

Milton O. Candela-Leal

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EDUCATION

- Tecnológico de Monterrey** - Monterrey, Mexico 2020 - Dec 2024
BS in Biomedical Engineering (95/100 = 3.88/4.00 GPA)
- International Baccalaureate** - Monterrey, Mexico 2018 - 2020
Math HL, Psychology SL, Physics SL, ...
Thesis: [Film & Psychology] *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004), a Cultural and Ideological Instructor of the Millennial Viewer

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Tecnológico de Monterrey** - Monterrey, Mexico Mar 2021 - Jul 2023, Fall 2024
NSF IUCRC BRAIN Center
Advisor: Prof. Mauricio A. Ramírez-Moreno, PhD
Projects: Biometrics (EEG, ECG, CV) and Machine Learning to predict:
Mental fatigue (2021); engineering interest (2021); emotion (2023).
- Force prediction through pose estimation keypoints and RNN (2022).
- Cognitive load in chess (2023); closed-loop BCI for attention (2024).
- Harvard Medical School** - Boston, MA, USA Aug 2023 - Jul 2024
Boston Children's Hospital
Advisor: Prof. Kiho Im, PhD
Projects: Fetal MRI subplate segmentation (attention U-Net); non-linear qMRI for congenital heart disease classification; MICCAI FeTA Challenge 2024.
- University of Houston** - Houston, TX, USA Spring 2022
NSF IUCRC BRAIN Center
Advisor: Prof. Jose L. Contreras-Vidal, PhD
Project: EEG functional connectivity and bispectrum analysis between actors.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

(† indicates equal contribution)

- Mandujano-Granillo, J.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Ortiz-Vazquez, J.J., ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2024). Human-Vehicle Interfaces: A Review for Autonomous Electric Vehicles. *IEEE Access*, 12, 121635–121658. doi:[10.1109/ACCESS.2024.3450439](https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2024.3450439)
- Blanco-Ríos, M.A.†, **Candela-Leal, M.O.**†, Orozco-Romo, C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2024). Real-time EEG-based Emotion Recognition for Neurohumanities: Perspectives from Principal Component Analysis and Tree-based Algorithms. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 18, 1319574. doi:[10.3389/fnhum.2024.1319574](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2024.1319574). PubMed PMID:[38545515](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38545515/)
- Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Gutiérrez-Flores, E.A., Presbítero-Espinosa, G., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2022). Multi-Output Sequential Deep Learning Model for Athlete Force Prediction on a Treadmill Using 3D Markers. *Applied Sciences*, 12(11), 5424. doi:[10.3390/app12115424](https://doi.org/10.3390/app12115424)
- Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., Carrillo-Tijerina, P., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2021). Evaluation of a Fast Test Based on Biometric Signals to Assess Mental Fatigue at the Workplace—A Pilot Study. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(22), 11891. doi:[10.3390/ijerph182211891](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182211891). PubMed PMID:[34831645](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34831645/)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Lozoya-Santos, J.J., Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Ramírez-Mendoza, R.A. (2022). Current and Future Biometrics: Technology and Applications. In R.A. Ramírez-Mendoza, J.J. Lozoya-Santos, R. Zavala-Yoé, ... H.G. Gonzalez-Hernandez (Eds.), *Biometry: Technology, Trends and Applications* (1st ed., pp. 1–30). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. doi:[10.1201/9781003145240-1](https://doi.org/10.1201/9781003145240-1). ISBN: 9781003145240.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Aguilar-Herrera, A.J., Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2024). Conscious Technologies Projects as a Hub for Real Life Challenges in Engineering Education. In *15th EDUCON* (pp. 665-675). Kos, Greece: IEEE. doi:[10.1109/EDUCON60312.2024.10578738](https://doi.org/10.1109/EDUCON60312.2024.10578738)
- Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Martínez-Díaz, D., Orozco-Romo, C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2023). Biomechanics Digital Twin: Markerless Joint Acceleration Prediction Using Machine Learning and

Computer Vision. In 3rd IFE-WS (pp. 142-150). Monterrey, Mexico: IEEE.
doi:[10.1109/IEEECONF56852.2023.10104757](https://doi.org/10.1109/IEEECONF56852.2023.10104757)

