Mariano Rodriguez

Lead AI/ML Engineer & Researcher | Computer Vision, Speech & Language Models

PhD & Postdoc, ENS Paris-Saclay | WACV / CVPR author | Research shipped to production

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Applied ML researcher and engineer who ships to production. PhD and postdoc in computer vision at ENS Paris-Saclay, peer-reviewed publications at WACV, SIIMS, ICIP and CVPR Workshop, and industry-contracted research for Huawei and Kayrros. As co-founder and CSO of **Freeda** I set the research agenda, hired and led a team of 3 ML engineers, and owned the full loop — data and annotation tooling, model training and evaluation, inference optimisation, serving, DevOps and compliance (ISO 27001, SOC 2, GDPR) — for a vision + LLM compliance product in production. Previously founding ML engineer at **Gladia** (speech) and video researcher at **Powder**. 6 years turning applied research into systems that hold up under production load and customer scrutiny.

Research Highlights

- **Perception models.** Up to three generations of plan-understanding models at Freeda (current architectures: RF-DETR, YOLO-OBB, SegFormer), all improving on the Roboflow baseline, alongside template matching and SAM 2 / SAM 3 one-click area selection.
- **Plan-description layer.** A structured record of measurements derived from detected shapes, readable by agents and humans alike — one representation that stops every downstream step from re-deriving geometry, saving quality, time and money.
- **Agentic verification.** Two iterations: retired a human-in-the-loop design that worked on paper but needed too many interventions; shipped a recipe-based agent following a human-authored roadmap, with a human asked only at final sign-off and skills that write comments and annotations directly into the delivered PDFs.
- **Document intelligence.** Freeda Assistant — MinerU OCR, contextual retrieval, hybrid search and reranking — over thousands of regulation pages; Smart Selection uses LLM contextualisation of retrieved patterns to capture every text span tied to a concept (apartments, rooms) by style and context.
- **Codegen.** Autonomous coding agents for dynamic custom workflows, including customer-facing interactive reports built as mini-apps (single-page HTML emitted from a React + Tailwind app).
- **Prompt optimisation.** Automated prompt improvement adapted from a Microsoft method, removing manual prompt iteration as the bottleneck on quality.
- **Speech inference at commercial scale.** Rebuilt Whisper serving at Gladia (ONNX, NVIDIA Triton, flame-graph profiling): lower cost per hour of audio at better WER than the market at the time; owned speaker diarization and voice-activity detection (pyannote, silero), unlocking the meeting-transcription use case.
- **Video understanding shipped to consumers.** Event and highlight detection in gameplay streamer video at Powder; game and spoken-language identification on-device via ONNX/CoreML; summarization model presented at CVPR Workshop 2023.
- **Contracted research.** Huawei: recurrent-CNN joint video denoising and demosaicing (published WACV 2023). Kayrros: CNN cloud detectors for satellite imagery.

Selected Publications

Video joint denoising and demosaicing with recurrent CNNs — WACV 2023

Multi-annotation attention model for video summarization — CVPR-W 2023

Robust estimation of local affine maps and its applications to image matching — WACV 2020

Covering the Space of Tilts — SIIMS 2018

Full list: rdguez-mariano.github.io/publications

Leadership & Experience

Co-Founder & Chief Scientific Officer

Nov 2024 – Nov 2026

Freeda, Paris

Owned scientific strategy, research roadmap and the production AI platform for automated compliance review of pre-construction plans against building regulation.

- **Research direction & team.** Hired and led a team of 3 ML engineers; owned hiring, the AI roadmap, the evaluation bar and the in-house-vs-foundation-model boundary.
- **Vision stack.** Three generations of plan-understanding models (RF-DETR, YOLO-OBB, SegFormer) beating vendor baselines; SAM 2 / SAM 3 interactive area selection; in-house CVAT-based annotation tool for labelling text and vision data across document folders.
- **LLM / agent stack.** Recipe-based verification agents with human sign-off and PDF-annotation skills; document RAG (MinerU OCR, hybrid retrieval, reranking); Smart Selection contextual span capture; automated prompt optimisation.
- **Serving & infra.** Self-hosted serving stack on GCP Compute Engine, NVIDIA Triton, Celery, LangChain, 4 DBs (Elasticsearch, Postgres, Redis, ChromaDB), monitoring (Grafana, Loki, Prometheus), GitHub CI/CD, auto-deploys; first working prototype ran at $<$ EUR 300/month with an NVIDIA L4 GPU; custom codegen mini-apps.
- **Compliance.** Drove the platform's compliance programme: ISO 27001, SOC 2 and GDPR.
- **Production evidence.** Compliance workflows, engine and infrastructure from blank page to production in a few months, cutting manual plan-review time 3$\times$ vs market standards; 10+ paying customers within 10 months; technical basis of the EUR 3.5M (Frst, Brick & Mortar)

and EUR 18.5M (Notion) rounds.

