Ellen R. Novoseller (formerly Ellen R. Feldman)

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT
Postdoctoral Scholar   Jan. 2021 – Present
University of California, Berkeley
Mentor: Ken Goldberg

EDUCATION
California Institute of Technology   Aug. 2014 – Dec. 2020
PhD in Control and Dynamical Systems; GPA: 3.9
Dissertation: *Online Learning from Human Feedback with Applications to Exoskeleton Gait Optimization*
Advisors: Joel W. Burdick and Yisong Yue

University of Southern California (USC)   Aug. 2010 – May 2014
B. S. in Electrical Engineering, *Summa cum laude*; GPA: 3.99
Concentration in signal processing, minor in mathematics

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher   University of California, Berkeley, Jan. 2021 – present
Mentor: Ken Goldberg   AUTOLAB

- Researching robot manipulation, multi-fidelity robot learning and sim-to-real transfer, and human-in-the-loop learning. Applications include assistive robotics and automated polyculture farming.

Graduate Research Assistant   California Institute of Technology, Aug. 2014 – Dec. 2020
Advisors: Joel W. Burdick and Yisong Yue

- Conducted projects on preference-based bandit and reinforcement learning, including developing theory and learning personalized walking gaits for a robotic exoskeleton

- Modeled electrical stimulation of the spinal cord, a therapy for spinal cord injury, to identify critical features of the stimulation for patient standing

Summer NSF CSMR REU program   Johns Hopkins University, May 2013 – Aug. 2013
Supervisors: Russell Taylor and Berk Gonenc

- Project: *Development and Evaluation of MICRON: A Robotic System for Retinal Microsurgery*

- Evaluated design options for a microforceps tool for a retinal microsurgical robotic system, wrote C++ code to control the microforceps system, and developed methodology to evaluate robot performance based on statistics and signal processing

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Conference Proceedings

- Ryan Hoque, Ashwin Balakrishna, Ellen Novoseller, Albert Wilcox, Daniel S. Brown, Ken Goldberg, "ThriftyDAgger: Budget-Aware Novelty and Risk Gating for Interactive Imitation Learning," *Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, 2021.

- Ryan Hoque, Ashwin Balakrishna, Carl Putterman, Michael Luo, Daniel S. Brown, Daniel Seita, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ellen Novoseller, Ken Goldberg. "LazyDAgger: Reducing Context Switching in Interactive Imitation Learning," *IEEE International Conference on Automation Science and Engineering (CASE)*, 2021.

- Vainavi Viswanath*, Jennifer Grannen*, Priya Sundaresan*, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ashwin Balakrishna, Ellen Novoseller, Jeff Ichnowski, Minho Hwang, Michael Laskey, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Ken Goldberg. "Disentangling Dense Multi-Cable Knots," *IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2021.

- Priya Sundaresan*, Jennifer Grannen*, Brijen Thananjeyan, Ashwin Balakrishna, Jeff Ichnowski, Ellen Novoseller, Minho Hwang, Michael Laskey, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Ken Goldberg. "Untangling Dense Non-Planar Knots by Learning Manipulation Features and Recovery Policies," *Conference on Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)*, 2021.

- Kejun Li, Maegan Tucker, Erdem Bıyık, Ellen Novoseller, Joel W. Burdick, Yanan Sui, Dorsa Sadigh, Yisong Yue, Aaron D. Ames, "ROIAL: Region of Interest Active Learning for Characterizing Exoskeleton Gait Preference Landscapes," *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2021.

- Maegan Tucker, Myra Cheng, Ellen Novoseller, Richard Cheng, Yisong Yue, Joel W. Burdick, Aaron D. Ames, "Human Preference-Based Learning for High-Dimensional Optimization of Exoskeleton Walking Gaits," *IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2020.

- Ellen Novoseller, Yibing Wei, Yanan Sui, Yisong Yue, Joel W. Burdick, "Dueling Posterior Sampling for Preference-Based Reinforcement Learning," *Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI)*, 2020.

- Maegan Tucker*, Ellen Novoseller*, Claudia Kann, Yanan Sui, Yisong Yue, Joel W. Burdick, Aaron D. Ames, "Preference-Based Learning for Exoskeleton Gait Optimization," *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA),* 2020.

  Received the **Best Paper Award** and **Best Paper in Human-Robot Interaction Award**.

- Ellen Feldman Joel W. Burdick, "Modeling Motor Responses of Paraplegics under Epidural Spinal Cord Stimulation," *IEEE International Conference on Neural Engineering (NER)*, 2017.

- Berk Gonenc, Ellen Feldman, Peter Gehlbach, James Handa, Russell H. Taylor, Iulian Iordachita, "Towards Robot-Assisted Vitreoretinal Surgery: Force-Sensing Micro-Forceps Integrated with a Handheld Micromanipulator," *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2014.

Workshop Proceedings

- Myra Cheng, Ellen Novoseller, Maegan Tucker, Richard Cheng, Joel W. Burdick, Yisong Yue, "[Preference-Based Bayesian Optimization in High Dimensions with Human Feedback](#)," *Workshop on Real World Experiment Design and Active Learning at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2020.

