Curriculum Vitae
Mélanie Natividad Fernández Pradier

Contact information

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Research interests

Bayesian neural networks, Bayesian non-parametrics, scalable MCMC approaches, variational inference (structured and black-box approaches), sparse latent feature models, dependent random measures, statistical methods for biomedical applications, topic modelling, information theory.

Education

2017/10–current	Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard University, sponsored by the Center for Research on Computation and Society (CRCS) and the Data Science Initiative (DSI), 5% acceptance rate.
2013/03–2017/09	PhD sponsored by the Marie Curie UE-FP7-People-ITN: "Machine Learning for Personalized Medicine" at University Carlos III in Madrid (UC3M).
	Doctoral thesis: "Bayesian nonparametric models for data exploration" at University Carlos III in Madrid. Grade A with Honours.
2008/09–2011/02	Master of Science in Information Technology at University of Stuttgart, major in communications.
	Master thesis: "Emotion recognition in speech signals and perception of music" at University of Stuttgart. Grade A with Honours.
	Bachelor thesis: "Bound comparison for DOA estimation in antenna arrays" at University of Stuttgart. Grade A with Honours.
2007/09–2009/09	Mathematics (five-year diploma) at the National University of Distance Education in Spain (UNED). Two years completed successfully.
2004/09–2011/02	Telecommunication Engineering (five-year diploma) at the Technical University of Madrid (UPM), Spain.
1995–2004	Secondary Education at the "Lycée Français de Madrid", Spain.

Language knowledge

Spanish	native
French	native
English	fluent, Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English, 2007
Japanese	fluent, Japanese Language Proficiency Test, level 2, 2006
German	advanced, TestDaF Certificate level C1, 2011
Chinese	basic, Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) level B, 2008

Publications

Journals

2017/10 I. Valera, M. F. Pradier, M. Lomeli, and Z. Ghahramani, *GLFM: General Latent Feature Modeling Toolbox*. Submitted to JMLR Machine Learning Open Source Software, 2017.

2017/10 M. F. Pradier, B. Reis, L. Jukofsky, F. Milletti, T. Ohtomo, F. Perez-Cruz, and O. Puig, *Indian Buffet Process identifies NK cell biomarkers as predictors of response to Codrituzumab in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma.* Submitted to BMC Cancer, 2017.

2017/09 Z. Utkovski, M. F. Pradier, V. Stojkoski, L. Kocarev and F. Perez-Cruz, *Economic Complexity Unfolded: An Interpretable Model for the Productive Structure of Economies*. Submitted to PLoS One, 2017.

2017/06 I. Valera, M. F. Pradier, Z. Ghahramani, *General Bayesian Nonparametric Latent Feature Model*. Submitted to Journal of Machine Learning Research, 2017.

2016/06 M. F. Pradier, P. M. Olmos, and F. Perez-Cruz, "*Entropy-Constrained Scalar Quantization with a Lossy-Compressed Bit*". Entropy 2016, 18(12), 449; doi: 10.3390/e18120449

2016/01 M. F. Pradier, F. J. R. Ruiz and F. Perez-Cruz. "*Prior Design for Dependent Dirichlet Processes: An Application to Marathon Modeling*". PLoS One 2016, 11(1): e0147402. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0147402

Conferences and Workshops

2017/10 M. F. Pradier, V. Stojkoski, Z. Utkovski, L. Kocarev, and F. Perez-Cruz. *Sparse Three-parameter Restricted Indian Buffet Process for Understanding International Trade.* In submission to International Conference on Acoustic, Speech, and Signal Processing. ICASSP 2018.

2017/08 I. Valera, M. F. Pradier, and Z. Ghahramani. *General Latent Feature Modeling for Data Exploration Tasks.* Best Paper Award at 2017 ICML Workshop on Human Interpretability in Machine Learning (WHI 2017).

2015/10 M. F. Pradier and F. Perez-Cruz. *Infinite Mixture of Global Gaussian Processes.* "Bayesian Non-parametrics: the next generation" Workshop, Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems. NIPS 2015.