Founder & Chief Technology Officer
May 2024 – Nov 2024

Nano Quant Services, Paris

Sole technical founder: end-to-end ML product for value-stock identification — Selenium acquisition, model training, assistant with hybrid search & RAG, FastAPI backend, React/Node frontend, self-managed Kubernetes deployment — shipped alone in less than 6 months.

Founding Machine Learning Engineer — Speech
Jan 2023 – May 2024

Gladia, Paris

Applied research at commercial scale: speech-to-text infrastructure sold as a public API to 100+ customers (PAYG and enterprise contracts); Gladia was later acquired by OVH.

- **Inference research with a direct margin effect.** Rebuilt Whisper for production serving: lower cost per hour of audio at better WER than the market at the time.
- **Owned a research area end to end.** Speaker diarization and voice-activity detection (pyannote, silero), which unlocked a customer segment: the meeting-transcription use case.

Machine Learning Engineer — Video & Multimodal
Jul 2021 – Jan 2023

Powder, Paris

Applied computer vision inside a consumer gaming product.

- **Research shipped to consumers.** Event and highlight detection in gameplay streamer video.
- **On-device deployment.** Game identification in video and spoken-language identification exported to ONNX/CoreML.
- **State-of-the-art R&D.** Multi-annotation attention model for video summarization, presented at CVPR Workshop 2023.
- **Research infrastructure.** Set up the team's training and evaluation stack (PyTorch Lightning, Comet/WandB, Gin, CI with reproducible experiments).

Postdoctoral Researcher, Applied Mathematics
Jul 2020 – Jul 2021

École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay

Industry-funded research contracts — research run to an external client's specification and deadline. Advisor: Gabriele Facciolo.

- **Huawei.** Recurrent-CNN joint video denoising and demosaicing delivered under contract; published at WACV 2023.
- **Kayrros.** CNN cloud detectors for satellite imagery.

PhD Researcher in Applied Mathematics
Oct 2016 – Jul 2020

École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay

FMJH-funded doctoral research, run as an employed research position. Advisors: Jean-Michel Morel & Julie Delon.

- **Affine-invariant image comparison.** Robust estimation of local affine maps and its applications to image matching; published at WACV 2020.
- **Geometric estimation.** Fundamental and homography matrix estimation.
- **Repeated-structure detection.** Detection of repeated objects in images.

Technical Depth

Research	Computer vision, NLP, speech recognition & diarization, agents/skills/RAG, video understanding, geometric estimation, optimisation, applied mathematics
Modelling	PyTorch, PyTorch Lightning, TensorFlow, Keras, OpenCV, scikit-learn, LangChain, ONNX, CoreML
Serving	GCP, AWS, Slurm, Kubernetes, Docker Swarm, NVIDIA Triton Inference Servers, FastAPI, Flask, flame-graph profiling
Engineering	Python, C++, ctypes (C++↔Python) and MEX (C++↔MATLAB) bindings, PyTest (fixtures & mocks), SQLAlchemy/Postgres, React & Node, GitHub CI/CD, Cookiecutter, Task, Make & CMake, Unix, LaTeX/TikZ
Scientific tooling	Comet/WandB, Gin config, QGIS, MATLAB
Languages	Spanish (native), French (fluent), English (fluent)

Education

PhD, Computer Vision & Machine Learning — ENS Paris-Saclay. Advisors: Jean-Michel Morel & Julie Delon. 2016 – 2020

MSc "Mathématiques, Vision, Apprentissage" (MVA) — ENS Paris-Saclay. Highest Honors. 2015 – 2016

MSc 1 "Mathématiques et Modélisation" — Université Paris Cité. Highest Honors. 2014 – 2015

BSc Mathematics — Universidad de La Habana. Highest Honors; top student of the faculty. 2007 – 2011

Awards & Fellowships

Laureate, FMJH Doctoral Program — Fondation Mathématique Jacques Hadamard. Three-year competitive fellowship. 2016

Laureate, PGSM Masters Scholarship — Paris Graduate School of Mathematics. Two-year international scholarship. 2014

Top student, Faculty of Mathematics & Computer Science — Awarded by the vice-chancellor, University of Havana. 2011

Teaching

Fourier & Hilbert Analysis — Practical lessons, Mathematics Department, ENS Paris-Saclay. 2017 – 2019

Differential Calculus — Practical lessons, Mathematics Department, ENS Paris-Saclay. 2016 – 2017

PDE, Complex Analysis, Mathematics I–III — Lectures & practical lessons, Mathematics Department, University of Havana. 2011 – 2014