Candela-Leal, M.O., García-Briones, J.M., Olivas-Martínez, G., ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2021). Real-time Biofeedback System for Interactive Learning using Wearables and IoT. In 6th North American IEOM (pp. 2959-2970). Monterrey, Mexico: IEOM (**best undergraduate paper award**).
doi:[10.46254/NA06.20210487](https://doi.org/10.46254/NA06.20210487)

Olivas-Martínez, G., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Ocampo-Alvarado, J.C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2021). Detecting Change in Engineering Interest in Children through Machine Learning using Biometric Signals. In 1st IFE-WS (pp. 33-40). Monterrey, Mexico: IEEE.
doi:[10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733772](https://doi.org/10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733772)

Aguilar-Herrera, A.J., Delgado-Jimenez, E.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Ramírez-Mendoza, R.A. (2021). Advanced Learner Assistance System's (ALAS) recent results. In 1st IFE-WS (pp. 26-33). Monterrey, Mexico: IEEE. doi:[10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733770](https://doi.org/10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733770)

INVITED TALKS

Candela-Leal, M.O. (2024, September). Decoding Cognitive Performance: From Chess Puzzles to STEM Classrooms. Presented to senior undergraduate students at Cognitive Neuroscience minor, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico [\[slides\]](#)

Candela-Leal, M.O. (2023, April). Computer Vision and Facial Recognition. Presented to senior undergraduate computer science students at Computing Seminar course, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL) [one of Mexico's top eight universities], Monterrey, Mexico [\[slides\]](#)

WORKING PAPERS

Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., Romero-Días, D.C., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (*submitted*). Workplace Measures of Mental Fatigue.

Candela-Leal, M.O., Alanis-Espinosa, M., Murrieta-González, J., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (*submitted*). Neurocognitive Insights into STEM Learning: An Integrated Analysis of Bandpower and Functional Connectivity among Youth

Ramírez-Arceo, G.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Tudon-Martínez, J.C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., (*submitted*). Innovative Spaces With Advanced Technologies Such as Research Activity Simulators for Engineering Education

Candela-Leal, M.O., Lozoya-Santos, J.J., Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (*in prep*). Task Completion Time Estimation via EEG Theta Bandpower during Chess-Based Problem-Solving

PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

Digital Twins in Education: Enhancing Student Well-being and Academic Performance with Biometric Insights and Machine Learning. *U21 Health Sciences Group 2024 Annual Meeting*, Amsterdam University Medical Centers (Amsterdam, Netherlands) (**student speaker award**) 2024

High-resolution Fetal Subplate Automatic Segmentation. *FNNDSC Research Symposium*, Boston Children's Hospital (Boston, MA) 2024

CHD Fetal Brain Analysis using Combined Quantitative MRI Features and Custom-build Loss Functions. *FNNDSC Research Symposium*, Boston Children's Hospital (Boston, MA) 2024

Biomechanics for the Digital Twin of Performance: Study Cases. *Conscious Technologies for Smart Communities Workshop* (Virtual) 2021

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004), a Cultural and Ideological Instructor of the Millennial Viewer. *51th Research and Development Congress* (Virtual) 2021

Poster Presentations

FALCONS: Fetal Automatic Landmark Computation and Optimization for Neuroimaging Segmentation. *27th Conference on MICCAI* (Marrakesh, Morocco) 2024

Real-time Dual-feature Mental Fatigue State SVM Classification using EEG Delta Bandpower. *19th IEEE-EMBS Conference on BSN*, MIT Media Lab (Boston, MA) 2023

Talent Detection Tool for Early Engineering Education. *NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2023 Annual Meeting*, Arizona State University (Phoenix, AZ) 2023

Human Machine Interface for Fleet Electric Vehicles. *NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2023 Annual Meeting*, Arizona State University (Phoenix, AZ) 2023

Biometric Cabin for Neurohumanities Lab. <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2023 Annual Meeting</i> , Arizona State University (Phoenix, AZ)	2023
Digital Twin modeling for Human Biomechanics and Office Spaces. <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2022 Annual Meeting</i> , University of Houston (Houston, TX)	2022
Brain on Acting: Neural Dynamics of Actor-Actor Dyads During an Acted Scene. <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2022 Annual Meeting</i> , University of Houston (Houston, TX)	2022
Identifying Engineering Interest in Children through Machine Learning using Biometric Signals. <i>43rd Annual Conference of the IEEE-EMBS</i> (Virtual)	2021
ALAS: Advanced Learner Assistance System for Engineering Education using Wearable Sensors. <i>43rd Annual Conference of the IEEE-EMBS</i> (Virtual)	2021
Digital Twin of Biomechanics: Joint Force Prediction using Video and AI. At the <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2021 Annual Meeting</i> (Virtual)	2021

