# **Brandon Amos**

#### **Current Position**

Research Scientist, Meta AI, Fundamental AI Research (FAIR), New York City

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University (0.00/0.00)

Thesis: Differentiable Optimization-Based Modeling for Machine Learning

Advisor: J. Zico Kolter

B.S. in Computer Science, Virginia Tech (3.99/4.00)

2011 – 2014

#### **Previous Positions**

Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University (with J. Zico Kolter on ML and optimization)	2016 - 2019
Research Intern, Intel Labs, Santa Clara (with Vladlen Koltun on computer vision)	2018
Research Intern, Google DeepMind, London (with Nando de Freitas and Misha Denil on RL)	2017
Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University (with Mahadev Satyanarayanan on mobile systems)	2014 - 2016
Research Intern, Adobe Research, San Jose (with David Tompkins on distributed systems)	2014
Research Assistant, Virginia Tech (with Layne Watson and David Easterling on optimization)	2013 - 2014
Research Assistant, Virginia Tech (with Jules White and Hamilton Turner on mobile systems)	2012 - 2014
Research Assistant, Virginia Tech (with Binoy Ravindran and Alastair Murray on compilers)	2012 - 2014
Software Intern, Snowplow (Scala development)	2013 - 2014
<b>Software Intern</b> , Qualcomm, San Diego (Python and C++ development)	2013
<b>Software Intern</b> , <i>Phoenix Integration</i> , Virginia (C++, C#, and Java development)	2012
Network Administrator Intern, Sunapsys, Virginia	2011

### **Honors & Awards**

NeurlPS Top Reviewer	2022
ICML Outstanding Reviewer	2022
ICLR Outstanding Reviewer	2019
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 Conter for Academic Excellence, VT Pamplin Leader, VT Benjamin F. Bock, VT Gay B. Shober, VT I. Luck Gravett

## Publications [Google Scholar: 5.7k citations and an h-index of 31]

Selected publications are highlighted.

#### 2022.....

1. Tutorial on amortized optimization for learning to optimize over continuous domains [code]

Brandon Amos

Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning (to appear) 2022

 Cross-Domain Imitation Learning via Optimal Transport [code]
 Arnaud Fickinger, Samuel Cohen, Stuart Russell, and Brandon Amos ICLR 2022

- Matching Normalizing Flows and Probability Paths on Manifolds [code]
   Heli Ben-Hamu\*, Samuel Cohen\*, Joey Bose, Brandon Amos, Aditya Grover, Maximilian Nickel,
   Ricky T. Q. Chen, and Yaron Lipman
   ICML 2022
- Semi-Discrete Normalizing Flows through Differentiable Tessellation Ricky T. Q. Chen, Brandon Amos, and Maximilian Nickel NeurIPS 2022
- Theseus: A Library for Differentiable Nonlinear Optimization [code]
   Luis Pineda, Taosha Fan, Maurizio Monge, Shobha Venkataraman, Paloma Sodhi, Ricky Chen,
   Joseph Ortiz, Daniel DeTone, Austin Wang, Stuart Anderson, Jing Dong, Brandon Amos, and
   Mustafa Mukadam
   NeurlPS 2022
- Nocturne: a driving benchmark for multi-agent learning [code]
   Eugene Vinitsky, Nathan Lichtlé, Xiaomeng Yang, Brandon Amos, and Jakob Foerster
   NeurlPS Datasets and Benchmarks Track 2022
- Semi-Supervised Offline Reinforcement Learning with Action-Free Trajectories Qinqing Zheng, Mikael Henaff, Brandon Amos, and Aditya Grover arXiv 2022
- Meta Optimal Transport [code]
   Brandon Amos, Samuel Cohen, Giulia Luise, and Ievgen Redko arXiv 2022
- On amortizing convex conjugates for optimal transport [code]
   Brandon Amos
   arXiv 2022
- End-to-End Learning to Warm-Start for Real-Time Quadratic Optimization [code]
   Rajiv Sambharya, Georgina Hall, Brandon Amos, and Bartolomeo Stellato
   arXiv 2022

