Simone Azeglio

Personal Information

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Education

Oct 2018 – Apr 2021 **M.Sc. in Physics of Complex Systems**, – *University of Turin, Turin, Italy.*

- **Grade**: *110/110 cum laude and honourable mention.*

Oct 2014 – Apr 2018 **B.Sc. in Physics** – *University of Turin, Turin, Italy.*

Publications

Mar 2022 *Azeglio S, Poetto S, Savant Aira L, Nurisso M*, **Improving Neural Predictivity in the Visual Cortex with Gated Recurrent Connections**, BrainScore Workshop, Cosyne 2022

Oct 2021 *Azeglio S, Di Bernardo A, Penna G, Pittatore F, Poetto S, Gruenwald J, Kapeller C, Kamada K, Guger C*, **Topological Data Analysis (TDA) Techniques Enhance Hand Pose Classification from ECoG Neural Recordings**, arXiv

Oct 2021 *Azeglio S, Fordiani M*, **Optimizing Urban Mobility Restrictions: a Multi-Agent System (MAS) for SARS-CoV-2**, arXiv

Aug 2021 *Azeglio S*, **Modernization of the TMVA GUI. RVariablePlotter: modular plotting for TMVA**, CERN Document Server

Jul 2021 *Zubov K, McCarthy Z, Ma Y, Calisto F, Pagliarino V, Azeglio S, Bottero L, Luján E, Sulzer V, Bharambe A, Vinchhi N, Balakrishnan K, Upadhyay D, Rackauckas C*, **NeuralPDE: Automating Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs) with Error Approximations**, arXiv

Mar 2021 *Bottero L, Calisto F, Graziano G, Pagliarino V, Scauda M, Tiengo S, Azeglio S*, **Physics-Informed Machine Learning Simulator for Wildfire Propagation**, AAAI-MLPS 2021.

Experience

Research

Nov 2021 – Present **Research Engineer** – Institut de L'Audition, Institut Pasteur, *Paris, France*

- I work on machine and deep learning models for auditory perception in *Brice Bathellier's* Lab.
- Devised an **activity-driven** framework to map the neuronal activity across stages of the auditory pathway with multi-layer models (multi-layer perceptron).

Apr 2019 – Present **Founder & President** – Machine Learning Journal Club, *Turin, Italy*

- I teach **Python** for Scientific Computing and practical Machine (and Deep) Learning to undergraduate and graduate students.
- Created the **1st Italian** collaborative research project (*non-profit organization*) managed by students, in cooperation with the University of Turin.

- I collaborate with **Julia Computing** and *Christopher Rackauckas* (**MIT**) on Scientific Machine Learning. Currently working on *NeuralPDE* and its foundational paper.
- I designed and supervised several Machine Learning projects: data-driven dynamical system identification and control (with **NPO Torino S.r.l**); Brain Computer Interfaces data analysis, e.g. applications of **Topological Data Analysis** and **Random Convolutional Kernels** for feature extraction, (in collaboration with **g.tec**); biologically plausible vision models for *Brain-Score* benchmarks

;
- Obtained **+20k Euros** from both U. of Turin and several companies for research purposes

Jun 2021 – Aug 2021 **Research Intern** – CERN, *Geneva, Switzerland*

- Contributed to *ROOT*, one of the largest scientific data analysis and Machine Learning **C++** packages (**1.6k+ stars**) by implementing low-level ROOT data structures conversion, supervised by *Lorenzo Moneta*

Aug 2020 – Jun 2021 **Visiting Student Researcher** – University of Ottawa, *Centre for Neural Dynamics, Ottawa, Canada* (Longtin's & Maler's Labs)

- Devised a recurrent neuronal network architecture (**Julia/Python/C++**) for sequential memory retrieval as part of my master thesis project: **Transients in Hippocampal Attractor Networks**
- Implemented a dynamical alternative of Hopfield Nets, mainly based on *Rabinovich's Winnerless Competition principle*. In this way, it is possible to memorize and retrieve sequences of events. U. of Turin's supervisor: Professor *Lamberto Rondoni*.