HONORS AND AWARDS

Diploma of Excellence Award (5% professional development), Tecnológico de Monterrey	2024
International Diploma (leadership & multilingual proficiency), Tecnológico de Monterrey	2024
Student Speaker Award (\$1600 USD), U21 Health Sciences Group	2024
Outstanding Student Award (1% eng. trajectories) [80/8000], Tecnológico de Monterrey	2023, 2024
1 st Place - Undergraduate Student Paper Competition, 6 th North American IEOM	2021
1 st Place - R&D Improvement Proposals (\$250 USD), 18 th Conexión Tec	2021
Academic Talent Scholarship , Tecnológico de Monterrey	2020

TEACHING

German A2 Teacher, Mentoora MX	2022-2024
Middle School Math and Spanish Teacher, Aprendamos Juntos	2021-2022
Independent High School Physics Teacher	Fall 2019
FIRST® LEGO® League Mentor, Little Minds	Spring 2019

SKILLS SUMMARY

Languages	Python (3 years), R (2 years), MATLAB (1 year), Shell (3 months), SQL (3 months) English (C1), German (B1), Spanish
Frameworks	Numpy, Scipy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Scikit-learn, OpenCV, TensorFlow, Keras, BrainFlow FSL, FreeSurfer, MRtrix3, ANTs, NiBabel, PyDicom, IRTK, NUC, TochIO, OSC Lattice, Dplyr, TidyR, Caret, GA, Ggplot, Shiny
Tools	Git, Anaconda, CUDA, CMake, Tableau, Microsoft Excel, G*Power, Overleaf, L ^A T _E X
Platforms	Linux, ROS, Windows, Arduino, Raspberry

NON-INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentations	
Closed-Loop BCI with Haptic Feedback and SINDy Algorithm for Attention Support in ADHD Students. At the <i>24th Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2024
Biometric Cabin with Portable Real-Time Monitoring Technology for Smart Solutions. At the <i>21st Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Neurohumanities Lab. At the <i>21st Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Comparison of Brain Synchronization between Pairs during Collaborative and Competitive Tasks. At the <i>21st Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Real-Time Knee Flexion Angle for Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury using Computer Vision. At the <i>BMEX: Engineering and Health Sciences Symposium</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Advanced Learner Assistance System (ALAS). At the <i>20th Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Real-Time Knee Flexion Angle for Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury using Computer Vision. At the <i>20th Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022

Digital Twin Office for Workspace Throughput Monitoring. At the 19 th Expo Ingenierías, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Biomechanics For the Digital Twin of Performance. At the 19 th Expo Ingenierías, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Advanced Learner Assistance System. At the 19 th Expo Ingenierías, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Detection of Engineering Interest in Children Through an Intelligent System Using Biometric Signals. At the 18 th Expo Ingenierías (Virtual)	2021
Real-time Biofeedback System for Interactive Learning using Wearables and IoT. At the 18 th Expo Ingenierías (Virtual)	2021
Biomechanics for the Digital Twin of Performance. At the 18 th Expo Ingenierías (Virtual)	2021
Advanced Learner Assistance System (ALAS) for Engineering Education using Wearable Sensors. At the 17 th Expo Ingenierías (Virtual)	2021