### 2021.....

- 11. On the model-based stochastic value gradient for continuous reinforcement learning [code] [slides] Brandon Amos, Samuel Stanton, Denis Yarats, and Andrew Gordon Wilson L4DC 2021 (Oral)
- 12. Riemannian Convex Potential Maps [code] [slides]
  Samuel Cohen\*, Brandon Amos\*, and Yaron Lipman
  ICML 2021
- 13. CombOptNet: Fit the Right NP-Hard Problem by Learning Integer Programming Constraints [code] Anselm Paulus, Michal Rolínek, Vít Musil, **Brandon Amos**, and Georg Martius ICML 2021
- Scalable Online Planning via Reinforcement Learning Fine-Tuning
   Arnaud Fickinger, Hengyuan Hu, Brandon Amos, Stuart Russell, and Noam Brown NeurlPS 2021
- Aligning Time Series on Incomparable Spaces [code] [slides]
   Samuel Cohen, Giulia Luise, Alexander Terenin, Brandon Amos, and Marc Peter Deisenroth AISTATS 2021

 Learning Neural Event Functions for Ordinary Differential Equations [code] Ricky T. Q. Chen, Brandon Amos, and Maximilian Nickel ICLR 2021

 Neural Spatio-Temporal Point Processes [code]
 Ricky T. Q. Chen, Brandon Amos, and Maximilian Nickel ICLR 2021

- 18. Improving Sample Efficiency in Model-Free Reinforcement Learning from Images [code] Denis Yarats, Amy Zhang, Ilya Kostrikov, **Brandon Amos**, Joelle Pineau, and Rob Fergus AAAI 2021
- Neural Fixed-Point Acceleration for Convex Optimization [code] Shobha Venkataraman\* and Brandon Amos\* ICML AutoML Workshop 2021
- Sliced Multi-Marginal Optimal Transport
   Samuel Cohen, Alexander Terenin, Yannik Pitcan, Brandon Amos, Marc Peter Deisenroth, and K S Sesh Kumar
   NeurlPS OTML Workshop 2021
- Input Convex Gradient Networks
   Jack Richter-Powell, Jonathan Lorraine, and Brandon Amos
   NeurlPS OTML Workshop 2021
- 22. Imitation Learning from Pixel Observations for Continuous Control Samuel Cohen, Brandon Amos, Marc Peter Deisenroth, Mikael Henaff, Eugene Vinitsky, and Denis Yarats NeurlPS DeepRL Workshop 2021
- 23. MBRL-Lib: A Modular Library for Model-based Reinforcement Learning [code] Luis Pineda, **Brandon Amos**, Amy Zhang, Nathan Lambert, and Roberto Calandra arXiv 2021

#### **2020**.

24. The Differentiable Cross-Entropy Method [code] [slides]
Brandon Amos and Denis Yarats
ICML 2020

- Objective Mismatch in Model-based Reinforcement Learning
   Nathan Lambert, Brandon Amos, Omry Yadan, and Roberto Calandra L4DC 2020
- 26. QNSTOP: Quasi-Newton Algorithm for Stochastic Optimization [code] Brandon Amos, David Easterling, Layne T. Watson, William Thacker, Brent Castle, and Michael Trosset ACM TOMS 2020
- 27. Neural Potts Model

Tom Sercu, Robert Verkuil, Joshua Meier, **Brandon Amos**, Zeming Lin, Caroline Chen, Jason Liu, Yann LeCun, and Alexander Rives MLCB 2020

Deep Riemannian Manifold Learning
 Aaron Lou, Maximilian Nickel, and Brandon Amos
 NeurlPS Geo4dl Workshop 2020

#### 2019.....

29. Differentiable Optimization-Based Modeling for Machine Learning [code]

#### **Brandon Amos**

Ph.D. Thesis 2019

30. Differentiable Convex Optimization Layers [code]
Akshay Agrawal\*, Brandon Amos\*, Shane Barratt\*, Stephen Boyd\*, Steven Diamond\*, and
J. Zico Kolter\*
NeurlPS 2019

31. The Limited Multi-Label Projection Layer [code]

**Brandon Amos**, Vladlen Koltun, and J. Zico Kolter arXiv 2019

32. Generalized Inner Loop Meta-Learning [code]

Edward Grefenstette, **Brandon Amos**, Denis Yarats, Phu Mon Htut, Artem Molchanov, Franziska Meier, Douwe Kiela, Kyunghyun Cho, and Soumith Chintala arXiv 2019

