Blair Jones

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Summary

Data Science student and Asset-Based lending expert with over seven years of management experience. Returned to university studies to support a career pivot. Currently a student at CU Boulder pursuing a Master's of Science in Applied Mathematics (expected December 2025) with an emphasis on statistics and data science. Years of real-world experience in business analysis are enhanced with cutting-edge mathematical and technological skills.

Projects

Online Retail Data Insights using Machine Learning | *Python, R, eBay API*   2025

- Built a ML pipeline analyzing product listings from eBay and Amazon to assess competitively and overpriced items as well as to model pricing behaviors
- Performed feature extraction and engineering from raw API data
- Trained multiple models including Random Forest, SVM, Neural Networks (among others) for price-tier classification and price prediction. Found that tree-based models performed best, given data types and limitations
- Conducted unsupervised methods to analyze listing attributes as related to pricing and perceived quality

IMDb Data Analysis | *Python, SQL, R, TMDB API*   2024 - 2025

- Queried large non-commercial IMDb datasets in Oracle SQL to clean and transform for analysis
- Implemented *The Movie Database* API to join additional quantitative and qualitative information
- Created visualizations and performed hypothesis tests on several variables, e.g. runtime, average rating, release month, revenue etc., segmented by genre. Analyzed trends in popularity and genre over time
- Built machine learning models including regression with various probability distributions as well as random forest and boosting methods for revenue and rating prediction, and PCA for clustering

Cookbook using Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) | *Python, OpenAI GPT-3, RapidFuzz, Flask*   2024

- Group project using RAG for online cookbook
- User-friendly interface built with integration from GPT which allows for more complex queries
- Flask used as main web framework and RapidFuzz implemented to handle fuzzy string matching

Experience

Field Exam Manager   2016 – 2023

Wells Fargo Capital Finance   *Santa Monica, CA and Denver, CO*

- Supervised a team of examiners performing asset-based lending exams on borrowers with lines of credit up to \$1.7Bn. Examiners were at various stages of their careers; including new hires and seniors. Prepared training plans tailored to individual strengths and areas needing improvement.
- Managed exams across multiple business units, including asset-based lending (accounts receivable, inventory, fixed assets, intangibles), factoring, and re-discount lending on borrowers and prospects.
- Worked closely with examiners on troubled accounts with significant Bank collateral exposure (\$100MM+) due to ineligible collateral included in borrowing bases. Ran point on meetings with examiners, portfolio and credit teams, discussing implications of findings. Efforts allowed Bank to manage collateral without write-downs.

- Tasked with preparing departmental budgets using data-driven analysis. Developed models for assessing regional personnel needs based on historical exam days and locations. Analysis was used for hiring decisions and presentations to senior management.

- Developed scheduling tool that combined examiner location with skill-set to return best matches. Critically important during the Covid-19 crisis in which travel was restricted. The tool used VBA code and allowed for a straight-forward input and output, allowing users across many teams to successfully incorporate into their job function.

- Represented the field exam team on technological development projects, including revitalizing customer reporting and internal loan tracking. Worked with developers and programmers on business requirements. Projects expected to save organization over $1MM in expense savings.

Field Examiner   2006 – 2016

Wells Fargo Capital Finance   *Santa Monica, CA*

- Assessed borrowers' financial records and controls and worked closely with borrowers' management to ensure the proper implementation of collateral control procedures. Acted as a liaison between Wells Fargo and borrower.

- Prepared audit reports highlighting results with quantitative and qualitative analysis. Made recommendations to credit management which helped to mitigate additional exposure to the Bank as noted during audits.

- Identified significant Bank collateral exposure ($100MM+) through audit testing and client interviews. Exam findings allowed the portfolio and credit teams to take steps to protect Bank assets before issues became untenable.

- Developed efficiency with extensive use of Microsoft Excel, including vLookup, Pivot tables, and macros via Visual Basic, and report data mining software (Monarch) for assigned exams as well as for teammate support.

- Selected as one of 15 (of 120+) Examiners nationwide to participate in the testing of the new exam template. Provided feedback and identified issues through use in the field before the roll-out to the country. Contributed several specific topics on a shared website for testers to assist the template creator before release.

- Assisted with the training of new hires and tasked with cross-training of personnel from other departments. Reviewed draft reports of colleagues, providing comments on exam findings and constructive criticism.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, R, SQL, Scala, Microsoft Visual Basic for Excel
Developer Tools: Visual Studio, Jupyter, GitHub, Apache Spark
Libraries: Pytorch, pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Scikit-learn

EDUCATION

University of Colorado, Boulder   2024 – Dec 2025 (Anticipated)

Working toward Master's of Science in Applied Mathematics   *Boulder, CO*

Classes include Mathematical Statistics, Statistical Methods, Applied Deep Learning, Statistical (Machine) Learning, Time Series Analysis, Big Data Tools

University of Colorado, Denver / Front Range Community College   2023 – 2024

Non Degree Seeking Student   *Denver / Westminster, CO*

Completed coursework prior to starting my Master's program. Classes include Calculus series, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, Discrete Math, SQL, Computer Science (Python, C++)

University of Southern California   2006

Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration, emphasis in Corporate Finance   *Los Angeles, CA*