

# Brandon Amos

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[bamos](https://github.com/bamos) • Last updated on March 15, 2021

## Current Position

**Research Scientist** | Facebook AI | NYC 2019 – Present

## Education

**Ph.D. in Computer Science** (0.00/0.00) 2014 – 2019

Carnegie Mellon University | Pittsburgh, PA

*Differentiable Optimization-Based Modeling for Machine Learning*

Advisors: [J. Zico Kolter](#) (2016 – 2019), [Mahadev Satyanarayanan](#) (2014 – 2016)

**B.S. in Computer Science** (3.99/4.00) 2011 – 2014

Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, VA

Advisors: [Layne Watson](#), [Jules White](#), [Binoy Ravindran](#)

## Research Internships

**Intel Labs** | Santa Clara, CA | Host: [Vladlen Koltun](#) 2018

**Google DeepMind** | London, UK | Hosts: [Misha Denil](#) and [Nando de Freitas](#) 2017

**Adobe Research** | San Jose, CA | Host: [David Tompkins](#) 2014

## Honors & Awards

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2016 – 2019

Nine undergraduate scholarships 2011 – 2014

Roanoke County Public Schools Engineering, Salem–Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce, Papa John's, Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, VT Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, VT Pamplin Leader, VT Benjamin F. Bock, VT Gay B. Shober, VT I. Luck Gravett

## Publications

Google Scholar ID: [d8gdZR4AAAAJ](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=d8gdZR4AAAAJ)

### 2021

1. *On the model-based stochastic value gradient for continuous reinforcement learning*

**B. Amos**, S. Stanton, D. Yarats, and A. Wilson  
L4DC 2021 (Oral)

2. *Aligning Time Series on Incomparable Spaces* [code]

S. Cohen, G. Luise, A. Terenin, **B. Amos**, and M. Deisenroth  
AISTATS 2021

3. *Learning Neural Event Functions for Ordinary Differential Equations*

R. Chen, **B. Amos**, and M. Nickel  
ICLR 2021

4. *Neural Spatio-Temporal Point Processes*

R. Chen, **B. Amos**, and M. Nickel  
ICLR 2021

5. *Improving Sample Efficiency in Model-Free Reinforcement Learning from Images*

D. Yarats, A. Zhang, I. Kostrikov, **B. Amos**, J. Pineau, and R. Fergus  
AAAI 2021

## 2020

6. *The Differentiable Cross-Entropy Method* [code]  
**B. Amos** and D. Yarats  
ICML 2020
7. *Objective Mismatch in Model-based Reinforcement Learning*  
N. Lambert, **B. Amos**, O. Yadan, and R. Calandra  
L4DC 2020
8. *QNSTOP: Quasi-Newton Algorithm for Stochastic Optimization* [code]  
**B. Amos**, D. Easterling, L. Watson, W. Thacker, B. Castle, and M. Trosset  
ACM TOMS 2020

## 2019

9. *Differentiable Optimization-Based Modeling for Machine Learning* [code]  
**B. Amos**  
Ph.D. Thesis 2019
10. *Differentiable Convex Optimization Layers* [code]  
A. Agrawal\*, **B. Amos\***, S. Barratt\*, S. Boyd\*, S. Diamond\*, and J. Z. Kolter\*  
NeurIPS 2019
11. *Generalized Inner Loop Meta-Learning* [code]  
E. Grefenstette, **B. Amos**, D. Yarats, P. Htut, A. Molchanov, F. Meier, D. Kiela, K. Cho, and S. Chintala  
arXiv 2019
12. *The Limited Multi-Label Projection Layer* [code]  
**B. Amos**, V. Koltun, and J. Z. Kolter  
arXiv 2019

## 2018

13. *Differentiable MPC for End-to-end Planning and Control* [code]  
**B. Amos**, I. Rodriguez, J. Sacks, B. Boots, and J. Z. Kolter  
NeurIPS 2018
14. *Learning Awareness Models*  
**B. Amos**, L. Dinh, S. Cabi, T. Rothörl, S. Colmenarejo, A. Muldal, T. Erez, Y. Tassa, N. de Freitas, and M. Denil  
ICLR 2018
15. *Enabling Live Video Analytics with a Scalable and Privacy-Aware Framework*  
J. Wang, **B. Amos**, A. Das, P. Pillai, N. Sadeh, and M. Satyanarayanan  
ACM TOMM 2018
16. *Depth-Limited Solving for Imperfect-Information Games*  
N. Brown, T. Sandholm, and **B. Amos**  
NeurIPS 2018

