

Miguel Xochicale

My research interests focus on advancing real-time AI tools for MedTech, SurgTech, Biomechanics, and clinical translation.

Senior Research Engineer
Advanced Research Computing Centre
University College London, UK
✉ m.xochicale@ucl.ac.uk
🏠 <http://mxochicale.github.io> · 📄 [mxochicale](#)

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Engineering at The University of Birmingham

Birmingham, UK

Thesis: Nonlinear Analysis to Quantify Movement Variability in Human-Humanoid Interaction.

Nov 2014 – Nov 2018

Supervisors: Professor Chris Baber and Professor Martin Russell

Awarded PhD degree: 12/07/2019. Thesis: 📄 GitHub: 📄 Website: 📄

M.Sc. in Signal Processing at Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics (INAOE)

Puebla, México

Thesis: Design of digital filters with fewer multipliers.

Sep 2004 – Sep 2006

Supervisor: Dr. Gordana Jovanovic Dolecek

Awarded MSc degree: 01/11/2006. Thesis: 📄 GitHub: 📄

Research Experience

Senior Research Software Engineer at University College London, UK

Oct 2022 – Present

- I am advancing real-time AI-enabled tools by developing end-to-end frameworks that encompass model training, efficient inference, robust API design, and seamless deployment to medical devices, ensuring scalability and clinical applicability 📄. Additionally, I empower innovators to progress from idea to research to production by ensuring the highest standards of code quality in UCL's open-source software projects (CDI-HUB 📄, PIXL 📄 & SciKit-Surgery 📄).

Research Associate in Real-time AI-based Ultrasound Imaging at King's College London, UK

Sep 2021 – Sep 2022

- PIs: Dr Andrew King and Dr. Alberto Gomez
- I scientifically contributed to automatic biometric recognition of electrocardiography ultrasound data using real-time deep learning techniques with Python, CUDA, C++ and Qt programming languages via GitHub. See more at (📄).

Research Associate in Software and Hardware Engineering at King's College London, UK

Apr 2019 – Aug 2021

- PIs: Dr. Wenfeng Xia and Prof. Tom Vercauteren
- I pushed forward the state-of-the-art of Ultrasound-Guidance Interventions, contributing to the development of a needle tip tracking system, real-time ultrasound image processing, quality management system for clinical translation of medical devices, and public engagement activities. See more at (📄).

Publications

- A. Das et al., "Automated surgical skill assessment in endoscopic pituitary surgery using real-time instrument tracking on a high-fidelity bench-top phantom," *Healthcare Technology Letters*, vol. 11, no. 6, pp. 336–344, 2024. eprint: <https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1049/htl2.12101>.
- P. T. H. Nhat et al., "Clinical benefit of ai-assisted lung ultrasound in a resource-limited intensive care unit," *Critical Care*, vol. 27, no. 1, p. 257, Jul. 2023.
- S. Thompson, M. Xochicale, T. Dowrick, and M. Clarkson, "Using scikit-surgery for augmented reality in surgery research," *Hamlyn Symposium of Medical Robotics*, Jun. 2023.
- M. Iskandar, H. Mannering, Z. Sun, J. Matthew, H. Kerdegari, L. Peralta, and M. Xochicale, "Towards realistic ultrasound fetal brain imaging synthesis," in *Medical Imaging with Deep Learning (MIDL '23)*, arXiv, Apr. 2023, 3 pages, 1 figure with code and data.
- L. Tsz Yan and M. Xochicale, "Towards a simple framework of skill transfer learning for robotic ultrasound-guidance procedures," in *Robot-Assisted Medical Imaging (RAMI) ICRA workshop 2023 (RAMI '23)*, arXiv, Apr. 2023, 2 pages, 2 figure with code and data.
- A. Badillo-Perez, D. Badillo-Perez, A. Barco, R. Montenegro, and M. Xochicale, "Teaching ai and robotics to children in a mexican town," in *18th HRI conference at the 2nd Inclusive HRI workshop (HRI '23)*, arXiv, Mar. 2023, 4-page paper and 2-page appendix with code and data.
- M. Xochicale, L. Thwaites, S. Yacoub, L. Pisani, T. H. N. Phung, H. Kerdegari, A. King, and A. Gomez, *A machine learning case study for ai-empowered echocardiography of intensive care unit patients in low- and middle-income countries*, Jan. 2023, 4-page pre-print, 2-page appendix, code, data and slides.
- T. Bautista, J. Matthew, H. Kerdegari, L. Peralta, and M. Xochicale, "Empirical study of quality image assessment for synthesis of fetal head ultrasound imaging with dcgans," in *26th UK Conference on Medical Image Understanding and Analysis (MIUA '22)*, arXiv, Jun. 2022, 3-page abstract, code and data.
- A. Badillo-Perez, D. Badillo-Perez, D. Coyotzi-Molina, D. Cruz, R. Montenegro, L. Vazquez, and M. Xochicale, "Piloting diversity and inclusion workshops in artificial intelligence and robotics for children," in *17th Annual Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI '22)*, Mar. 2022.
- R. Beale et al., "Oxvent: Design and evaluation of a rapidly-manufactured covid-19 ventilator," *eBioMedicine*, vol. 76, p. 103 868, 2022.
- C. Baker et al., "Intraoperative needle tip tracking with an integrated fibre-optic ultrasound sensor," *Sensors*, vol. 22, no. 23, 2022.
- M. Xochicale and C. Baber, "Nonlinear methods to quantify movement variability in human-humanoid interaction activities," Mar. 2021. arXiv: 1810.09249 [eess.SP], Full Manuscript.
- R. Montenegro, E. Corona, D. Badillo-Perez, A. Mandujano, L. Vazquez, D. Cruz, and M. Xochicale, "Air4children: Artificial intelligence and robotics for children," in *16th Annual Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI '21)*, Feb. 2021. arXiv: 2103.07637 [cs.R0].
- C. Baker et al., "Real-time ultrasonic tracking of an intraoperative needle tip with integrated fibre-optic hydrophone," in *2021 IEEE International Ultrasonics Symposium (IUS)*, 2021, pp. 1–4.

