

ARIEL K. FELDMAN

Neuroengineering Graduate Student

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Neural Computation

Carnegie Mellon University

 Sept 2020 - present

Advisors: Pulkit Grover & Doug Weber

B.A. in Computer Science and Cognitive Sciences

Rice University

 Aug 2016 - May 2020

Minor in Neuroscience

Advisors: Caleb Kemere & Jacob Robinson

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

Grover Lab & Neuromechanics Lab

 Aug 2020 - present  Carnegie Mellon University

I am currently advised by **Dr. Pulkit Grover** in the **Grover Lab** and **Dr. Doug Weber** in the **Neuromechanics Lab**. We are investigating the information contained within grid cells, and the efficiency of this representation using information theoretic methodologies. We are also currently exploring ways to apply information theoretic measures to other areas of the brain, across different species. This includes in human SEEG patients, in which we are exploring how environmental representations are created, maintained and updated.










Research Assistant

Realtime Neural Engineering Lab

 Jan 2017 - Jan 2020  Rice University

I spent my time at Rice University working under the guidance of **Dr. Caleb Kemere** in the **Realtime Neural Engineering Laboratory**. During my time in the RNEL, I have contributed to the design and fabrication of a novel experimental paradigm, developed and trained a convolutional neural network for rodent video tracking, and collaborated with **Dr. Jacob Robinson's lab**. I most recently led my own project to investigate machine learning methodologies for predicting sharp-wave ripple events in rodent hippocampal LFP, with the goal of improving state-of-the-art detection and disruption algorithms. For these projects specifically, I have developed in Python, C, C++ and MATLAB, using Tensorflow and Keras to build networks, and have worked extensively with animals via behavioral experiments and participating in implantation surgeries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

-  **2021 Carnegie Prize in Mind & Brain Science PhD Fellowship**
Selected to receive funding for one year of graduate school and travel to train with the Prize's winner, Dr. Sheena Josselyn.
-  **Vice President of Finance for Carnegie Mellon's Neuroscience Institute Student Organization**
Proposing and managing budgets with the administration, as well as planning events for the graduate students in the Neuroscience Institute.
-  **2020 RK Mellon Presidential Fellowship**
Selected to receive \$30,000 towards my first year of graduate school.
-  **Cornell NeuroNex REU Program**
Selected to receive a \$4600 stipend and conduct machine learning research for neuroscientific problems.
-  **Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program**
Selected to receive a \$2500 research grant for machine learning & neuroengineering research.
-  **Internal Vice President of the Rice Neuroscience Society**
Coordinated campus-wide events to engage students in neuroscience.
-  **Rice University Electrical and Computer Engineering Affiliates Day**
Author on the first place winning Graduate Project.
-  **Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium**
Rice University representative for Neuroengineering.
-  **TEDxRiceU**
Presented a TEDxRiceU talk on Women in Martial Arts and STEM.

Research Assistant

Robinson Lab for Nano-Neurotechnology

📅 Feb 2018 - Jan 2020 📍 Rice University

I designed and manufactured an original implant to test the functionality of a novel material from the **Robinson Lab** as a wireless stimulator *in vivo* and conducted numerous behavioral experiments (unpublished). Additionally, I analyzed motion data with a slightly modified version of **DeepLabCut** to determine efficacy of the stimulating material. Paper resulting from this collaboration **published in Neuron**.

NSF NeuroNex REU Fellow

Sabuncu Lab

📅 Jun 2019 - Aug 2019 📍 Cornell University

I spent the summer of 2019 conducting research under the supervision of **Dr. Mert Sabuncu** and **Dr. Jesse Goldberg** at Cornell University regarding machine learning applications to identifying and characterizing budgie behavior using spatio-temporal data mining. While at Cornell, I also mentored several students in the Goldberg lab in computational methods they can apply to their work, which continued after I left.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

STEM NOLA Course Instructor

MantisEDU

📅 Jan 2021 - Feb 2021

Taking the course I developed the previous summer, "Internet of Things (IOT) with Machine Learning and Python" with **MantisEDU**, and teaching middle/high school students virtually via **STEM NOLA**. The course is currently in prep to go nationwide.

