

Orit Peleg, PhD

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Department of Computer Science
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Academic Appointments

2018–present **University of Colorado at Boulder, USA**
Assistant Professor at the Computer Science Department and the Biofrontiers Institute

2019–present **Santa Fe Institute, USA**
External Professor

2014–2017 **Harvard University, USA**
Postdoctoral fellow at SEAS

2012–2013 **Harvard University, USA**
Postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology

2012 **ETH Zürich and University of Zürich, Switzerland**
Research assistant at the Institute of Neuroinformatics (INI)

Education

2008–2012 **PhD in Material Science, ETH Zürich, Switzerland**
Thesis title: “Simple Models of Competitive Interactions in Biophysical Systems”, supervised by Prof. Martin Kröger, coadvised by Prof. Viola Vogel ETH Zürich and Prof. Yitzhak Rabin, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

2006–2007 **MSc degree in Physics, Bar-Ilan University, Israel *summa cum laude***
Thesis title: “Simple Model of Microphase Separation in Polymer Gels; Molecular Dynamics Approach”, supervised by Prof. Yitzhak Rabin

2003–2007 **BSc degree in Physics and Computer Science, Bar-Ilan University, Israel**

Journal Publications

G.K. Nave, N.T. Mitchell, J.A. Chan Dick, T. Schuessler, J.A. Lagarrigue, O. Peleg; Attraction, dynamics, and phase transitions in fire ant tower-building
bioRxiv Submitted. preprint: doi.org/10.1101/864306 (2019) ▶

S. Bidari, O. Peleg, Z.P. Kilpatrick; Social inhibition maintains adaptivity and consensus of foraging honeybee swarms in dynamic environments
J. R. Soc. Open Sci. Accepted for publication. biorxiv preprint: doi.org/10.1101/694786 (2019) ▶

L. Khaldy, O. Peleg, C. Tocco, L. Mahadevan, M. Byrne and M. Dacke; The effect of step size on straight-line orientation
J. R. Soc. Interface 16: 20190181 (2019) ▶

J. Peters, O. Peleg, L. Mahadevan; Collective ventilation in honeybee nests
J. R. Soc. Interface 16: 20180561 (2019) ▶

- O. Peleg; Mechanical hive mind
Phys. Today 72(4), 66 (2019) ▶
- O. Peleg*, J. Peters*, M. Salcedo, L. Mahadevan; Collective mechanical adaptation of honeybee swarms
Nat. Phys. 14, 1193–1198 (2018) ▶ *Contributed equally to this work
- O. Peleg, L. Mahadevan; Optimal switching between geocentric and egocentric strategies in navigation
J. R. Soc. Open Sci. 3, 160128 (2016) ▶
- L.S. Shagolsen, D. Osmanovic, O. Peleg, Y. Rabin; Pair interaction ordering in fluids with random interactions
J. Chem. Phys. 142, 051104 (2015) ▶
- O. Peleg, J.M. Choi, E. Shakhnovich; Evolution of specificity in protein-protein interactions
Biophys. J. 107 (7), 1686–1696 (2014) ▶
- M.B. Harasim, B. Wunderlich, O. Peleg, M. Kröger, A.R. Bausch; Direct observation of the dynamics of semiflexible polymers in shear flow
Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 108302 (2013) ▶
- M. Tagliazucchi*, O. Peleg*, M. Kröger, Y. Rabin, I. Szleifer; Effect of charge, hydrophobicity and sequence of nucleoporins on the translocation of model particles through the nuclear pore complex
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 110, 3363–3368 (2013) ▶ *Contributed equally to this work
- O. Peleg, T. Savin, G. Kolmakov, I. Salib, M. Kröger, A.C. Balazs, V. Vogel; Fibers with integrated mechano-chemical switches: Minimalistic design principles derived from fibronectin
Biophys. J. 103, 1909 (2012) ▶
- I. Salib, G. Kolmakov, B. Bucior, O. Peleg, T. Savin, M. Kröger, V. Vogel, K. Matyjaszewski, A.C. Balazs; Using mesoscopic models to design strong and tough biomimetic polymer networks
Langmuir 27, 13796–13805 (2011) ▶
- O. Peleg*, M. Tagliazucchi*, M. Kröger, Y. Rabin, I. Szleifer; Morphology control of hairy nanopores
ACS Nano, 5(6), 4737, (2011) ▶ *Contributed equally to this work
- O. Peleg, R.Y.H. Lim; Converging on the function of intrinsically disordered nucleoporins in the nuclear pore complex
Biol. Chem. 391, 719–730 (2010) ▶
- M. Kröger, O. Peleg, A. Halperin; From dendrimers to dendronized polymers and forests: Scaling theory and its limitations
Macromolecules 43, 6213–6224 (2010) ▶
- S. Fransson, O. Peleg, N. Lorén, A.-M. Hermansson, M. Kröger; Modelling and confocal microscopy of biopolymer mixtures in confined geometries
Soft Matter 6, 2713–2722 (2010) ▶
- O. Peleg, M. Kröger, Y. Rabin; Effect of network topology on phase separation in two-dimensional Lennard–Jones networks
Phys. Rev. E 79, 040401(R); also included in the Virtual *J. Biol. Phys.* 17:8 (2009) ▶
- O. Peleg, M. Kröger, Y. Rabin; Model of microphase separation in two-dimensional gels
Macromolecules 41, 3267–3275 (2008) ▶
- M. Kröger, O. Peleg, Y. Ding, Y. Rabin; Formation of double helical and filamentous structures in models of physical and chemical gels
Soft Matter 4, 18–28 (2008) ▶
- O. Peleg, M. Kröger, I. Hecht, Y. Rabin; Filamentous networks in phase-separating two-dimensional gels
Europhys. Lett. 77, 58007 (2007) ▶