See more full list of publications and associated links (📄).

Talks, Posters and Workshops

- M. Xochicale, "How open-source software is shaping the future of healthcare," Free and Open source Software Developers' European Meeting (FOSDEM), Feb. 2025, Presentation, Abstract.
- S. Hekim, S. Thompson, and M. Xochicale, "Towards lightweight transformer-based models with multimodal data for low-latency surgical applications," Fast Machine Learning for Science at Imperial College London, Sep. 2023, Presentation, Abstract.
- S. Thompson, M. Xochicale, T. Couch, I. Idil Ozdemir, T. Dowrick, and M. Clarkson, "How to use and contribute to a software sustainability dashboard," Swansea University, Sep. 2023, Workshop.
- I. Idil Ozdemir, M. Xochicale, and S. Thompson, "Towards sustainable dashboards for open-source software projects," RSLondonSouthEast 2023 at Imperial College London, Jul. 2023, Presentation, Abstract.
- M. Xochicale, "Innovating in medical device development," OxfordXML Seminar, Jun. 2023, Presentation, Abstract.
- M. Xochicale, "Fetal ultrasound imaging synthesis," Data Learning Seminar at Imperial College London, Sep. 2022, Presentation Abstract.
- M. Xochicale and C. Baber, "Nonlinear analysis to quantify human movement variability from time-series data," in *neuromatch 3.0 (NMC3 '20)*, Virtual Conference, Oct. 2020, Presentation Abstract.
- M. Xochicale, "Open-cortex: A continuous integration framework for open scientific communication," in *1st Conference on Reproducibility, Replicability and Trust in Science (RRTS '20)*, Cambridge, England (Virtual Conference), Sep. 2020, Poster Abstract.
- M. Xochicale, "Quantifying movement variability with nonlinear dynamics for human-humanoid interaction," in *25th International Conference on Difference Equations and Applications (ICDEA '19)*, London, UK, Jun. 2019, Slices abstract.

10. **M. Xochicale**, “Quantification of dynamic facial expressions with shannon entropy in human-humanoid interaction,” in *1st Symposium on Machine Learning and Dynamical Systems (MLDS ’19)*, London, UK, Feb. 2019, Poster Abstract.

See more full list of references and associated links (🔗).