## 2017

17. *Task-based End-to-end Model Learning* [code]  
P. Donti, **B. Amos**, and J. Z. Kolter  
NeurIPS 2017
18. *OptNet: Differentiable Optimization as a Layer in Neural Networks* [code]  
**B. Amos** and J. Z. Kolter  
ICML 2017

19. [Input Convex Neural Networks](#) [code]  
**B. Amos**, L. Xu, and J. Z. Kolter  
ICML 2017
20. [Quasi-Newton Stochastic Optimization Algorithm for Parameter Estimation of a Stochastic Model of the Budding Yeast Cell Cycle](#)  
M. Chen, **B. Amos**, L. Watson, J. Tyson, Y. Cao, C. Shaffer, M. Trosset, C. Oguz, and G. Kakoti  
IEEE/ACM TCBB 2017
21. [You can teach elephants to dance: agile VM handoff for edge computing](#)  
K. Ha, Y. Abe, T. Eiszler, Z. Chen, W. Hu, **B. Amos**, R. Upadhyaya, P. Pillai, and M. Satyanarayanan  
SEC 2017
22. [An Empirical Study of Latency in an Emerging Class of Edge Computing Applications for Wearable Cognitive Assistance](#)  
Z. Chen, W. Hu, J. Wang, S. Zhao, **B. Amos**, G. Wu, K. Ha, K. Elgazzar, P. Pillai, R. Klatzky, D. Siewiorek, and M. Satyanarayanan  
SEC 2017
23. [A Scalable and Privacy-Aware IoT Service for Live Video Analytics](#) [code]  
J. Wang, **B. Amos**, A. Das, P. Pillai, N. Sadeh, and M. Satyanarayanan  
ACM MMSys 2017 (Best Paper)

## 2016

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24. [OpenFace: A general-purpose face recognition library with mobile applications](#) [code]  
**B. Amos**, B. Ludwiczuk, and M. Satyanarayanan  
CMU 2016
25. [Collapsed Variational Inference for Sum-Product Networks](#)  
H. Zhao, T. Adel, G. Gordon, and **B. Amos**  
ICML 2016
26. [Quantifying the impact of edge computing on mobile applications](#)  
W. Hu, Y. Gao, K. Ha, J. Wang, **B. Amos**, Z. Chen, P. Pillai, and M. Satyanarayanan  
ACM SIGOPS 2016
27. [Privacy mediators: helping IoT cross the chasm](#)  
N. Davies, N. Taft, M. Satyanarayanan, S. Clinch, and **B. Amos**  
HotMobile 2016

## 2015

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28. [Edge Analytics in the Internet of Things](#)  
M. Satyanarayanan, P. Simoens, Y. Xiao, P. Pillai, Z. Chen, K. Ha, W. Hu, and **B. Amos**  
IEEE Pervasive Computing 2015
29. [Bad Parts: Are Our Manufacturing Systems at Risk of Silent Cyberattacks?](#)  
H. Turner, J. White, J. Camelio, C. Williams, **B. Amos**, and R. Parker  
IEEE Security & Privacy 2015
30. [Early Implementation Experience with Wearable Cognitive Assistance Applications](#)  
Z. Chen, L. Jiang, W. Hu, K. Ha, **B. Amos**, P. Pillai, A. Hauptmann, and M. Satyanarayanan  
WearSys 2015
31. [The Case for Offload Shaping](#)  
W. Hu, **B. Amos**, Z. Chen, K. Ha, W. Richter, P. Pillai, B. Gilbert, J. Harkes, and M. Satyanarayanan  
HotMobile 2015

32. [Are Cloudlets Necessary?](#)  
Y. Gao, W. Hu, K. Ha, **B. Amos**, P. Pillai, and M. Satyanarayanan  
CMU 2015
33. [Adaptive VM handoff across cloudlets](#)  
K. Ha, Y. Abe, Z. Chen, W. Hu, **B. Amos**, P. Pillai, and M. Satyanarayanan  
CMU 2015

## 2014

34. [Global Parameter Estimation for a Eukaryotic Cell Cycle Model in Systems Biology](#)  
T. Andrew, **B. Amos**, D. Easterling, C. Oguz, W. Baumann, J. Tyson, and L. Watson  
SummerSim 2014

## 2013

35. [Applying machine learning classifiers to dynamic Android malware detection at scale](#) [code]  
**B. Amos**, H. Turner, and J. White  
IWCMC 2013

