

Jacob M. Graving

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Research Interests

Computational models of individual and collective behavior, Bayesian statistical inference, deep learning, probabilistic programming, nonlinear dynamics

Experience

2020–present

Research Scientist

Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior

- Head of a central machine learning research group focused on developing advanced, general-purpose methods for the measurement and analysis of animal behavior in laboratory and field environments using computer vision, deep learning, and modern statistical methods, such as Bayesian causal inference.

Education

2021

Dr.rer.nat., Biology (0,0 “summa cum laude”)

Department of Collective Behaviour, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior

Department of Biology, University of Konstanz

Centre for the Advanced Study Collective Behaviour, University of Konstanz

International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Organismal Biology

- Thesis Title: “Deep Learning and Computer Vision Methods for Measuring and Modeling Animal Behavior”

2015

M.Sc., Biology

Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University

- Focus: Ethology, Neuroscience

2013

B.Sc., Biology

Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University

Relevant Publications

In Review

Bath, D.E., **Graving, J.M.**, Walter, T., Sridhar, V.H., Vizcaíno, J.P., Couzin, I.D. Collective detection and processing of distributed information by fish schools. In revision.

- Collaborated with researchers from multiple disciplines to test the collective intelligence of large schools of fish using computer vision, deep learning, and Bayesian inference

- Developed and applied a generative Bayesian statistical model using JAX, Numpyro, and Tensorflow Probability to analyze an extremely large and complex time series data set (approx. 3 billion observations across and 400+ experimental conditions)

Graving, J.M., Couzin, I.D. VAE-SNE: a deep generative model for simultaneous dimensionality reduction and clustering. *bioRxiv*: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.07.17.207993>

- Developed a deep generative model using PyTorch to reveal the structure of biological data including unsupervised action recognition of stereotyped dynamical motifs in high-dimensional body posture data measured from animals (<https://youtu.be/JlbSdKzvLfk>), as well as single cell transcriptomic data and natural images.

2020

Li, L., Nagy, M., **Graving, J.M.**, Bak-Coleman, J., Guangming X., Couzin, I.D. (2020). Vortex phase matching as a strategy for schooling in robots and in fish. *Nature Communications* 11, 5408 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-19086-0>

- Collaborated with researchers from multiple disciplines to test theoretical predictions from robotic experiments for how schooling fish collectively optimize their swim patterns to maximize energy savings in flow environments
- Measured and analyzed detailed body posture data of schooling fish using computer vision and deep learning, as well as mechanistic and statistical models of behavior to show that fish adopt optimal swimming patterns

2019

Graving, J.M., Chae, D., Naik, H., Li, L., Koger, B., Costelloe, B.R., Couzin, I.D. (2019). DeepPoseKit, a software toolkit for fast and robust animal pose estimation using deep learning. eLife, 8. <https://doi.org/10.7554/elife.47994> bioRxiv: <https://doi.org/10.1101/620245> Code: <https://github.com/jgraving/deepposekit>
Press: Quanta Magazine, Nature Methods, Nature News & Views, eLife Science Digests

- Led the development of a general-purpose few-shot deep learning toolkit for measuring the body posture of animals using TensorFlow (<https://youtu.be/hCa2zaoUWwh> ; <https://youtu.be/dSjaphoGHAY>).
- Supervised Daniel Chae, a visiting Bachelor's student from Princeton University, to develop a keypoint annotation GUI and custom data augmentation methods

Teaching

2019

ASAB 2019 Summer Conference, University of Konstanz

Workshop Organizer and Lecturer

- Led a seminar on “Machine Learning in the Behavioral Sciences” with over 400 participants
- Co-organized a practical workshop on “Quantifying Behavior with Machine Learning” with 27 participants

2016–2020

University of Konstanz, Department of Biology

Co-organized an intensive research course for Master's students on the collective animal behavior research

- Served as project advisor for 5 Master's students
- Led lectures and workshops on the topics of “Measuring Animal Behavior with Computer Vision”, “Analyzing Behavioral Data”, and “Introduction to Programming in Python”

Skills

Languages:

Python

Applications:

Bayesian inference, causal inference, statistical analysis, data visualization, machine learning, deep learning, computer vision, and image processing

Libraries:

JAX, NumPyro, Stan, TensorFlow, PyTorch, scikit-learn, OpenCV