Donnie Winkelman

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Technologies

ML/Deep Learning: PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace, LangChain, W&B, RAGs, LLMs, ConvNets, Mamba Data Science: NumPy, Pandas, Sklearn, Mechanistic Interpretability, Feature Visualization, Integrated Gradients Languages: Python, TypeScript/JavaScript, SQL, C/C++, Java, C#, Swift

Web/Cloud: Linux, Docker, React, Next.js, Node.js, AWS, gRPC, Sockets, PostgreSQL, Tailwind, Svelte, Express.js Methodologies: Agile/Scrum, CI/CD, Kanban, Research Design

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

GPA: 3.9

 $M.S.\ Computer\ Science\ -\ Specialization\ in\ Data\ Science\ and\ Machine\ Learning$

Jan. 2025 - Dec. 2025

Relevant Coursework: Distributed Systems, Data Science for Decarbonization, Natural Language Processing

University of Massachusetts Amherst

GPA: 3.8

B.S. Computer Science

Sep. 2022 - Dec. 2024

EXPERIENCE

MassAI | Website | Public Resources

Amherst, MA

Co-President, Events and Marketing Coordinator

Aug. 2024 - Present

- Pioneered 20+ club-led projects while personally leading 2 teams, engaging 100+ students in hands-on development
- Led recruitment and onboarding of 18 events, marketing, project, web, and treasury coordinators to our E-board
- Implemented umassai.com with SvelteKit, Tailwind, and Google Calendar API integration, achieving 600+ MAU
- Founded and led weekly research reading group, hands-on ML workshops, club collaborations, and competitions
- Developed automated pipelines for lecture recording and distribution, mailing list management, and record keeping

Secure, Private Internet (SPIN) Research Group | Poster | Github

Amherst, MA

 $AI\ Safety\ Researcher$

Dec. 2024 - Feb. 2025

- Built and implemented NSFW content filtering system for text-to-video prompts using phi4 and Deepseek-R1
- Analyzed 432 prompts, finding temporal risk filter gap (93% accuracy on non-temporal vs 61% on temporal risks)

UMass Computer Science Department | Paper | GitHub

Amherst, MA

Research Assistant

Aug. 2024 - Dec. 2024

- Led study revealing VGG16 develops progressive feature complexity with distinct pattern recognition
- Co-authored research showing Mamba's in-context learning improved accuracy by up to 40% on synthetic OCR
- Identified sentiment detection limitations using integrated gradients, revealing key factors in false classifications

Projects

BeatCode.dev | SvelteKit, FastAPI, PostgreSQL, WebSockets | Demo | GitHub

2024

- Built competitive coding platform with 900+ registered users using JWT auth and WebSocket state management
- Implemented real-time code execution with test case evaluation, sabotage abilities, and ELO-based ranking

Self-Driving Car Vision | PyTorch, Computer Vision | Demo | GitHub

2024

- Trained ResNet model on 11,110-image dataset to predict vehicle positioning, increasing test accuracy by 1,300%
- Engineered data augmentation pipeline, reducing overfitting and resolving gradient instability issues

ClubberNaut | React, Next.js, Supabase | GitHub

2024

- Built full-stack platform with REST API endpoints to support UMass club community
- Led 7-person Agile team through implementation of authentication, club creation/discovery features

UMass CLog | React Native, Supabase, BeautifulSoup | Demo

2023

- Developed personalized healthcare app analyzing 200+ ingredients with 37 attributes to predict IBD trigger foods
- Implemented automated data extraction system and real-time symptom tracking

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Best AI Hack, HackHer413 (2025) | Demo | GitHub - Find a seat at Worcester gym and agents for the MassAI RLympics Best Healthcare Hack, HackUMass (2022) | GitHub - UMass SAFER meal ordering service, reduced processing time by 1,200% and added allergy-based filtering for users with food allergies; later integrated into UMass Dining App 2.0 Earned all 137 merit badges, Scouts BSA (2021) - Achieved by <500 scouts globally, Eagle, 600+ volunteer hours