## Repositories

|   |      |
|---|------|
| <a href="#">facebookresearch/dcem</a>   ★77   <i>Differentiable Cross-Entropy Method Experiments</i>            | 2020 |
| <a href="#">facebookresearch/higher</a>   ★1.1k   <i>PyTorch higher-order gradient and optimization library</i> | 2019 |
| <a href="#">bamos/thesis</a>   ★238   <i>Ph.D. Thesis LaTeX source code</i>                                     | 2019 |
| <a href="#">cvxgrp/cvxpylayers</a>   ★862   <i>Differentiable convex optimization layers</i>                    | 2019 |
| <a href="#">locuslab/mpc.pytorch</a>   ★436   <i>Differentiable model-predictive control</i>                    | 2018 |
| <a href="#">locuslab/icnn</a>   ★212   <i>Input Convex Neural Network Experiments</i>                           | 2017 |
| <a href="#">locuslab/optnet</a>   ★360   <i>OptNet Experiments</i>  | 2017 |
| <a href="#">locuslab/qpth</a>   ★461   <i>Differentiable PyTorch QP solver</i>                                  | 2017 |
| <a href="#">bamos/densenet.pytorch</a>   ★681   <i>PyTorch DenseNet implementation</i>                          | 2017 |
| <a href="#">bamos/block</a>   ★253   <i>Intelligent block matrix constructions</i>                              | 2017 |
| <a href="#">bamos/setGPU</a>   ★92   <i>Automatically use the least-loaded GPU</i>                              | 2017 |
| <a href="#">bamos/dcgan-completion.tensorflow</a>   ★1.3k   <i>Image completion with GANs</i>                   | 2016 |
| <a href="#">cmusatyalab/openface</a>   ★13.9k   <i>Face recognition with deep neural networks</i>               | 2015 |
| <a href="#">bamos/zsh-history-analysis</a>   ★160   <i>Analyze and plot your zsh history</i>                    | 2014 |
| <a href="#">bamos/cv</a>   ★307   <i>My YAML/LaTeX/Markdown cv</i>  | 2013 |
| <a href="#">bamos/dotfiles</a>   ★222   <i>Linux, mutt, xmonad, i3, vim, emacs, zsh</i>                         | 2012 |

## Invited Talks

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems (Tübingen) Seminar             | 2020 |
| Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms Seminar                          | 2020 |
| <a href="#">ECCV Deep Declarative Networks Tutorial</a>                     | 2020 |
| <a href="#">CVPR Deep Declarative Networks Workshop</a>                     | 2020 |
| <a href="#">Caltech CS 159, Guest Lecture</a>                               | 2020 |
| SIAM MDS Minisymposium on Learning Parameterized Energy Minimization Models | 2020 |
| New York University CILVR Seminar   | 2019 |
| INFORMS Session on Prediction and Optimization                              | 2019 |
| Facebook AI Research  | 2019 |
| ISMP Session on Machine Learning and Optimization                           | 2018 |
| Google Brain  | 2018 |
| Bosch Center for AI   | 2018 |
| Waymo Research  | 2018 |
| Tesla AI  | 2018 |
| NVIDIA Robotics   | 2018 |

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|---------------------|------|
| Salesforce Research | 2018 |
| OpenAI              | 2018 |
| NNAISENSE           | 2018 |

## Students & Advising

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|  |      |
|--|------|
| Aaron Lou (Cornell), FAIR Intern (with Max Nickel)                       | 2020 |
| Ricky Chen (Toronto), FAIR Intern (with Max Nickel)                      | 2020 |
| Paul Liang (CMU), FAIR Intern (with Ed Grefenstette and Tim Rocktäschel) | 2020 |
| Phillip Wang (CMU), Undergraduate Researcher                             | 2018 |
| Lei Xu (Tsinghua), CMU Intern (with J. Zico Kolter)                      | 2016 |

## Professional Activities

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| Reviewing: AAAI, ICML, NeurIPS, ICLR*, ICCV, CVPR, ICRA              | *Outstanding reviewer |
| NeurIPS Learning Meets Combinatorial Optimization Workshop Organizer | 2020                  |
| CVPR Deep Declarative Workshop Organizer                             | 2020                  |
| ECCV Deep Declarative Tutorial Organizer                             | 2020                  |
| CMU CSD MS Admissions  | 2014 – 2015           |

## Teaching

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|---|-------|
| Graduate AI (CMU 15-780), TA                        | S2017 |
| Distributed Systems (CMU 15-440/640), TA            | S2016 |
| Software Design and Data Structures (VT CS2114), TA | S2013 |

## Skills

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|------------|--|
| Languages  | C, C++, Fortran, Haskell, Java, Lua, Make, Mathematica, Python, R, Scala |
| Frameworks | JAX, NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, SciPy, TensorFlow, Torch7                   |
| Tools      | Linux, emacs, vim, evil, org, mu4e, xmonad, i3, git, tmux, zsh           |