Rice University ELITE Tech Camp Live Instructor

Rice University

📅 Summer 2020

Teaching "Internet of Things (IOT) with Machine Learning and Python" to high school students via **Rice Center for Engineering Leadership's ELITE Tech Camp**. I created course material, designed programming exercises and tutorials, and wrote lesson plans for the summer course. Students learn how to collect their own data, access datasets on the internet, and apply various machine learning methodologies to analyze this data.

Lovett College Academic Fellow

Rice University

📅 Mar 2018 - May 2020

Selected on behalf of the Rice University Office of Academic Advising on the basis of proven academic achievement and demonstrated willingness to help fellow students. I offer on-call aid in Computer Science, Neuroscience and paper writing (historical/STEM research) through weekly office hours, one-on-one tutoring, review sessions for classes in my fields, and planning academic outreach events to engage students.

ELEC 220 Lab Assistant

SOFTWARE LANGUAGES

Python Java C C++ MATLAB
HTML/CSS

HARDWARE SKILLS

Embedded Systems Arduino Raspberry Pi
CAD Design/3D printing Electronics prototyping

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Multi-threading Parallel Processing
Neural Networks Anomaly Detection

NEUROSCIENCE SKILLS

Behavioral Paradigms Microdrive Fabrication
Hippocampal Implants Animal Handling

LANGUAGES

English ● ● ● ● ●
Spanish ● ● ● ● ●
Hebrew ● ● ● ● ●
Mandarin ● ● ● ● ●
German ● ● ● ● ●

PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

📄 Journal Articles

- Singer, A et al. (2020). "Magnetolectric materials for miniature, wireless neural stimulation at therapeutic frequencies". In: *Neuron*.

👤 Podium Presentations

- Feldman, Ariel K., P. Venkatesh, et al. (2022). *An Information Theoretic Analysis of Grid Cells*. Rice Neuroengineering Initiative Conference. Houston, TX.
- Feldman, Ariel K., Eugene Kim, et al. (2019). *Building a Basis for Budgie Behavior*. Cornell NeuroNex. Ithaca, NY.
- Feldman, Ariel K., S. Dutta, ER. Ackermann, et al. (2017). *Development Of The RElevator For Exploring 3 Dimensional Spatial Representations Of Rodent Hippocampal Place Cells*. Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium. Houston, TX.

Rice University

📅 Spring 2020

Assisted Professor in the Practice Ray Simar in conducting labs and transferring content online via Zoom during the COVID-19 Pandemic for Fundamentals of Computer Engineering. We were regarded by the University as **an example for other courses** involving computational and hardware components to move online in the future.

COMP 140 Teaching Assistant

Rice University

📅 Fall 2019

Responsibilities include: leading review sessions, creating exam review material, grading exams and projects, and holding weekly office hours to assist students in mastery of material. Check out some of the material I provide [here](#).

NEUR 385/585 Teaching Assistant

Rice University

📅 Fall 2018

Responsibilities include: leading review sessions, creating exam review material, grading exams and projects, and holding weekly office hours to assist students in mastery of material. Check out some of the material I provide [here](#).

👤 Poster Presentations

- Dutta, S., **Feldman, Ariel K.**, and CT. Kemere (2019a). "Selective Disruption of Hippocampal Sharp-Wave Ripples Leads to Impaired Object-Place Recognition Memory". In: *Society for Neuroscience*. Chicago, IL.
- – (2019b). "Selective Disruption of Hippocampal Sharp-Wave Ripples Leads to Impaired Object-Place Recognition Memory". In: *UT Austin Conference on Learning and Memory*. Austin, TX.
- **Feldman, Ariel K.**, S. Dutta, and CT. Kemere (2019). "A Machine Learning Approach to Predicting Occurrence of Sharp-Wave Ripple Complexes". In: *Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium*. Houston, TX.