knowledge"; *Invited Speaker*, Prague Synapse 2025, July 10 2025
- 3. C.F. Park, T. Qin; "Decomposing Elements of Problem Solving: What "Math" does RL Teach?"; Talk at NVIDIA, Slides (keynote), Jun 13 2025
- 4. C.F. Park, T. Qin; "Decomposing Elements of Problem Solving: What "Math" does RL Teach?"; Talk at NVIDIA, Slides (keynote), Jun 13 2025
- 5. C.F. Park; "In-Context Learning: From toy models to practice."; Seminar talk, Department of Physics, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Slides (keynote), May 13 2025
- 6. **C.F. Park**; "In-Context Learning: Algorithms and Representations"; Seminar talk, Department of Physics, University of Tokyo, Slides (keynote), May 1 2025
- 7. C.F. Park; "Deep Learning as a Scientific Tool and a Model Organism of Intelligence"; Ph.D. Defense, Slides (keynote), Apr 21 2025
- 8. C.F. Park; "Fundamental Abilities and In-abilities of AI"; Seminar talk, Marks and Sander Lab, Harvard Medical School, Slides (keynote), Feb 28 2025
- 9. C.F. Park; "Understanding Fundamental Abilities of AI with synthetic experiments"; Astro AI Lunch Seminar, Center for Astrophysics, Video, Slides (keynote), Jan 27 2025
- 10. **C.F. Park**; "Towards a Neuroethology of AI: AI as a model system of intelligent phenomena"; CBS-NTT Fellow Candidate Talk, Video, Slides (keynote), Nov 26 2024
- 11. C.F. Park; "Understanding Compositional Generalization with Synthetic Data"; Talk at the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics, Slides (keynote), Nov 13 2024
- 12. C.F. Park; "Understanding Compositional Generalization with Synthetic Data"; Talk at the Insight+Interaction Lab at Harvard, Slides (keynote), Nov 13 2024
- 13. C.F. Park; "Scaling and In-Context Learning of Large Language Models"; NTT Physics&Informatics Laboratory Journal Club, Slides, Jul 25 2024
- 14. **C.F. Park**; "Probabilistic Completion of Astrophysical Fields for Robust Statistics with Diffusion Models"; *EAS* 2024, *Padova*; Jul 2 2024; Slides
- 15. **C.F. Park**; "3D probabilistic reconstruction of the local dark matter from galaxies", Astro AI Workshop 2024, Center for Astrophysics; Jun 20 2024; Video; Slides

- 16. C.F. Park; "Debiasing with Diffusion: Probabilistic reconstruction of Dark Matter fields from galaxies"; ITC Lucheon Talk, Center for Astrophysics; Mar 7 2024; Video; Slides
- 17. C.F. Park; "Reconstruction of the local dark matter using diffusion models"; Workshop on AI-driven Discovery in Physics and Astrophysics at Kavli IPMU; Jan 23 2024; Slides
- 18. C.F. Park; "Diffusion Models for Cosmology"; AstroAI Lunch Talk, Center for Astrophysics; Oct 30 2023; Slides
- 19. C.F. Park; "How is AI used in the Physical Sciences?"; Hansung Science High School Mentoring Talk @ Harvard University; Oct 13 2023; Slides (Korean)
- 20. C.F. Park; "Mstar2Mcdm using Diffusion Models: Generating Cold Dark Matter density fields conditioned on stellar mass fields using Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models"; Camels Virtual Telecoms hosted by the Flatiron Institute, Sep 20 2023; Slides
- 21. C.F. Park, S. Rahi, A.D.T. Samuel, M.B. Keshteli, K. Korchagina, A. Delrocq, V. Susoy, C. Jones; "Automated neuron tracking using deep learning and targeted augmentation allows fast collection of C. elegans whole brain calcium activity during behavior", American Physical Society March Meeting 2023
- 22. C.F. Park, Erwan Allys, Francisco Villaescusa-Navarro, Douglas Finkbeiner; "On the Gaussianity of Non-Gaussian probes of Large Scale Structure"; American Astronomical Society 240 (2022)
- 23. C.F. Park; "Dark Matter Axion Search Experiment using 18T HTS Magnet"; Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar 2018; Video

