Francesco Innocenti

Theoretical Neuroscience PhD student

Brighton, UK
(+44) 7447176249
✉ *F.Innocenti@sussex.ac.uk*
⌖ *Website: francesco-innocenti*

Education

Sept 2021 - 2025   **PhD, Theoretical Neuroscience**, *University of Sussex*, UK.
- Working thesis: "Advancing the Theory and Practice of Predictive Coding Networks."
- Teaching Assistant on Fundamentals of Machine Learning
- Developed JPC : a JAX library for training neural networks with predictive coding (★ 11)
- Curated repositories of papers on Neuro-AI (★ 38) and the Hessian of neural networks

Sept 2018 - Jun 2021   **B.Sc. Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience**, *Goldsmiths, University of London*.
- 1st Class Honours
- Thesis: "Modelling the Evolution of Visual Perception with Evolutionary Algorithms" [code]

Experience

Oct 2023 - Apr 2024   **Applied Scientist Intern**, *Amazon*, Barcelona.
- Helped improve and evaluate a short-term forecast of Amazon packages delivered throughout Europe, contributing to an internal conference paper and $MM savings in operational costs.

Oct 2018 - Jun 2021   **Research Assistant**, *ART LAB*.
- Helped develop and validate a neuropsychological test of face recognition (see publications)

Jun-Aug 2020   **Research Intern**, *TIMING, AWARENESS, AND SUGGESTION LAB*.
- Trained and tested machine learning classifiers to categorise the subjective experiences associated with different psychedelic drugs, based on psychometric data from 55 peer-reviewed studies

Skills

Coding	Python (highly experienced), AWS (basic), SQL (experienced), LaTeX (highly experienced), Julia (conversant), MATLAB (conversant), C# (basic)
Autodiff	JAX, PyTorch, TensorFlow
Web dev.	streamlit (experienced), HTML (basic)
Languages	English (proficient), Italian (native), Spanish (conversant)

Papers

[1] **Innocenti, F.**, Kinghorn, P., Yun-Farmbrough, W., Varona, M. D. L., Singh, R., Buckley, C. L. (2024). JPC: Flexible Inference for Predictive Coding Networks in JAX. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.03676.*

[2] **Innocenti, F.**, Achour, E. M. Singh, R., and Buckley, C. L. (2024). Only Strict Saddles in the Energy Landscape of Predictive Coding Networks? *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 38.*

[3] ***Innocenti, F.**, Singh, R., and Buckley, C. L. (2023). Understanding Predictive Coding as a Second-Order Trust-Region Method. *ICML Workshop on Localized Learning (LLW).*

Awards

- *Best Paper Award at the ICML 2023 Workshop on Localized Learning
- British Psychological Society (BPS) Award for highest performance in undergraduate degree