Colin K. Curtis - Software and Data Engineer

github.com/colinkcurtis **colinkcurtis@gmail.com** **colinkcurtis.com** **(919) 525 7837**

Major Achievements

- **Developer** - Adaptive Learning Analysis for Images (ALAI), a Computer Vision software package for characterization of scientific images through large-matrix linear algebra and statistical analysis
- **Developer** - 'icees-client' pip module, a pip-installable module for interfacing with clinical-data-housing ICEES API
- **Developer** - Bicluster Co-Occurence Algorithm for the RNAseqDB biclusters computed with the MAK algoirthm by Marcin Joachimiak [github.com/ncats/translator-workflows/tree/master/WorkFlow9]
- **Author** - Multiple academic publications in the Physics sub-fields of Tribology, Optics, and Polymer Science
- **Project Manager and Author** - 'Friction: Friend and Foe', book chapter in Surface and Interface Science Vol. 8
- **Organizer** - Carrboro High School AP Science Class tours of NCSU Physics ORaCEL labs and equipment
- **National Meritorious Winner (Team of 3)** - COMAPS MCM, 2011 - Radio Repeater for Network Optimization

Work Experience

Software and Data Engineer - Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI); June 2018 - Present

- Clean, concise, readable, and modular code
- Biomedical Data Translator - Green Team member, NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)
- Collaboration with teams spanning disciplines to answer bioinformatics research questions
- Setup, improve, and maintain front- and back-ends of web APIs for biomedical data access (SaaS)
- Automated the creation of biomedical web APIs based on large data sets using Jinja2 scripting for Python
- Accelerated data collection from APIs through use of concurrent I/O (Python3 asyncio and concurrent modules)
- Analysis of large, graph-type data sets for rapid hypothesis generation in bioinformatics
- Utilized Jupyter Notebooks, with Python3, to analyze data and visualize results for presentation
- Delivered effective, detail-oriented communications to multi-disciplinary team members
- Developed icees-client, now a pip module, to allow easy Python3 interface to ICEES clincal-data web API
- Worked remotely with a Computational Biologist to develop a Bicluster-based algorithm for aggregating gene and tissue IDs and finding ID co-occurrence patterns in that data (publication in planning)

Research Assistant, Krim Group; January 2015 - December 2018

- Research focus: data analysis, predictive modeling, functionalized carbon nano-structures, friction, surface effects
- Participated in two National Science Foundation funded projects: DMREF and QCM
- Designing Materials to Revolutionize and Engineer our Future (DMREF)
- Quartz Crystal Microbalance Studies of Atomic-Scale Friction (QCM)
- Software packages and programming environments included LabVIEW, MATLAB, and Python 3
- Central responsibilies: collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of scientific data
- Optimization and organization of the lab group's time and equipment
- See Research Publications for experiment-specific results

Research Assistant, Clarke Group; Jan 2013 - July 2014

- Research focus: Polymers, LASER for spectroscopy and photothermal, nanoparticle characterization and synthesis
- Designed and built a melt electro-spinning device for polymers, producing ultra-fine fibers without solvent
- Utilized ANSYS Maxwell mesh-calculation to simulate 3-D electro-magnetic fields
- Used and maintained LabVIEW software systems for instrument control and data collection
- Second Author, *Unconfined, melt edge electrospinning... polymer jets*

Teaching Assistant, Department of Physics, NC State University; August 2012 - May 2014, August 2014 - Dec 2014

- Instructor for introductory physics laboratory sections (PY 205 and PY 208)
- Provided theoretical introduction to the relevant course materials
- Organized and maintained teaching laboratory equipment
- Provided real-time feedback and assistance to students via the Socratic method

Independent Coding Projects

code repository at www.github.com/colinkcurtis

Adaptive Learning Analysis for Images (ALAI), A Machine Learning Application

- Reduced user's active analysis time, per image, by a factor of 75, drastically reducing labor costs
- Data fitted dynamically and automatically using a custom iterative categorization and regression technique
- Weighting and bias-of-fit calculated according to uncertainties from measurements stored in file meta-data
- Classification of 'fitting zones' (linear v. exponential) by $Adjusted - R^2$ comparison between multiple fitting attempts
- Ultimate calculation was of fractal dimension, saturation roughness, and correlation length for ultra-fine images
- Written using MATLAB, an ideal tool for linear algebra and statistics over large matrices

HackerRank Challenges

- Project Euler 220: Heighwey Dragon
- Project Euler 217: Balanced Numbers
- Project Euler 206: Concealed Square
- Project Euler 1: Multiples of 3 and 5

Professional Skills & Interests

Languages & Environments

- Python3
- MATLAB, LaTeX
- HTML5, CSS, & JavaScript (basic)
- Linux, macOS, & Windows

Software Engineering Toolkit

- Algorithm Design
- Time and Space Complexity Optimization
- Graph Databases
- Docker, Github, & Jenkins
- Jupyter Notebook
- RESTful & OpenAPI standards
- SaaS
- VM, & Virtual Envs
- asyncio (concurrent network I/O)
- json, yml
- pytest
- networkx, obonet, & pronto
- mezos, marathon, nginx
- Flask, swagger
- json
- Jinja2
- requests
- certifi
- pandas & numpy
- memory_profiler
- Zlib
- basic SQL queries

Professional Skills & Abilities

- Strong Written, Verbal, and Mathematical Skills
- Adaptable to Diverse, Multi-disciplinary Teams
- Data Analysis and Engineering
- Fractal Analysis
- First Principles Thinking
- Agile & SCRUM Development Experience
- User Interface Design & Documentation

Other Interests

- Conversational Hindi & Spanish
- Frankenstein, Consciousness, & AI
- Sci-Fi, History, and Biographies
- Running and Mixed Martial Arts
- Parallel Programming
- Gardening and Cooking

Education Milestones

- **Ph.D. Physics**, North Carolina State University (expected 2019), Tribology of Functionalized Carbon Nano-structures
- **M.S. Physics**, North Carolina State University (2014)
- **B.S. Physics, Mathematics Minor**, Appalachian State University (2012)

Research Publications

- First Author, *A Comparative Study of the Nanoscale and Macroscale Attributes... of Nanodiamonds*, Beilstein Journal of Nanotechnology, Sep 2017 (PDF available here: https://www.beilstein-journals.org/bjnano/content/pdf/2190-4286-8-205.pdf)
- First Author, *Diffusion of Gaseous Ethanol and Water through Functionalized Graphene and Graphene Oxide Membranes*, Manuscript in Preparation
- First Author, *Aqueous Inter-facial Friction on Smooth and Rough Au Surfaces Mediated by Functionalized Nanodiamonds*, Manuscript in Preparation
- Second Author, *Unconfined, melt edge electrospinning from multiple, spontaneous, self-organized polymer jets*, Materials Research Express, 28 Nov 2014 (Vol. 1, Num. 4)
- Third Author, *A Tribological Study of γ-Fe$_2O_3$ Nanoparticles in Aqueous Suspension*, Tribology Letters, Dec 2018 (66:130)