Conference Presentations and Seminar Talks; Invited [I], Contributed [C]

- [I] Navigational Algorithms and Neural Circuit Computations Directing Olfactory Search Across Species. *HHMI-Janelia Research Campus*, Ashburn, VA, USA (2020)

Presentations Cont.

- [I] Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Honeybees. *Princeton Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar*, Princeton, NJ, USA (2019)
- [C] Collective Mechanical Adaptation of Honeybee Swarms. *SIAM Conference on Dynamical Systems*, Snowbird, UT, USA (2019) ▶
- [I] Physics of social insects. *Computations in Science Seminars*, University of Chicago, IL, USA (2019) ▶
- [I] Physics of social insects. *Los Alamos National Laboratory, Center for Nonlinear Studies Colloquia*, Los Alamos, NM, USA (2019) ▶
- [I] Collective mechanical adaptation of honeybee swarms. *American Physical Society (APS) March Meeting*, Boston, MA, USA (2019) ▶
- [I] Physics of social insects. *The Boulder School in Condensed Matter and Materials Physics*, Boulder, CO, USA (2019) ▶
- [I] Collective Adaptation in Honeybee Swarms. *Bio-mechanics workshop on “Cell membrane dynamics and micro-circulation in tissue”*, University of Oslo, Norway (2018)
- [I] The Physics of Disordered Living Systems: Collective Adaptation in Honeybee Swarms. *PIER Graduate Week 2018*, Hamburg, Germany (2018) ▶
- [I] Intrinsically Disordered Living Systems. *Santa Fe Institute Seminar*, Santa Fe, NM, USA (2018) ▶
- [I] Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Honeybees. *Active Matter Workshop at CU Boulder*, Boulder, CO, USA (2018) ▶
- [I] Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Honeybees. *SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences*, Minneapolis, MI, USA (2018) ▶
- [I] Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Honeybees. *Robinson Lab Seminar, University of Illinois*, Urbana Champaign, IL, USA (2018)
- [I] Local Sensing in Disordered Living Systems. *Janelia/MSRI Summer Graduate School on Mathematical Analysis of Behavior*, Ashburn, VA (2018) ▶
- [C] Collective Mechanical Adaptation of Honeybee Swarms. *Dynamics Days*, Denver, CO, USA (2018) ▶
- [I] Honeybee Collective Behavior. *Summer Program of the Aspen Center for Physics (ACP)*, Aspen, CO (2018) ▶
- [I] Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Social Insects. *UCSD QBio Seminar*, San Diego, CA (2018) ▶
- [I] Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Social Insects. *Bioinformatics Supergroup Seminar*, Boulder, CO, USA (2018)
- [C] Collective Mechanical Adaptation of Honeybee Swarms. *Distributed, Collective Computation in Biological and Artificial Systems*, Janelia Farm, Ashburn, VA, USA (2018) ▶
- [I] Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Social Insects. *2nd Week on Complexity Sciences at C3-UNAM*, Mexico City, Mexico (2018) ▶
- [I] Local Sensing in Disordered Living Systems. *Biophysics Seminar, Department of Physics, Princeton University*, Princeton, NJ, USA (2017) ▶
- [I] Local Sensing in Disordered Living Systems. *Mechanical Engineering Special Seminar, MIT*, Cambridge, MA, USA (2017)
- [I] Local Sensing in Disordered Living Systems. *Complex Systems Seminar, University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI, USA (2017)

