Will Palaia

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Education

**University of Massachusetts Amherst**, Amherst, MA  *December 2025 (expected)*

**B.S.** in **Computer Science**, **B.A.** in **Economics**

*Coursework: Data Structures, Computer Systems, Discrete Math, Linear Algebra, Programming Methodologies*

Skills

**Languages:** Java, Python, C, JavaScript, Typescript, HTML/CSS

**Technologies:** React, Node, Git, AWS (ECS, EC2), Linux (Ubuntu), Docker, Kubernetes, VBA/Office

Experience

**ISO New England** Holyoke, MA *June 2024 – Present*

*Software Engineer Intern – Python, VBA*

* Created Python script to filter and format >37,000 rows of Excel data, reducing processing time by ~30 hours
* Designing a solution to automatically verify transformer energy levels across New England, and enhance data precision, significantly improving daily energy forecast accuracy

**Camp Tahattawan**, Littleton, MA *June 2023 – August 2023*

*Camp Counselor*

* Assisted technology specialist in developing new and interactive ways to teach kids the basics of computing

**BigBear.AI**, Lexington, MA *June 2022 – August 2022*

*Software Engineer Intern (Full Stack Web Dev & Data Engineering) - JavaScript, React, NodeJS*

* Built top-to-bottom Jira cloud-based web application over three two-week sprints using agile technologies
* Implemented hierarchical UI and progress features to greatly increase efficiency and scalability on the user-side
* Designed and integrated unit and CI/CD pipeline tests - increased total app test coverage by >25%
* Deployed on AWS ECS and released to the Atlassian Marketplace, contributed to 100% of total profits

**US Soccer, Massachusetts Youth Soccer**, Lancaster, MA *September 2017 – August 2022*

*Soccer Referee*

* Officiated youth soccer games with players ranging from 6 to 18 years old
* Managed assistant referees, players, and coaches for multiple hours in a row in a high-stress environment

Projects

**Soccer Tryout Evaluator**, ReactJS, Python June 2024 - Present

* Automated a process of ranking youth soccer players based on tryout performances and creating teams/lineups for >600 players, using OCR and sentiment analysis ratings to optimize model. Saves ~60 hours annually.

**Rubik’s Cube Solver**, Python March 2024 – May 2024

* Developed a solver utilizing reinforcement learning with Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO), implementing a digital cube generator, scrambling functionality, and solution finding based on Manhattan distance heuristic

**Spotify Sound Recognizer**, Python *November 2023*

* Implemented a voice-controlled Spotify integration using natural language processing web API, enabling hands-free commands for play, pause, skip, rewind, and other functionalities

**Reward Collector Bot**, Python, AWS EC2 *August 2023*

* Created a Python automation script using Selenium and Chrome WebDriver to streamline website sign-in, including Google OAuth authentication and daily reward collection. Generates $20 weekly

Activities/Interests

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**Minuteman Investment Management**, Amherst, MA *February 2023 – September 2023*

*Quantitative Data Analyst - Python*

* Completed strict curriculum to gain a strong fundamental background in statistics, Python, data science/analytics, equities, options, futures, currencies, fixed income securities, and commodities

**UMass Machine Learning Club @ UMass Amherst** September 2022 - Present

**Google Developer Student Club @ UMass Amherst** September 2022 - Present

**Interests**: Stock trading, poker, soccer, tennis, golf, drumming, video games