Supervision and Teaching Experience
University College London

- Co-supervision of PhD student Elvira Cortese from the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology
 - Supervision: Sujon Hekim, in2reserach summer placement *Project: AI-based surgical skill assessment using transformer model.*
 - Supervision: Xiaoning Zhu, M.Sc in Health Data Science *Project: Automatic Medical Image Reporting with transformer-based models.*
 - Supervision: Qingyu Yang, M.Sc. in Health Data Science *Project: Fetal Brain Ultrasound Imaging synthesis with diffusion models.*
 - Technical Lead: CHME0039: Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Group Project. Lecturers: Prof. Paul Taylor and Dr Kevin Tsang

I led two group projects on *Fetal Brain Ultrasound Imaging Synthesis with Diffusion Models.*

I led two group projects on *End-to-End AI Workflow for Automated Multimodal Medical Image Reporting (AMMIR).*
- Jan 2023 – Present

Oct 24’ – Sep 27’
June 23’ – Sep 23’
Jan 23’ – Aug 23’
May 23’ – Aug 23’

Jan 23’ – March 23’
Jan 25’ – March 25’

- King’s College London

 - Supervision: Pablo Prieto Roca and Samuel Eyob. *KURF projects on 3DGANs for fetal US imaging.*
 - Supervision: Tszy Yan (Goosie) Leung, MSc in Medical Engineering and Physics. *Project: Simple US guidance intervention.*
 - Supervision: Thea Bautista, M. Eng. in Biomedical Engineering. *Project: DCGANs for fetal US imaging.*
 - Supervision: Guilherme Gomes de Figueiredo and Amal Hussein. *KURF projects on DCGANs for US imaging.*
 - Supervision: Alexander Mitton, M.Sc. in Medical Engineering and Physics. *Project: Vibro-tactile stimulator for dystonia.*
 - Teaching Associate: Medical Robotics. Lecturers: Dr. Christos Bergeles (Jan2020-Apr2022), Dr Hongbin Liu (Jan2021-Apr2021), Dr. Alejandro Granados (Jan2022-April2022)
- Jan 2020 – September 2022

Jun 2022 – Aug 2022
Feb 2021 – Aug 2022
Oct 2021 – May 2022
Jun 2021 – Aug 2021
Jan 2020 – Sep 2020
Jan 2020 – Apr 2022

- The University of Birmingham

 - Supervision: Dinghuang Zhang, M.Sc. in Computer Engineering. *Project: Tools for human-humanoid collaboration*
 - Teaching associate: Engineering Maths 2. Lecturers: Prof. Martin Russell, Dr Carl Anthony
 - Teaching Associate: Matlab Laboratories. Lecturer: Dr Edward Tarte
 - Teaching Associate Computing for Engineering. Lecturer: Dr Sridhar Pammua
 - Teaching Associate: Small Embedded Systems. Lecturer: Prof. Chris Baber
- Jun 2018 – Dec 2018

Aug 2018 – Dec 2018
Aug 2017 – Dec 2017; Jan 2018 – Apr2018
Jan 2017 – Apr 2017
Aug 2016 – Dec 2016; Aug 2017 – Dec 2017
Aug 2016 – Dec 2016

Grants, Awards and Honours

- UCL Open Science award 2023 for organising "Open-Source Software for SurgTech" workshop 🔗, 🐱 (26/10/2023).
- My M.Sc. student, Thea Bautista received the Maurice Wilkins Prize at KCL for the best MEng Individual Research Project in 2022 🔗 (30/08/2022).
- King’s Public Engagement grant for the project "FETUS: Finding a fETus with an Ultrasound Simulator" led by myself and in collaboration with Fang-Yu Lin and Shu Wang 🔗 (07/01/2021 - 07/01/2022)
- My M.Sc. student, Alexander Mitton, won the Outstanding Individual Project award 🔗 (15/10/2020)
- King’s Health Partners grant for the project "Sensory system abnormalities in childhood dystonia" lead by Verity McClelland and in collaboration with Carlos Seneci 🔗 (14/04/2020 - 9/06/2020)
- “Towards Healthy Ageing with Humanoid Robots” was selected for a talk at the 2nd forum of Mexican Talent 2017 🔗 📺 🎥 11/01/2017
- I won the best poster award at the XIV Symposium of Mexican Students in the UK at University of Edinburgh 🔗 16-18/06/2016
- My project of a low-cost robot was selected among 125 applications received from 35 countries and presented at the 1st international public entrepreneurship program in Mexico (MECATE 2015). 🔗 🎥 20-24/07/2015
- I was awarded with a Ph.D. scholarship by the Mexican National Council on Science and Technology and the University of Birmingham. 11/2014-11/2018
- Markovito’s team was awarded the first place of HOME category at the Mexican Tournament of Robotics 2013, presenting a Human-Robot Interaction Dance Demo 🎥 25-27/05/2013

