

# Maximilien Le Clei

PhD student @ Mila (world's largest deep learning academic research center)

Previously: Applied Research Scientist Lead @ D-BOX Technologies (haptic motion technology)

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## Professional Experience

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**PhD Student Researcher @ Mila - Quebec AI Institute**, Toronto (Remote), Canada Oct 2024 - Present

- Combining deep learning & evolutionary machine learning for human agentic & brain behaviour imitation, new work at GECCO 2024

**Applied Research Scientist Lead @ D-BOX Technologies**, Toronto (Remote), Canada Jan 2024 - Jun 2025

- Successfully led the company's effort in applying generative AI to imitate D-BOX haptic artist tracks (generative modeling of 1D signals – chair actuators displacement – with audio+video conditional diffusion transformers | state space models)
- Strategized with leadership to pave the way for the next era of D-BOX content generation: real-time generation for all D-BOX customers. Leadership predicts a snowballing of its ~40M dollar revenue generating customer base with massive profit margins
- Trained billion parameter models on terabytes of data. Ran carefully-crafted, systematic scaling experiments over task complexity, training regimes, architectural choices, input modalities, model size & dataset size

**Research Scientist @ Montreal Geriatric Institute**, Toronto (Remote), Canada Sep 2021 - Aug 2023

- Led the development of a strongly automated and highly collaborative machine learning (deep learning + evolutionary machine learning) training workspace to speed up and strengthen the experiments of present machine learning researchers
- Technical contribution: audio model alignment with fMRI data to improve generalization, published in Imaging Neuroscience 2025
- Technical advising: large language model (LLM) fine-tuning + visual language model (VLM) for fMRI brain data alignment
- Evolutionary machine learning for human video game behaviour cloning & modern reinforcement learning benchmarks
- First-author publications at major machine learning conferences : ICLR ALOE workshop 2022, GECCO 2022 & 2023

**MSc Student Researcher @ Mila - Quebec AI Institute**, Montréal, Canada Jan 2019 - Aug 2021

- Research and development of novel evolutionary machine learning algorithms for imitation and reinforcement learning
- Developed i) a highly scalable and distributed open-source general purpose evolutionary machine learning library ii) a novel high-level imitation learning paradigm and iii) extremely compute efficient artificial neural networks

**Applied Research Scientist Intern @ Capbeast**, Montréal, Canada Jan 2018 - Apr 2018

- Early-stage application of modern deep reinforcement learning techniques to industrial embroidery problems
- Developed embroidery virtual environments of various complexity/fidelity & applied state-of-the-art deep reinforcement learning algorithms (DQN, Prioritized experience replay & Dueling Double-Q-Learning) to prototype highly capable embroidering agents

## Education

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**University of Montréal, Montréal, Canada**

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD, Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence)

Sep 2023 - Present

Master of Science - MSc, Computer science (Artificial Intelligence)

Sep 2018 - Aug 2021

**Concordia University, Montréal, Canada**

Bachelor of Computer Science - BCompSc, Computer Science (Computer Systems)

Sep 2015 - Apr 2018

## Skills

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**Topics:** generative AI, deep learning, evolutionary machine learning, high performance computing, imitation learning, reinforcement learning, continual learning, computer vision, NLP, robotics, MLOps, CI/CD

**Technical:** Python, PyTorch, Lightning, JAX, Tensorflow, MPI, HuggingFace, Weights & Biases, Bash, Slurm, Hydra, Submitit, Docker, GCP, GitHub Actions, Git, Pre-commit, Sphinx, Beartype, Devcontainers, Pytest, Jaxtyping, Claude Code, GitHub Copilot

**Open-source contributions:** google/evojax (scalable evolutionary machine learning), ROCm/TheRock (AMD ROCm/PyTorch)