2015/12 M. F. Pradier, S. Stark, S. Hyland, J. E. Vogt, F. Perez-Cruz and G. Rätsch. *Large-Scale Sentence Clustering from Electronic Health Records for Genetic Associations in Cancer.* Paper + Spotlight Talk at the "Machine Learning in Computational Biology" Workshop, Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems. NIPS 2015.

2015/12 M. F. Pradier, T. Karaletsos, S. Stark, J. E. Vogt, and F. Perez-Cruz. *Bayesian Poisson Factorization for Genetic Associations with Clinical Features in Cancer*, "Machine Learning for Healthcare Workshop", Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems. NIPS 2015.

2014/12 M. F. Pradier, P. G. Moreno, F. J.R. Ruiz, I. Valera, H. Molina-Bulla and F. Perez-Cruz, *Map/Reduce Uncollapsed Gibbs Sampling for Bayesian Non Parametric Models.* Paper + Spotlight Talk at the "Software Engineering for Machine Learning" Workshop, Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems. NIPS 2014.

Awards

2017/07	Best Paper Award + Contributed Talk at the "Human Interpretability in Machine Learning" Workshop, ICML 2017.
2016/12	Travel Award + Contributed Talk at the "Practical Bayesian Non-parametrics" Workshop, NIPS 2016.
2015/12	Travel Award + Spotlight Talk at the "Machine Learning in Computational Biology" Workshop, NIPS 2015.
2015/04	Spotlight Talk Award at the 9th Annual Machine Learning Symposium, New York Academy of Sciences, New York, USA.
2013/03	Marie-Curie UE-FP7-People-ITN PhD Fellowship "Machine Learning for Personalized Medicine" (3-year scholarship).
2008/10	Winner of the 2008 Essay Contest held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, representative of Spain in a 10-day Japan tour.
2008/06	Special mention for outstanding academic performance, bestowed to the 3 best students in the first cycle of Telecommunications Engineering at UPM.
2006–2007	Scholarship of Excellence awarded by the Community of Madrid.
2005/07	Lucent Global Sciences Scholarship, organized by Lucent Foundation and Bell Labs. Visit of the Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, USA.
2004/06	"*Diplôme du Baccalauréat Géneral, Série Scientifique, Mention Très Bien avec félicitations du Jury*" Special Mention after High School Education.

Technical Patents

2015/04/09	Patent approved in the United States (Pub. No: 20150099254).
2014/01/30	Technical patent of an Information Processing Device for Adaptive Learning in Japan (Pub. No: WO/2014/017164).

Invited Talks

2018/03/05	*Bayesian nonparametrics for data exploration.* CRCS Seminar, Harvard University, Spain.
2017/09/15	*Bayesian nonparametrics for data exploration: An application to international trade.* BBVA Data & Analytics, Madrid, Spain.
2017/03/17	*A Bayesian Non-parametric Approach to Understand World Economies.* Audiovisual Communications Lab in EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland.
2016/05/21	*Bayesian modeling for biomarker discovery in clinical trials.* "Big data in human genetics: opportunities and challenges?" Workshop at the European Society of Human Genomics. ESHG 2016.
2016/01/11	*Indian Buffet Process for Biomarker Discovery.* Roche Innovation Center, New York.
2015/10/21	*Machine Learning for Personalized Medicine.* Gregorio Marañon Health Research Institute, Madrid.

2015/07/09	*Bayesian Non-parametrics and Variational Inference: A brief Introduction*. Signal Processing Dpt at the Technical University of Madrid.
2015/03/03	*Probabilistic Analysis of Genetic Associations with Clinical Features in Cancer*. Spotlight Talk Award at the 9th Annual Machine Learning Symposium at New York Academy of Sciences in New York.
2015/02/05	*An Introduction to Bayesian Non-Parametrics for Biological Applications*. Computational Biology Dpt., Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York.