## 2018.....

33. Learning Awareness Models

**Brandon Amos**, Laurent Dinh, Serkan Cabi, Thomas Rothörl, Sergio Gómez Colmenarejo, Alistair Muldal, Tom Erez, Yuval Tassa, Nando de Freitas, and Misha Denil ICLR 2018

- 34. Differentiable MPC for End-to-end Planning and Control [code]

  Brandon Amos, Ivan Dario Jimenez Rodriguez, Jacob Sacks, Byron Boots, and J. Zico Kolter NeurIPS 2018
- 35. Depth-Limited Solving for Imperfect-Information Games
  Noam Brown, Tuomas Sandholm, and **Brandon Amos**NeurlPS 2018
- 36. Enabling Live Video Analytics with a Scalable and Privacy-Aware Framework
  Junjue Wang, **Brandon Amos**, Anupam Das, Padmanabhan Pillai, Norman Sadeh, and
  Mahadev Satyanarayanan
  ACM TOMM 2018

## 2017.....

- 37. OptNet: Differentiable Optimization as a Layer in Neural Networks [code] [slides]
  Brandon Amos and J. Zico Kolter
  ICML 2017
- 38. Input Convex Neural Networks [code] [slides] Brandon Amos, Lei Xu, and J. Zico Kolter ICML 2017
- 39. Task-based End-to-end Model Learning [code]
  Priya L. Donti, **Brandon Amos**, and J. Zico Kolter
  NeurlPS 2017

40. Quasi-Newton Stochastic Optimization Algorithm for Parameter Estimation of a Stochastic Model of the Budding Yeast Cell Cycle

Minghan Chen, **Brandon Amos**, Layne T. Watson, John Tyson, Yang Cao, Cliff Shaffer, Michael Trosset, Cihan Oguz, and Gisella Kakoti

IEEE/ACM TCBB 2017

41. You can teach elephants to dance: agile VM handoff for edge computing
Kiryong Ha, Yoshihisa Abe, Thomas Eiszler, Zhuo Chen, Wenlu Hu, **Brandon Amos**,
Rohit Upadhyaya, Padmanabhan Pillai, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan
SEC 2017

42. An Empirical Study of Latency in an Emerging Class of Edge Computing Applications for Wearable Cognitive Assistance

Zhuo Chen, Wenlu Hu, Junjue Wang, Siyan Zhao, **Brandon Amos**, Guanhang Wu, Kiryong Ha, Khalid Elgazzar, Padmanabhan Pillai, Roberta Klatzky, Daniel Siewiorek, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan

SEC 2017

43. A Scalable and Privacy-Aware IoT Service for Live Video Analytics [code] Junjue Wang, Brandon Amos, Anupam Das, Padmanabhan Pillai, Norman Sadeh, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan ACM MMSys 2017 (Best Paper)

#### 2016.....

- 44. OpenFace: A general-purpose face recognition library with mobile applications [code] Brandon Amos, Bartosz Ludwiczuk, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan CMU 2016
- 45. Collapsed Variational Inference for Sum-Product Networks
  Han Zhao, Tameem Adel, Geoff Gordon, and Brandon Amos
  ICML 2016
- 46. Quantifying the impact of edge computing on mobile applications Wenlu Hu, Ying Gao, Kiryong Ha, Junjue Wang, Brandon Amos, Zhuo Chen, Padmanabhan Pillai, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan ACM SIGOPS 2016
- 47. Privacy mediators: helping IoT cross the chasm
  Nigel Davies, Nina Taft, Mahadev Satyanarayanan, Sarah Clinch, and Brandon Amos
  HotMobile 2016

#### **2015** and earlier.....

- 48. Edge Analytics in the Internet of Things
  Mahadev Satyanarayanan, Pieter Simoens, Yu Xiao, Padmanabhan Pillai, Zhuo Chen, Kiryong Ha,
  Wenlu Hu, and Brandon Amos
  IEEE Pervasive Computing 2015
- Bad Parts: Are Our Manufacturing Systems at Risk of Silent Cyberattacks?
   Hamilton Turner, Jules White, Jaime A. Camelio, Christopher Williams, Brandon Amos, and Robert Parker
   IEEE Security & Privacy 2015