Presentations Cont.

- [I] Local Sensing in Disordered Living Systems. *BioFrontiers Symposium and Computer Science Colloquium*, Boulder, CO, USA (2017)
- [C] Mechanical adaptation in adhesive bee swarms. *American Physical Society (APS) March Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA (2017) ▶
- [C] How a bee swarm adapts to dynamic mechanical stress. *Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA (2017) ▶
- [C] Optimal switching between geocentric and egocentric strategies in navigation. *Insect Navigation Workshop*, Janelia Farm, VA, USA (2016) ▶
- [C] Ecophysiology of honeybee swarms. *18th Annual Greater Boston Area Statistical Mechanics Meeting*, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA (2016) ▶
- [C] Dynamic Morphology in Honeybee Swarms. *Annual Meeting of the International Physics of Living Systems (iPoLS) Network*, Harvard University, MA, USA (2016) ▶
- [C] Dynamic Morphology in Honeybee Swarms. *Active and Smart Matter: A New Frontier for Science and Engineering*, Syracuse University, NY, USA (2016) ▶
- [C] Dynamic Morphology in Honeybee Swarms. *Social Insects In the North East Regions*, Pennsylvania State University, PA, USA (2016) ▶
- [I] Systems Biophysics of Protein–Protein Interactions. *Green Center for Systems Biology*, UT Southwestern Medical Center, TX, USA (2015)
- [C] Optimal Intermittent Reorientation in Insect Navigation. *Gordon Research Conference on Stochastic Physics in Biology*, Ventura, CA, USA (2015) ▶
- [C] Evolution of Specificity in Protein-Protein Interactions. *16th Annual Greater Boston Area Statistical Mechanics Meeting*, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA (2014) ▶
- [C] Phase separation in randomly crosslinked elastic Lennard–Jones networks. *EU STREP meeting*, Gothenburg, Sweden and *Soft Matter Days*, Bonn, Germany (2008)

Teaching Experience

My teaching responsibilities include developing and delivering lectures, preparing tests, leading class discussion, generating new course materials, and mentoring students in active project-based learning:

Dynamic Models in Biology, University of Colorado at Boulder; *Spring 2019, 2020*

Janelia/MSRI Summer Graduate School on Mathematical Analysis of Behavior; *Summer 2018*

Bio-inspired Multi-agent Systems, University of Colorado at Boulder; *Spring 2018, 2019, 2020*

CSE Capstone Project Course, Harvard University; *Spring 2016*

Inverse Problems in Science and Engineering, Harvard University; *Spring 2016*

2014 Brains, Minds and Machines Summer Course, The Marine Biological Laboratory; *Summer 2014*

Laboratory Course in Simulation Methods, Department of Materials, ETH Zürich; *Fall 2009 and 2011*

Computational Polymer Physics, ETH Zürich; *Spring 2008, 2009 and 2010*

Programming and Simulation Techniques in Materials Science, ETH Zürich; *Spring 2008*

Computational Physics, Bar–Ilan University; *Winter 2007*

Numerical Analysis, Bar–Ilan University; *Winter 2006*

Honors and Grants

Research Grants

Main PI on [Human Frontiers Science Program Young Investigator Grant](#), 1.1M USD, The Dynamics of Information Flow in a Social Network of Mutually Shading Plants (with Co PIs Yasmine Meroz and Alex Jordan, 2019-2021)