May 2020 – Dec 2020 **Lead Mentor** – University of Toronto, *ProjectX2020 Competition*

- Worked on **Physics Informed Neural Networks** (PINNs) techniques (in **Julia**) for wildfire propagation models. Achieved the first real-world scenario application of PINNs: paper accepted in AAAI-MLPS 2021

Jul 2019 – Sep 2019
Jul 2018 – Sep 2018 **Visiting Student Researcher** – University of Ottawa, *Centre for Neural Dynamics, Ottawa, Canada* , (Maler's Lab - In collaboration with André Longtin)

- Increased animal tracking accuracy by **33%** and reduced manual labelling time by **90%** by introducing **DeepLabCut** (based on CNNs) instead of non-Deep-Learning based softwares.

Consulting

Apr 2021 – Dec 2021 **Machine Learning Consultant** – Freelance

- I worked on several projects ranging from: designing Machine Learning pipelines for **biometric data** (e.g. WESAD Dataset), federated Machine Learning approaches for privacy preserving, natural language processing pipelines by designing custom architectures and preparing the national **industrial AI strategy** for *NPO Torino S.r.l* with **TIM Group**.

Presentations

Invited Talks

Apr 2022 **An Overview of Brain-Score and How to Get a Better Ventral Visual Stream Model with Gated Recurrent Connections** – Meta AI Paris - Journal Club

Feb 2020 **Machine Learning Journal Club: Open Learning for Open Science** – Machine Learning Meets Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Turin (Programme)

Selected Talks

Mar 2022 **Improving Neural Predictivity in the Visual Cortex with Gated Recurrent Connections** – BrainScore Workshop, Cosyne 2022, (Schedule)

Posters

Jul 2022 **Activity-driven deep models for learning sound transformations across the auditory pathway** – FENS Forum 2022 - International Neuroscience Conference

Jan 2021 **Physics-Informed Machine Learning Simulator for Wildfire Propagation** – Mediterranean Machine Learning Summer School (www.m2lschool.org)

Sep 2018 **Active Electrosensing for Spatial Map Encoding in a Fish** – Neural Coding 2018, International Workshop on Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience (www.neuralcoding2018.unito.it)

May 2017 **Leggett-Garg Inequality Violation Exploiting Weak Measurements** – Quantum 2017, International Workshop on Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (www.quantum2017.unito.it)

Public Outreach

Feb 2021 **National TV News Program, TG1** – RAI, Radiotelevisione italiana (video excerpt)

- Presented Machine Learning Journal Club's work on Physics Informed Neural Network for wildfire spread prediction as a contribute in applications of Machine Learning to Climate Change.

Funding & Scholarships - 23.5k EUR

Mar 2022 **Travel Grant** – *Cosyne 2022*

- Awarded a 1000$ travel grant as one of the selected *new attendees* at Cosyne 2022.

Jun 2021 – Aug 2021 **Summer Student Scholarship** – *CERN, Geneva, Switzerland*

- Awarded a 10-weeks paid (2400 EUR) scholarship, selected **among +7k candidates**.

Jan 2021 **Outstanding Poster** – *Mediterranean Machine Learning School*

- Awarded a 700 EUR prize in Google Cloud resources. Poster presentation

Dec 2020 – Mar 2021 **Overseas Mobility Scholarship** – *University of Turin, Turin, Italy*

- Awarded a 4-months scholarship (**maximum allowed**, 1200 EUR) for my Master Thesis project

Aug 2020 - Jun 2021 **Visiting Student Researcher Scholarship** – *University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada*

- Selected as a recipient of this scholarship (**+20k CAD**) for my master thesis project.

Jul 2014 – Sep 2014 **Master Talenti Neodiplomati Scholarship** – *Fondazione CRT, Turin, Italy*

- Selected as **1 out of 103** eligible students (in my high school) for a *studying-working* 3-months experience as in Malta (5000 EUR).