50. Early Implementation Experience with Wearable Cognitive Assistance Applications Zhuo Chen, Lu Jiang, Wenlu Hu, Kiryong Ha, Brandon Amos, Padmanabhan Pillai, Alex Hauptmann, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan WearSys 2015

51. The Case for Offload Shaping

Wenlu Hu, **Brandon Amos**, Zhuo Chen, Kiryong Ha, Wolfgang Richter, Padmanabhan Pillai, Benjamin Gilbert, Jan Harkes, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan HotMobile 2015

52. Are Cloudlets Necessary?

Ying Gao, Wenlu Hu, Kiryong Ha, **Brandon Amos**, Padmanabhan Pillai, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan CMU 2015

53. Adaptive VM handoff across cloudlets

Kiryong Ha, Yoshihisa Abe, Zhuo Chen, Wenlu Hu, **Brandon Amos**, Padmanabhan Pillai, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan CMU 2015

54. Global Parameter Estimation for a Eukaryotic Cell Cycle Model in Systems Biology
Tricity Andrew, **Brandon Amos**, David Easterling, Cihan Oguz, William Baumann, John Tyson, and
Layne T. Watson
SummerSim 2014

55. Applying machine learning classifiers to dynamic Android malware detection at scale [code] Brandon Amos, Hamilton Turner, and Jules White IWCMC 2013

## **Open Source Repositories**

26.7k GitHub stars across all repositories.

1. facebookresearch/amortized-optimization-tutorial   ★145   Tutorial on amortized optimization	2022
2. facebookresearch/theseus   ★1.1k   Differentiable non-linear optimization library	2022
3. facebookresearch/meta-ot   ★83   Meta Optimal Transport	2022
4. facebookresearch/w2ot   ★34   Wasserstein-2 optimal transport in JAX	2022
5. bamos/presentations   ★107   Source for my major presentations with a CC-BY license	2022
6. facebookresearch/rcpm   ★61   Riemannian Convex Potential Maps	2021
7. facebookresearch/svg   ★46   Model-based stochastic value gradient	2021
8. facebookresearch/mbrl-lib   ★725   Model-based reinforcement learning library	2021
9. facebookresearch/dcem   ★114   The Differentiable Cross-Entropy Method	2020
10. facebookresearch/higher   ★1.5k   PyTorch higher-order gradient and optimization library	2019
11. bamos/thesis   ★296   Ph.D. Thesis LaTeX source code	2019
12. cvxgrp/cvxpylayers   ★1.4k   Differentiable Convex Optimization Layers	2019
13. locuslab/lml   ★56   The Limited Multi-Label Projection Layer	2019
14. locuslab/mpc.pytorch   ★629   Differentiable PyTorch Model Predictive Control library	2018
15. locuslab/differentiable-mpc   ★134   Differentiable MPC experiments	2018
16. locuslab/icnn   ★250   Input Convex Neural Network experiments	2017
17. locuslab/optnet   ★428   OptNet experiments	2017
18. locuslab/qpth   ★561   Differentiable PyTorch QP solver	2017
19. bamos/densenet.pytorch   ★771   PyTorch DenseNet implementation	2017
20. bamos/block   ★283   Intelligent block matrix constructions	2017
21. bamos/setGPU   ★102   Automatically use the least-loaded GPU	2017

22. bamos/dcgan-completion.tensorflow   ★1.3k   Image completion with GANs	2016
23. cmusatyalab/openface   ★14.6k   Face recognition with deep neural networks	2015
24. vtopt/qnstop   ★10   Fortran Quasi-newton stochastic optimization library	2014
25. bamos/snowglobe   ★27   Haskell-driven, self-hosted web analytics with minimal configuration	2014
26. bamos/zsh-history-analysis   ★192   Analyze and plot your zsh history	2014
27. bamos/beamer-snippets   ★108   Beamer and TikZ snippets	2014
28. bamos/latex-templates   ★359   LaTeX templates	2013
29. cparse/cparse   $\star$ 296   C++ expression parser using Dijkstra's shunting-yard algorithm	2013
30. bamos/cv   ★374   Source for this CV: Creates LaTeX/Markdown from YAML/BibTeX	2013
31. bamos/python-scripts   ★197   Short and fun Python scripts	2013
32. bamos/reading-list   ★188   YAML reading list and notes system	2013
33. bamos/dotfiles   ★235   ♥ Linux, xmonad, emacs, vim, zsh, tmux	2012

## **Invited Talks**

Slides for my major presentations are open-sourced with a CC-BY license at bamos/presentations.