PROJECTS

FeTA Challenge @ MICCAI - <i>Harvard Medical School</i>	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7-label dataset (CSF, GM, WM, Ventricles, Cerebellum, Deep GM, Brainstem) - Pre-processed multi-site data; evaluated model zoo performance on in-house data - Trained a MRI U-Net model with spatial, intensity and resolution augmentation 	
High-res Fetal Subplate Segmentation - <i>Harvard Medical School</i>	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upsampled, aligned, and corrected subplate segmentation in a higher resolution - Implemented Bivariate Gaussian Smoothing (BGS) for step-like borders - Trained a MRI U-Net leveraged by transfer-learning for automatic segmentation 	
Non-linear qMRI for CHD Classification - <i>Harvard Medical School</i>	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed Recursive RF importance (RRFi) for feature selection (20,453) - Created a 5-feature kNN model with 0.88 F1-score (0.10 better than baseline) - Discovered and proposed new biomarkers in fetal CHD brain identification 	
Real-time Emotion Recognition - <i>Tecnológico de Monterrey (Neurohumanities Lab)</i>	2022-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Created an 8-channel EEG-based VAD 15 emotion recognition model - Designed a channel selection pipeline using lobe-based PCA and RF - Reduced 32-channel DEAP dataset dimensionality into optimal OpenBCI config 	
Cognitive Load Dynamics in Chess - <i>Tecnológico de Monterrey</i>	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed, led, and processed 37 chess players under ambient/white noise - Calculated Task Completion Time (TCT) based on EEG biomarker theta C4 - Validated TCT with Cognitive Load Theory (CLT), stratifying by chess level 	
Digital Twin of the Workspace - <i>Tecnológico de Monterrey</i>	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designed a throughput monitoring system via Human Action Recognition (HAR) - Integrated Velodyne LiDAR pointcloud with CV tracking using CCTV footage - Fitted a RNN HAR model (Walking, Running, Jumping) using CV human keypoints 	
Brain on Acting - <i>University of Houston</i>	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recorded a play using 32-electrode EEG on two actors and the director - Calculated bispectrum signal for the combination of pairs using MATLAB - Assessed the difference in moments of gaze via Wilcoxon Rank-Sum Test 	
Biomechanical Force Prediction - <i>Tecnológico de Monterrey (Biomechanics for the Digital Twin)</i>	2021-2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used OpenPose API and DLT to markerless track an individual's joints - Designed and trained an RNN using Tensorflow and Keras in Python - Predicted the force exerted by using raw human pose keypoints 	
Mental Fatigue Prediction - <i>Tecnológico de Monterrey (Advanced Learner Assistance System [ALAS])</i>	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feature engineered 4-electrode EEG & ECG wearables features using R - Developed and tuned a ML algorithm that predicted mental fatigue via Python - Used the least amount of combined features (2) to achieve high accuracy (93%) 	
Interest in STEM Prediction - <i>Tecnológico de Monterrey</i>	2021

(Talent and Passion Detection Through Biometrics)

- Trained ML regression models with biometrics (EEG, ECG, and CV emotions)
- Predicted change in vocational interest after a STEM lecture using Python
- Validated with STEM-CIS psychometric test, the algorithm achieved 80% accuracy

MEMBERSHIPS

SACNAS

March 2024 - March 2025

AUDITED COURSES

Harvard - Department of Psychology

PSY 3340 Research Seminar in Cognition, Brain, and Behavior - *T. Ullman*

Spring 2024

PSY 1322 The Cognitive Science of Making Up Your Mind - *T. Ullman*

Spring 2024

MIT - Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)

9.014 Quantitative Methods and Computational Models in Neuroscience - *M. Jazayeri*

Fall 2023

9.66 Computational Cognitive Science - *J. Tenenbaum*

Fall 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MIT - Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)

(Workshop) Exploring New Horizons: Strategies for Success in new Scientific Field

2024

(Symposium) McGovern Institute: Transformational Strategies in Mental Health

2024

(Symposium) McGovern-MEGIN: MEGnificent brain discoveries

2024

Tecnológico de Monterrey

(Course) Data Science - *Crystal System*

(150 h) 2022

(Workshop) Biosignal processing in Python - *Neuroengineering and Neuroacoustics*

2021

(Hackathon) HackMTY

2021

(Hackathon) B-Hack - *43th National Biomedical Engineering Congress*

2020

(Course) Systemic Change - *Ashoka*

2020

COURSERA SPECIALIZATIONS

Johns Hopkins University

Data Science

(288 h) 2021

Neuroscience and Neuroimaging

(42 h) 2020

Health Informatics

(56 h) 2020

Patient Safety

(54 h) 2020

Healthcare IT Support

(20 h) 2021

University of Michigan

Applied Data Science with Python

(145 h) 2021

DeepLearning.AI

AI for Medicine

(72 h) 2021

Imperial College London

Infectious Disease Modelling

(65 h) 2021

Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute

Machine Learning: Algorithms in the Real World

(41 h) 2020

IBM - edX

Fundamentals of AI

(80 h) 2020

Rice University

Fundamentals of Immunology

(69 h) 2020

University of Colorado System

Applied Cryptography

(34 h) 2020

University System of Georgia

Six Sigma Green Belt

(49 h) 2020

Duke University

Excel to MySQL: Analytic Techniques for Business

(109 h) 2021