[NSF Grant, Physics of Living Systems Program](#), 474K USD, Collective Ecophysiology and Physics of Social Insects, Award Abstract 1606895 (with L. Mahadevan, 2016)

Swiss National Science Foundation [Fellowship for Prospective Researcher](#), 44K CHF, Evolutionary Design of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins, grant number PBEZP3 140130 4 (2012)

[ETH Research Grant](#) ETH-17 10-1, 53.6K CHF (with M. Kröger, 2010)

Seed Grants

[CU Boulder, Multi-functional Materials IRT](#), 10K USD, Self-organized Mechanical Load Bearing in Bee Swarms: 3D Structure Reconstruction via X-ray (with F. Vernerey, 2018)

[CU Boulder, Autonomous Systems IRT](#), 5K USD, Autonomous Distributed Computation in Honeybee Swarms (2018)

Travel Grants

Participant Travel Grant for *Insect Navigation Workshop, Janelia Farm* (2016)

Junior Scientist Travel Grant for *Active and Smart Matter, Syracuse University* (2016)

Contributed Lecture Travel Grant *GRC on Stochastic Physics in Biology* (2015)

Honors

Featured on *Nature Podcast*: Negative emissions and swarms under strain (2018) ►

Selected to participate at *Rising Stars in Physics, MIT* (2016)

Chosen for a Junior Scientist Lecture *GRC on Stochastic Physics in Biology* (2015)

“Evolution of Specificity in Protein-Protein Interactions” paper chosen among Biophys. J. *Best of 2014* (2014)

“Fibers with Integrated Mechanochemical Switches” paper featured on Biophys. J. *New and Notable* (2012)

“Fibers with Integrated Mechanochemical Switches” paper *featured on the cover* of Biophys. J. (2012)

“Converging of the function of intrinsically disordered nups...” *featured on the cover* of Biol. Chem. (2010)

“Formation of double helical and filamentous structures” paper *featured on the cover* of Soft Matter (2008)

Service

Peer Review Contribution

Polymers, MDPI; Scientific Reports, Nature Publishing; Chemical Physics Letters, Elsevier; Proceedings of the Royal Society B; Journal of the Royal Society, Interface; 2018 Int. Symp. on Distributed Autonomous Robotic Systems; Physical Biology, IOP; Science Advances, AAAS; Robotics and Autonomous Systems, Elsevier, Animal Behaviour

Conferences

Co-organizer of *Physics of Social Interactions* Focus Session at APS (American Physical Society) March Meeting 2020, March 2-6, 2020 Denver, CO, USA (2020) ►

Co-organizer of *Mechanics of growth, morphogenesis and evolution of biological solids* Symposium at Society for Engineering Science (SES) 2019 meeting, Washington University, St. Louis, USA (2019) ►

Chair of *CP31 Collective Behavior* Session at *SIAM Conference on Dynamical Systems*, Snowbird, UT, USA (2019) ►

Co-chair of *Neuromechanics II* session at Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA (2017)

Committees

Executive Committee of the Division of Biological Physics, American Physical Society, Member-at-Large, (2020-2023)

Member, BioFrontiers Institute Council (2018-2019); Member, Engineering College Material Science faculty Search (2018-2019); Member, BioFrontiers Institute Search Committee for Scientific Web Developer (BioFrontiers Institute Information Technology) (2018)

Outreach

Public talk about Honeybee research at [MileHiveBeeClub](#), Denver CO, USA (2019)

Participant in [Chords and Codons: Music About Science](#) at the BioFrontiers CU Boulder Multidisciplinary multimedia with live and electronic music and visualizations (2019)

Volunteer at [Code Wagon: Girls Computer Coding Camp](#) a program to introduce girls and women to CS in CU Boulder (2018) ▶

[Skype with a Scientist](#) sessions with middle schools students in Israel, Costa Rica and the USA (2018-2019)

Volunteer at the [Mentoring Program of Harvard Graduate Women in Science](#) connecting female graduate students in science, math, and engineering with faculty (2016-2017) ▶

Volunteer at [ProjectCS Girls](#) Competition for Middle School Girls (mentee, a 6th-grader, made it to the semifinals by building a virtual medical diagnostic program) (2016) ▶

Volunteer at [Girls Who Code](#) (Harvard Club) and [Big Sister Boston](#) (2015)