1. Learning with differentiable and amortized optimization, Microsoft Research	2022
2. Amortized optimization for computing optimal transport maps, Flatiron Workshop	2022
3. Learning with differentiable and amortized optimization, Cornell Al Seminar	2022
4. Learning with differentiable and amortized optimization, Cornell Tech Seminar	2022
5. Learning with differentiable and amortized optimization, Argonne National Laboratory	2022
6. Theseus: A library for differentiable nonlinear optimization, NYU	2022
7. Theseus: A library for differentiable nonlinear optimization, University of Zurich	2022
8. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Colorado Mines AMS Colloquium	2022
9. Differentiable optimization, IJCAI Tutorial	2022
10. Differentiable optimization for control and RL, ICML Workshop on Decision Awareness in RL	2022
11. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, CPAIOR Master Class	2022
12. Tutorial on amortized optimization, ICCOPT	2022
13. Differentiable optimization for control and RL, Gridmatic	2022
14. Learning for control with differentiable optimization and ODEs, Columbia University	2021
15. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, IBM Research	2021
16. Differentiable optimization for control, Max Planck Institute (Tübingen)	2020
17. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Mila Seminar	2020
18. Deep Declarative Networks, ECCV Tutorial	2020
19. On differentiable optimization for control and vision, CVPR Deep Declarative Networks Workshop	2020
20. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Caltech CS 159 (Guest Lecture)	2020
21. Unrolled optimization for learning deep energy models, SIAM MDS Minisymposium	2020
22. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, NYU CILVR Seminar	2019
23. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, INFORMS	2019
24. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Facebook Al Research	2019
25. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, ISMP	2018
26. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Google Brain	2018
27. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Bosch Center for Al	2018
28. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Waymo Research	2018
29. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Tesla Al	2018
30. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, NVIDIA Robotics	2018
31. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, Salesforce Research	2018
32. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, OpenAl	2018
33. Differentiable optimization-based modeling for machine learning, NNAISENSE	2018
34. Differentiable optimization and control, UC Berkeley	2018

## **Interns and Students**

Aram-Alexandre Pooladian (visiting FAIR from NYU)	2022 – present
Carles Domingo-Enrich (visiting FAIR from NYU)	2022 – present
Sanae Lotfi (visiting FAIR from NYU)	2022 – present
Dishank Bansal (Al resident at FAIR)	2022 – present
Arnaud Fickinger (visiting FAIR from Berkeley)	2021 - 2022
Aaron Lou (visiting FAIR from Cornell and Stanford)	2020 - 2022
Eugene Vinitsky (visiting FAIR from Berkeley, now incoming professor at NYU)	2021 - 2022
Samuel Cohen (visiting FAIR from UCL, now CEO at FairGen)	2021 - 2022
Ricky Chen (visiting FAIR from Toronto, now scientist at FAIR)	2020
Paul Liang (visiting FAIR from CMU)	2020
Phillip Wang (at CMU, now CEO at Gather)	2018

## **Professional Activities**

AAAI Senior Program Committee	2023
NeurIPS Learning Meets Combinatorial Optimization Workshop Organizer	2020
CVPR Deep Declarative Networks Workshop Organizer	2020
ECCV Deep Declarative Networks Tutorial Organizer	2020
CMU CSD MS Admissions	2014 - 2015

# Reviewing

AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence

American Controls Conference (ACC)

IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)

IEEE Control Systems Letters (L-CSS)

IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)

IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)

International Conference on the Constraint Programming, AI, and Operations Research (CPAIOR)

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)

Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR)

Mathematical Programming Computation (MPC)

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Datasets and Benchmarks Track

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) OPT Workshop

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) DiffCVGP Workshop

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Deep RL Workshop

**Optimization Letters** 

## **Teaching**

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**

Programming C, C++, Fortran, Haskell, Java, Lua, Make, Mathematica, Python, R, Scala

Frameworks JAX, NumPy, Pandas, PyTorch, SciPy, TensorFlow, Torch7 Toolbox Linux, emacs, vim, evil, org, mu4e, xmonad, git, tmux, zsh