- Ellen Novoseller, Yanan Sui, Yisong Yue, Joel W. Burdick, "[Dueling Posterior Sampling for Preference-Based Reinforcement Learning](#)," *Workshop on Real-world Sequential Decision Making: Reinforcement Learning and Beyond at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2019.

DEVELOPED SOFTWARE

- [Dueling Posterior Sampling for Preference-Based Reinforcement Learning](#)
- [CoSpar: Online Learning from Human Preference and Coactive Feedback](#)

AWARDS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- [Wonderfest Science Envoy](#): program in science communication with workshops on topics such as public speaking, teaching, and improvisation, 2021.

- [Computing Innovation Fellow](#), 2020

- Received the Best Paper Award and Best Paper in Human-Robot Interaction Award at the 2020 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA), for the paper "Preference-Based Learning for Exoskeleton Gait Optimization," 5/2020

- Microsoft Graduate Teaching in CMS Award (Caltech CMS departmental award), 5/2018

- Excellent TA award, Winter 2018 (award from the Caltech Registrar's Office)

- 2017 [Amazon Graduate Fellowship](#)

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2014 – 2017

- USC graduation awards, 4/2014: Emma Josephine Bradley Bovard Graduation Award; Philip S. Biegler Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Electrical Engineering

- Professional and Honor Societies: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), Women in Robotics, Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society); Eta Kappa Nu (Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society); Alpha Lambda Delta

INVITED TALKS

- "Online Learning from Human Preference Feedback with Application to Assistive Exoskeletons", Data Science, Statistics & Visualisation (DSSV) and the European Conference on Data Analysis (ECDA) joint virtual conference, session on "Preference-Based Reinforcement Learning," 7/9/2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Head Teaching Assistant for Machine Learning and Data Mining (CS 155), Winter 2018, Caltech

- Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Robotics (ME 133a), Fall 2017, Caltech

- Completed a quarter-long course on "University Teaching and Learning in STEM," Fall 2017

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Reviewing: NSF panelist 2021; RAL (ICRA option) 2022; ICRA 2021, 2022; NeurIPS Workshop on Safe and Robust Control of Uncertain Systems, 2021; IROS 2021; CoRL 2020; Women in Machine Learning Workshop, 2017 and 2019

- Seminar committees: Berkeley AI Research seminar, 8/2021 – present; CITRIS People and Robots seminar at UC Berkeley, 8/2021 – present; Caltech Computing and Mathematical Sciences Colloquium, 5/2016 – 5/2017. Responsibilities include proposing, inviting, and hosting speakers.

- PhD Admissions: Berkeley AI Research, 12/2021; Caltech CMS Department, 12/2018, 12/2019

- Member of the Computing and Mathematical Sciences Graduate Student Council, Caltech, 10/2018 – 10/2020

- Volunteer at Caltech's [AI for Science initiative](#) office hours, 10/2019 – 3/2020

- Mentored 20+ PhD, Master's, undergraduate, and high school students on projects in machine learning and robotics, e.g. reinforcement learning and human-in-the-loop learning

OUTREACH

- Mentoring women and underrepresented minorities in engineering: Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Mentor Network, June 2021 – present; Berkeley AI Research Undergraduate Mentoring Program, September 2021 – present; [Project Advance](#), organized by Women in Robotics, summer 2021

- Presented on "Sequential Machine Learning with Applications to Robotics and Healthcare" to the STEMinist Club at Berkeley High School, 10/27/2021

- Co-organized a workshop for undergraduate women on "How to Get Involved in Research," co-hosted by Ken Goldberg's AUTOLAB and UC Berkeley's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), 9/1/2021

- Presented on "Treating Spinal Cord Injury via Electrical Spinal Cord Stimulation" to: "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day," Caltech Society of Women in Engineering Event, 2/21/20; USC Biomedical Device Design Team, 3/19/18; Caltech undergraduate computer science seminar class (CS 9), 10/4/2017; W.V.T. Rusch Undergraduate Engineering Honors Colloquium, USC, invited talk, 9/8/2017

- Helped to develop lecture notes for an introductory machine learning course that was piloted at Pasadena City College in Spring 2019; delivered a guest lecture on decision trees
- Presented on "Artificial Intelligence for Spinal Cord Therapy," Leadership Pasadena workshop, 3/1/19
- Presented on "Reinforcement Learning for Treating Spinal Cord Injury," DataTalk series at UC Santa Barbara, organized by the UCSB Data Science Club, 5/2/19
- Delivered keynote talk, "My Journey Toward Spinal Cord Therapy and Machine Learning," Pasadena Girl Scout Robotics Expo, 4/6/19
- Presented in the TEDx Pasadena Salon "Her Path to Engineering," aimed at inspiring women to choose STEM disciplines, 7/14/18
- Volunteered at Tech Savvy (a STEM program for 6th-9th grade girls), co-running a workshop entitled "Coding Virtual Reality Environments," 4/14/18
- Volunteered at science nights, engaging students in origami and math puzzles: Alverno Heights Academy (12/4/18), the Pasadena Public Library (3/9/18), Washington Elementary School (9/28/17)
- Volunteered at the Science Olympiad Los Angeles Regionals, 3/3/18