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 1. C.F. Park*, E.S. Lubana, H. Tanaka; "Understanding the Transient Nature of In-Context Learning"; NeurIPS 2024 Workshop on Scientific Methods for Understanding Deep Learning, Dec 2024
- 2. C.F. Park*, A. Lee*, E.S. Lubana, K. Nishi, M. Okawa, H. Tanaka; "In-Context Learning of Representations"; NeurIPS 2024 Workshop on Symmetry and Geometry in Neural Representations, Dec 2024
- 3. C.F. Park*, M. Okawa*, A. Lee, H. Tanaka, E.S. Lubana; "Emergence of Hidden Capabilities: Exploring Learning Dynamics in Concept Space"; NeurIPS 2024 Spotlight, Dec 2024
- 4. C.F. Park, E.S. Lubana, H. Tanaka; "Emergence of In-Context Learning Beyond Bayesian retrieval: A mechanistic study"; New England Mechanistic Interpretability Workshop 2024, Aug 2024
- C.F. Park, M. Okawa, A. Lee, E.S. Lubana, H. Tanaka; "Hidden Learning Dynamics: Capability Emerges Before Behavior in Compositional Generalization"; NeurIPS 2023 Workshop on Machine Learning and the Physical Sciences, ICML 2024 Workshop on High-Dimensional Learning Dynamics, Jul 2024
- 6. C.F. Park, N. Mudur, C. Cuesta-Lazaro, Y. Ni, V. Ono, D.P. Finkbeiner; "3D Reconstruction of Dark Matter Fields with Diffusion Models: Towards Application to Galaxy Surveys"; ICML 2024 Workshop: AI for Science, Jul 2024
- 7. C.F. Park, V. Ono, C. Cuesta-Lazaro, Y. Ni, N. Mudur; "Probabilistic reconstruction of Dark Matter fields from galaxies using diffusion models"; NeurIPS 2023 Workshop on Machine Learning and the Physical Sciences, Dec 2023
- 8. C.F. Park, M. Nasr, M. Perez-Carrasco, E. Walker, D. Finkbeiner, C. Garraffo, "Hyperspectral shadow removal with iterative logistic regression and latent Parametric Linear Combination of Gaussians", NeurIPS 2023 Workshop on Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning, Dec 2023
- C.F. Park, Y. Meirovitch, P. Potocek, S. Sawmya, Y. Li, R. Schalek, J.W. Lichtman, M. Peeman, A.D.T. Samuel, N. Shavit, "SmartEM: Faster Connectomics Using Deep Error Prediction Based Rescanning"; ICML 2023 Workshop for Computational Biology, Jul 2023
- 10. C.F. Park, H. Casademunt, V. Susoy, A.D.T. Samuel, "Freely Moving Whole Brain Imaging of C. elegans under a thermal stimulus", *International C. elegans conference 2023*, Jun 2023

- 11. **C.F. Park**, M.B. Keshteli, Vladislav Susoy, K. Korchagina, A. Delrocq, A.D.T. Samuel, S.J. Rahi, "Automated neuron tracking inside moving and deforming animals using deep learning and targeted augmentation", *COSYNE* 2023, Mar 2023
- 12. C.F. Park, K. Kim, J. Yoo "Data acquisition system for dark matter Axion search experiment using 18 T HTS magnet at CAPP/IBS", Korean Physical Society Meeting 2018, Oct 2018

PAST PROJECTS

Deep Learning and Computer Vision for Neuroscience

Harvard University

Advisor: Dr. Aravinthan Samuel, Dr. Jeff Lichtman

Aug 2020-Sep 2024

- Few-shot 3D volumetric tracking, developed targettrack.
- Machine learning driven accelerated connectomics, co-developed SmartEM.
- Image compression using deep learning, co-developed EM-Compressor.

Emulating the structure of the universe using diffusion models

Harvard University

With: Dr. Carolina Cuesta-Lazaro

Aug 2023–Aug 2024

 Probabilistic emulation, debiasing and completion of the large scale structure of matter distribution using diffusion models.

Whole Brain Imaging

Harvard University

Advisor: Dr. Aravinthan Samuel

Apr 2021-May 2023

- Identifying neural circuits for C.elegans thermotaxis via automated whole brain imaging.