Skills

- Programming and software** Python[2014-present], GNU/Linux Operating System user (OpenSuse, Debian & Ubuntu)[2005-present], R[2013-present], Robot Operating System (ROS)[2016-present], GNU-Octave (as well as MatLab)[2009-present], L^AT_EX[2006-present], C and C++[2015-present], Processing[2012-present], the shell[2010-present], GNU-emacs[2010-present], vim[2016-present], pandoc[2017-present], open-source enthusiast at GitHub (@mxochicale)[2015-present], continuous integration & continuous delivery [2019-present], CUDA Programming [2021-present], Docker [2024-present], & python-based linting [2022-present], aws-cli 🐱 [Oct2024-present].
- Tools and hardware** Single-board computers and microcontrollers (NVIDIA Jetson Nano, RaspberryPi, BeagleBone, Arduino & PIC)[2010-present], Inertial Measurement Units (calibration, collection & data analysis)[2013-present], Web design (Github pages, Jekyll)[2015-present], Graphic design (Inkscape, GIMP)[2014-present], CAD design (Autodesk inventor, blender, FreeCAD, & onshape)[2015-present], Artificial Neural Networks (PyTorch, & TensorFlow)[2017-present], 3D printing (flsun, cura) [2019-present], Video framegrabbers (PCI & usb from ephipan), & Clinical Ultrasound Devices (Voluson E10, Philips EPIC, convex & linear probes), Medical imaging (3D slicer, ITK-SNAP), & NVIDIA Clara AGX with holoscan-sdk [2023-present].
- QMS** Control documents with standard compliances using: Good Machine Learning Practice by FDA, Health Canada, & MHRA; IEC 62304 Medical Device Software Standard; BS EN 82304-1:2017 Health Software; IEC 60601-1 Medical electrical equipment; BS EN 61391-2:2010 Ultrasonics, & BSI 60825-14 Safety of laser products.
- Languages** Spanish[Native], English[Fluent] and interested in learning Chinese.

Outreach activities and scientific engagement

- Lead organiser of HAWKESHACKS3 hackathon "Redefining Eye Tracking with Open-Source Real-Time AI Solutions": Site: 🔗, & GitHub: 🐱. 6-8th Nov 25’.
- Lead organiser of "Open-Source Software for SurgTech 2" at the Hamlym Symp. on Medical Robotics 2024. 🔗. Jan 24’ – Oct 25’.
- Lead organiser of "Open-Source Software for SurgTech" at the Hamlym Symp. on Medical Robotics 2023. GitHub: 🐱 & Video Playlist 🎥. Jan 23’ – Oct 23’.
- Lead organiser of CMICHACKS hackathon 2023 "Real-time AI for surgery": Site: 🔗, & GitHub repository: 🐱. 9-10 Nov 23’.
- Co-organised of journal club for computer vision and deep learning at Advanced Research Computing Centre 01-01-2023 – 01-06-2023.
- Co-organised of events at the BMEIS Early Career Researcher Network (monthly meetings & writing workshops). 01-01-2021 - 01-09-2022.
- Participation in the Westminster Enterprise Week to engage students aged 14-18 to Biomedical Engineering. 10-11-2021
- Participant in the STEAM WEEK organised by the City Westminster Council to engage students aged 14-18 to STEAM 🐦 23-03-2021
- Alexandra Lautarescu and I organised the Reproducible, Interpretable, Open, & Transparent Science Club at BMEIS 02-2020 – 06-2020
- For the event In2ScienceUK, I shared my scientific journey to young scientist on how they can become better scientist. 20-08-2019
- For the New Scientist Live, I showcased software that helps doctors to create 3D models of brain tumors using AI. 09-2019
- Finalist at the Three Minute Thesis Competition 2018. Video: 🎥 and GitHub: 🐱. 05-2018
- Research Poster Conference for (2015) 📄, (2016) 📄, and (2018) 📄. GitHub: 🐱. 2016 to 2018
- Demoing Human-Robot Activities at the Undergraduate Open Days. GitHub: 🐱. 2014–2018
- Coordinator of the Science Seminars for the Mexican Society. GitHub: 🐱, Website: 🔗. 2017–2018
- Building Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for Children. Twitter: 🐦 @air4children GitHub: 🐱 @air4chidlren 2019–Present