Research stays and Work in Industry

2016/07	1-month Research Stay: "*Non-linear latent feature model of genetic populations*" at Medical Genomics Unit of the University of Liège, Belgium.
2015/07–2015/09	3-months Research Internship: "*Statistical Methods for Biomarker Discovery*" at Roche Translational & Clinical Research Center, New York, USA.
2014/10–2015/06	9-months Research Internship: *"Genetic Association Studies with Clinical Observations in Cancer*" at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA.
2011/07–2012/07	1-year Research Engineer: "*Adaptive Learning Technologies and Serious Games*" at R&D Sony Corporation, Tokyo, Japan (accepted patent).
2009/10–2010/07	9-months Research Internship: "*Personalisation and Recommendation Systems*" at Sony European Technology Center, Stuttgart, Germany.

Teaching Experience

2016-2017	Lecturer for "Digital Communications", 4th year of Bachelor's Degree in Audiovisual System Engineering (both theory and exercises).
2016-2017	Lecturer for "Digital Communications", 4th year of Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering (both theory and exercises).
2015-2016	Special Mention as Teaching Assistant for "Linear Systems and Circuits", 1st year of Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunication Technologies Engineering (exercises).
02/2016	UC3M Teaching Activities for scientific diffusion in 3 high-schools in Madrid. See full description at: http://mlpm.eu/blog/mlpm-itn-fellow-melanie-brings-science-to-classrooms-and-inspires-with-simple-but-exciting-experiments/

Academical Activities

2018/10	Reviewer at *Artificial Intelligence and Statistics*, 2019.
2017/07	Reviewer at *Neural Information and Processing Systems*, 2017.
2016/05	Workshop co-organizer "Big data in human genetics: opportunities and challenges?" at the European Society of Human Genomics, 2016.
2015/12	Reviewer and PC-member at *Practical Bayesian Nonparametrics* Workshop, NIPS 2016.
2014-2015	Reviewer for Journal *Bioinformatics*.
2014/11	Subreviewer for Artificial Intelligence and Statistics Conference, 2015.

2014/12	PC-member at *Bayesian Non-parametrics: The Next Generation* Workshop.
2015/09	"Machine Learning for Personalized Medicine" (MLPM) Summer School in Manchester, UK.
2014/09	MLPM Summer School at Marie Curie Institute, Paris, France.
2013/09	MLPM Summer School at Max Planck Institute, Tübingen, Germany.
2013/08	"Advanced topics in Machine Learning" at Technical University of Denmark.
2013/05	"Probabilistic Machine Learning" Seminar at UC3M, Spain.
2013/04	European School of Information Theory in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia.
2013/01	"Large-Scale Optimisation" Seminar at UC3M, Spain.

Special activities

2015-2017	Organizer of the "Machine Learning Reading Club" at UC3M.
2014/12	Volunteer staff at "Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems", NIPS 2014.
2013/08	Technical Support at "Information Theory Workshop" in Seville, Spain.
2012/10-2012/11	Entrepreneurship Simulator Contest, held by Community of Madrid.
2008/07	Board of European Students of Technology (BEST) program in Yekaterinburg, Russia.
2005/08	Volunteer program for a month, to help with the conservation of kangaroos and wallabies in danger of extinction in Rockhampton, Australia.
2005–2007	Vice-chair and then Chair of the local IEEE Student Branch at the UPM.

Technical skills

- Programming skills: proficient Matlab, advanced Python; Haskell, Java, Vim, basic Scala.
- Experience working with huge databases (such as the PlayStation DB) using mySQL.
- Basic knowledge of Praat software, R, Eclipse platform, Spring framework, Hibernate.

Other skills and interests

- Adventure: e.g. canoeing 200 km in Quebec, cycling 500 km through Brittany.
- Sports: Half-marathon in sub-2hours, Platinum Ice Skater (5 years), Kung Fu (6 years).
- Music: piano (6 years as an amateur), singing for 2 years in the University Chorus.
- Asia: Self-study of Japanese and Chinese, Go player (participation in more than 10 international tournaments).

October 10th, 2018