

# Selma Mazioud

📍 Berkeley, CA    ✉ selma\_mazioud@berkeley.edu    ☎ (475) 287-9005

## Summary

I am an incoming Statistics PhD student at UC Berkeley and a recent graduate of Yale College, where I majored in Applied Mathematics with a concentration in Machine Learning. I am interested in the mathematical foundations of machine learning and in statistical learning models that rely on a geometric understanding of the data (including graph neural networks), with applications in high-energy physics and biomedical sciences.

## Education

UC Berkeley, *PhD in Statistics* start in Sept 2025

Yale University, *BS in Applied Mathematics, with distinction* Sept 2021 – May 2025

GPA: 3.88/4.0

Skills: Python, C++, C, R, NumPy, SciPy, PyTorch, PyG, CVXPY.

## Research Interests

Geometric Deep Learning, Graph Signal Processing, Manifold Learning, ML for physics, foundations of AI/ML.

## Publications, presentations, and preprints

**Exploring the Manifold of Neural Networks using Diffusion Geometry** October 2024

Elliott Abel\*, Drew Steindl\*, **Selma Mazioud\***, Ellie Schueler\*, Folu Ogundipe\*, Ellen Zhang, Yvan Grinspan, Kristof Reimann, Peyton Crevasse, Dhananjay Bhaskar, Kaly Zhang, Tim Rudner, Ian Adelstein, Smita Krishnaswamy.

*Under review*, 28th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS 2025). [arXiv](#) [🔗](#)

**Sequentially Charming Chemical Freeze-out in Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions at the LHC and RHIC** October 2024

Fernando Flor, **Selma Mazioud**.

2024 Fall Meeting of the American Physical Society, Division of Nuclear Physics. [Abstract](#) [🔗](#)

**Statistical Hadronization Model Calculations of Heavy Flavor Hadron Production in Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions at RHIC and the LHC** September 2023

**Selma Mazioud**, Fernando Flor.

XXXth International Conference on Ultra-relativistic Nucleus-Nucleus Collisions. [Abstract and poster](#). [🔗](#)

## Research experience and projects

Wu Tsai Institute Krishnaswamy Laboratory. June 2024—May 2025

- **Senior project.** *Measuring Entropy in Graph Datasets Using Geometric Scattering and Diffusion Geometry.* Advised by Yale Professors Smita Krishnaswamy and Ian Adelstein.
  - Proposed a novel method to compute entropy over a set of graphs, providing a statistic that quantifies the variability of a graph dataset
  - Demonstrated that our method effectively captures the variance of a graph dataset through experiments on toy datasets generated by increasingly perturbing a graph.
- **Yale REU.** *Exploring the Manifold of Neural Networks Using Diffusion Geometry.* Advised by Yale Professors Smita Krishnaswamy and Ian Adelstein.
  - Showed that high-performing neural networks, across architectures, exhibit higher diffusion spectral entropy in their hidden embeddings of the data.

- Using the eigenspectrum of the manifold graph Laplacian, showed that test accuracy and learning rate are low-frequency signals, which indicates we are able to interpolate in the space of neural networks to choose parameter ranges.

**Wright Laboratory.** Relativistic Heavy-Ion Group (Caines Group).

May 2023—May 2025

- **Class project.** *Graph-based Machine-Learning Methods for Particle Reconstruction at the LHC.* Advised by Yale Professor Helen Caines.
  - Utilize a trainable adjacency matrix to embed node features into a highly expressive latent space where clustering is easier to deploy.
- **Research project for credit.** *Machine-Learning Methods for Particle Reconstruction at the LHC.* Advised by Yale Professor Helen Caines.
  - Demonstrated that an integrated approach combining quadratic regression and k-means clustering not only attained high accuracy but also exhibited remarkable robustness against Gaussian noise.
- **Yale REU.** *Statistical Hadronization Model Calculations of Charm Hadron Production in Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions at the LHC.* Advised by Yale Professor Helen Caines.
  - Modeled the relationship between fugacity factor, which accounts for the production of charmed hadrons resulting from the initial collision scattering, and temperature of chemical freezeout.
  - Showed that charm quarks hadronize at higher temperature than strange and light quarks.

## Fellowships and awards

Morse Head of College Leadership Award; 2025

Yale Science and Engineering Association Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement; 2025

McCall MacBain Scholarship Finalist; 2025

Summer Undergraduate Research in Mathematics at Yale (SUMRY) fellowship; 2024

Yale Richter fellowship (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship); 2023, 2024

## Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Learning Assistant for Theory of Statistics	Spring 2025
Course-based Peer Tutor for Calculus II	Fall 2023—Spring 2025
Undergraduate Learning Assistant for Introductory Machine Learning	Fall 2024
Undergraduate Learning Assistant for Algorithms	Spring 2024
Undergraduate Learning Assistant for Data Analysis and Exploration	Spring 2023, Fall 2023
French Language Tutor	Fall 2022, Spring 2023

## Work experience

<b>Tsai Center for Innovation Thinking at Yale,</b> <i>Venture Pathway Coordinator</i>	August 2022—May 2023
<b>Capgemini,</b> <i>Software Engineering Intern</i>	May—July 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Developed image processing methods using Sobel's, the Laplacian, and the watershed algorithms.</li> <li>◦ Designed an efficient implementation of the Levenshtein algorithm adapted to French characters, learned to navigate a Linux environment.</li> </ul>	

## Service and Leadership

<b>Applied Mathematics Departmental Student Advisory Committee</b>	Fall 2024, Spring 2025
<b>Middle Eastern and North African Student Association</b>	August 2022—May 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ When I got to Yale, there were only 4 cultural centers, none of which captured the complexity of the MENA identity, left institutionally under-resourced. Alongside peers I helped create a 5th center that my community could belong in in my quest for my own cultural identity.</li> <li>◦ Secured a \$60,000 budget for Yale's first full MENA space (the first of its kind in the Ivy League) and hired a full-time MENA Assistant Director. <a href="#">Yale President Announcement</a>. <a href="#">The Yale Daily News</a>. <a href="#">The Yale Daily News</a>. <a href="#">The Yale Herald</a>.</li> </ul>	