

JOSEPH LAVOND

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INTERNSHIPS

CISCO - SAN JOSE, CA

Ph.D. Intern (Remote)

June 2023 - Aug 2023

- Lead research efforts to improve the diversity of samples produced by generative artificial intelligence
- Designed architecture changes to generative adversarial networks (GANs) to improve sample diversity
- Identified latent space conditioning as viable strategy for producing higher quality generated outputs from variational auto-encoders (VAEs)

ELEVANCE HEALTH, INC. (FORMERLY ANTHEM) - INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Graduate Info Technology Intern (Remote)

June 2022 - Aug 2022

- Implement custom PyTorch semi-supervised Bayesian anomaly detection approach on Amazon Web Service (AWS) to identify up-coded Evaluation & Management (E/M) claims
- Received Impact award for end-of-summer technical presentation to senior management
- Participate in Agile Scrum model development process using Jira of a Fortune-30 company
- Create modeling data set pipeline for 60M row database using PySpark SQL in Jupyter on Kubeflow

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ARIZONA - PHOENIX, AZ

Actuarial Services Intern (Remote)

Apr 2020 - Aug 2020

- Spearheaded the company-wide projection of membership for all lines of business
- Learned VBA to automate monthly updates to company forecasts within Microsoft Excel
- Automated data collection using process flows in SAS and SQL queries in Microsoft Access

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL, NC

Doctor of Philosophy: **Statistics and Operations Research**

Aug 2020 - May 2025

- Funding through NSF-funded grant to add research to theory and application of networks

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

Bachelor of Science: **Statistics**

Sep 2016 - Mar 2020

- 3.99 GPA, Summa Cum Laude, Academic Excellence Award
- Founder and Secretary of the Actuarial Society Club
- Member of Mu Sigma Rho, the US National Statistics Honors Society

RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL, NC

Research under Dr. Yao Li

Aug 2021 - Present

- Development of methodology to improve the robustness and data privacy of Neural Networks
- Proposing Meta-Learning approach to model aggregation for Personalized Federated Learning
- Created novel defense against Backdoor Attacks in Federated Learning
- PyTorch implementation and multi-GPU training of computer vision models on Linux cluster

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

Statistical Consultant

Sep 2019 - Aug 2020

- Provided SAS mixed modeling analyses to understand the relationships between early life factors and childhood obesity as part of a NIH-funded \$2M grant
- Coauthored publication in the Journal of Maternal and Child Nutrition ([doi:10.1111/mcn.13185](https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13185))

Frost Summer Research Program 2019

May 2019 - Sep 2019

- Manipulate the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) database, containing over 20 million cancer cases within the United States, using SAS
- Analyze SEER data with KM and COX survival models using R
- Construct an interactive R Shiny app for cancer patient use, taking demographic and diagnosis information as inputs, and providing a prognosis

SKILLS

COURSEWORK

- Machine Learning: Gradient Boosting, Bagging, Bootstrapping, Regularization, Dimension Reduction
- Deep Learning: Semi-Supervised, Self-Supervised, and Transfer Learning for NLP and Computer Vision

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- SQL (Snowflake, HUE, Microsoft Access)
- Python (PyTorch, SciKit-Learn, PySpark, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib)
- R (caret, tidyverse, ggplot2, dplyr, purr, stringr, shiny)
- Other: SAS, Microsoft Excel

Misc. Git (GitHub, Bitbucket), Linux (Cluster Computing, GPU Acceleration), Vim, Project Jupyter, Kubeflow