Astro-statistics Harvard University

Advisor: Dr. Douglas Finkbeiner

Sep 2020–Oct 2022

- Fourier space sparse wavelet transform on the GPU
- Quantifying the non-Gaussianity of high-dimensional statistics
- Estimating correlations of large scale structure and galactic dustmaps

Experimental Particle Physics

KAIST

Advisor: Dr. Jonghee Yoo

 $\mathrm{Dec}\ 2018\text{-}\mathrm{Feb}\ 2019$

- Real-time DAQ system for the CAPP18T Axion Dark Matter Experiment

MEMBERSHIP

Sigma-Xi

Jun 2025-Current

REVIEWING

Total: 30 papers

• NeurIPS 2025 (6 papers)	2025
• ICML 2025 HiDL (3 papers)	2025
• ICML 2025 MOSS (2 papers)	2025
• CoLM 2025 (2 papers)	2025
• ICLR 2025 Workshop on Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning (2 papers)	2025
• ICLR 2025 (4 papers)	2024

• ICML 2024 Workshop on Mechanistic Interpretability (3 papers)	2024
• ICLR 2024 Workshop on Tackling Climate Change with Machine Learning (4 papers)	2024
Scholarships	
Purcell Fellowship, Harvard University	2019-2020
• Doctoral Study Abroad Scholarship, KFAS	2019–Current
• Physics Department Honorary Scholarship, KAIST	2018
• Undergraduate Student Scholarship, KFAS	2017-2019
Korea Presidential Science Scholarship, KOSAF	2015-2019
• Full Tuition Scholarship, KAIST	2015–2019
Awards	
• Second Place in Citadel Datathon, Virtual	2023
• Best Machine Learning Project Award, KIAS	2019
• Summa Cum Laude, KAIST	2019
• Best Project Award Physics Winter Camp, KIAS	2018
• Dean's List, KAIST Physics	2017
• Best Buddy Award, KAIST International Office	2016
• Fall Dean's List, KAIST	2015
• Spring Dean's List, KAIST	2015
Extracurricular Activities	
• Harvard AI Safety Team Member	2024
• KITP Neurophysics of Locomotion School	2022
Summer Student	
• APCTP-POSTECH Biophysics School Summer Student	2019
• KIAS-SNU Physics Winter Camp	2018
Best Project Award: Accretion of Supermassive Black Holes	
• Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar Korean Representative	2018
• APCTP-NIMS-KISTI-KASI Summer School on Numerical Relativity, Summer Student	2018
• APCTP-POSTECH Biophysics School Summer Student	2018
• KAIST International Discovery Program Selected Team	2017
Asian Science Camp	2014
Korean Representative	
Molecular Frontiers Symposium	2013
School Representative	

• NeurIPS 2024 Workshop on Scientific Methods for Understanding Deep Learning (4 papers)

2024

TEACHING

• Teaching Fellow at Harvard University Physics as a Foundation for Science and Engineering	Spring 2022
• Teaching Fellow at Harvard University Physics of Sensory systems	Fall 2021
• Teaching Assistant at Seoul National University <i>Physics Lab I</i>	Spring 2019
• General Physics Tutor at KAIST General Physics 2	Fall 2018
• General Physics Tutor at KAIST General Physics 1	Spring 2018
• General Physics Tutor at KAIST General Physics 1	Spring 2017
• General Physics Tutor at KAIST General Physics 2	Fall 2016
• General Physics Tutor at KAIST General Physics 1	Spring 2016

Languages

Korean: Native
English: Native
TOEFL: 114/120
TOEIC: 985/990
French: Semi-Native
TCF: 599 C1/C2/C1
Spanish: Novice

References	
• Research Advisor: Hidenori Tanaka hidenori_tanaka@fas.harvard.edu	CBS-NTT Program in Physics of Intelligence, Harvard, 2024–Current
• Research Advisor: Douglas Finkbeiner dfinkbeiner@cfa.harvard.edu	Department of Physics, Harvard, 2020–Current
• Research Advisor: Cecilia Garraffo cgarraffo@cfa.harvard.edu	Center for Astrophysics, Harvard, 2023–Current
- Past Research Advisor: Aravinthan Samuel $samuel@g.harvard.edu$	Department of Physics, Harvard, 2021–Current
• Collaborator: Ekdeep Singh Lubana ekdeeplubana@fas.harvard.edu	CBS-NTT Program in Physics of Intelligence, Harvard, 2024–Current
• Collaborator: Carolina Cuesta-Lazaro carolina.cuesta-lazaro@cfa.harvard.edu	Center for Astrophysics, Harvard, 2023–2024
• Collaborator: Yaron Meirovitch yaronmr@fas.harvard.edu	Center for Brain Science, Harvard, 2022–2024
• Past Research Advisor: Daniel Eisenstein	Department of Astronomy, Harvard, 2019–2021

de is enstein@cfa.harvard.edu

- Past Research Advisor: Jonghee Yooyoo.jonghee@kaist.ac.kr

- Past Academic Advisor: Hawoong Jeong $\label{eq:hjeong} hjeong@kaist.edu$

Department of Physics, KAIST, 2018–2019

Department of Physics, KAIST, 2015-2019