Jul 2013 – Sep 2013 **Banca Sella Scholarship** – *Banca Sella Group, Biella, Italy*

- Selected among the most promising students in the province of Biella for a 10-weeks *studying-working* experience in the E-Commerce section (300 EUR).

Languages

Italian, *Native.* **English**, *Advanced.* **French**, *Elementary.*

Training Programs

Aug 2021 **Neuromatch Academy: Deep Learning**

- 3 weeks intensive program on *Deep Learning Theory* and hands-on *Pytorch* implementations.

Jul 2021 **Eastern European Machine Learning Summer School**,*Deepmind (web-based due to Covid19)*

Jun 2021 **Regularization Methods for Machine Learning**,*University of Genoa (web-based due to Covid19)*

Apr 2021 **g.tec BCI & Neurotechnology Spring School**,*g.tec., (web-based due to Covid19)*

Jan 2021 **Mediterranean Machine Learning Summer School**, *Deepmind, (web-based due to Covid19)*

Oct 2020 – Dec 2020 **HelloAI RIS** *EITHealth*

- Training program designed to introduce participants to the field of AI in Healthcare. Mentored by experts from **GE**, **KTH** and **LEITAT**.

Jul 2020 **Lviv Data Science Summer School**, *Ukrainian Catholic University (web-based due to Covid19)*

May 2018 – Jun 2018 **Eight Summer School of the Centre for Neural Dynamics** *University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada*

- Simulated a "strokes toy model" by using **AllenSDK** for data retrieval.

Interests & Side Projects

Hackathons

Oct 2021 **IEEE SMC 2021**, Virtual Br41n.io Hackathon.

- Achieved state-of-the-art classification error scores in sub-second settings on SSVEP data analysis by employing **Random Convolutional Kernels** for **feature extraction**.

Apr 2021 **Virtual BR41N.IO**, International Brain Computer Interface Hackathon.

- Won the competition by employing **Topological Data Analysis** techniques and **data augmentation** on ECoG time series. Published pre-print *"Topological Data Analysis (TDA) Techniques Enhance Hand Pose Classification from ECoG Neural Recordings"*

Personal Projects

Feb 2021 – Nov 2021 **LearningNLP**: A tutorial series on Natural Language Processing, mainly applied on Social Science problems.

- Designed, wrote and coded several tutorials with the aim of paving the way for NLP competitions, such as the CommonLit Readability Challenge. Source code at https://github.com/MachineLearningJournalClub/LearningNLP

Jun 2020 – Mar 2021 **GAMELEON**: A multi-agent simulation of Covid-19 epidemics in the city of Toronto.

- Processed **GIS** data and employed multiplex networks with Python (*multinetx*), multi-agent-systems with **GAMA** and gathered data through APIs (e.g. TomTom API for traffic data). Source code at https://github.com/MachineLearningJournalClub/GAMELEON/

May 2020 – Present **How to Tackle a Machine Learning Competition**: A tutorial series on practical Machine Learning and useful Data Science for competitions.

- I designed the entire series, wrote and coded a few lectures, as a propaedeutic material for the students I mentored for **ProjectX2020**. Source at https://github.com/MachineLearningJournalClub/HowToTackleAMLCompetition

May 2018 – Jun 2018 **MineNavigation**: Navigation Tasks in a Reinforcement Learning Framework

- Developed a Reinforcement Learning exploration strategy for my Minecraft Agent (Microsoft's **Project Malmo**). Source at terna.to.it/tesineEconofisica/navigation.htm

Volunteering

Mar 2020 – Jun 2020 **Covid-19 Forecasting** – Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford

- Built parts of database by annotating useful news. Project available at epidemicforecasting.org

Mar 2020 **Covid-19 News Tracker**, – University of Greenwich, ISI Foundation & Quick Algorithm

- Annotated news for sentiment analysis purposes. Project available at covid19.scops.ai

Sep 2017 – Mar 2018 **TEDxTorino**

- Collaborated as a translator (Italian to English) and as a member of Curators Team, responsible of guiding and supervising TEDx speakers.