

Dennis J. Loevlie

COMPUTER VISION ENGINEER · GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

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Dedicated researcher pivoting from chemical engineering to computer science

Education

Carnegie Mellon University

M.S. IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, GPA: 3.91

- Competed in several hackathons including the Covestro Hackathon, Hack the Northeast, and the Pitt Challenge.

Pittsburgh, PA

Sep. 2019 - Dec. 2020

West Virginia University

B.S. IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, CUM LAUDE

- Graduated with Presidential Honors from the WVU Honors college.

Morgantown, WV

Sep. 2016 - Aug. 2019

Publications

Demystifying the Chemical Ordering of Multimetallic Nanoparticles [🔗]

Jan. 2023

ACCOUNTS OF CHEMICAL RESEARCH (IMPACT FACTOR 24)

- Developed a novel method for calculating the cohesive energy of a bimetallic nanoparticle that overcomes major weaknesses in previous models. On the systems we investigated, our method led to a 71% reduction in the RMSE compared to the original.
- Generalized this method to be applicable to any number of metals (multimetallic nanoparticles). GitHub - [🔗]

Size-dependent shape distributions of platinum nanoparticles [🔗]

Aug. 2022

NANOSCALE ADVANCES

- Used Boltzmann statistics to support experimental findings on nanoparticle shape and size distributions.
- Selected for the **2022 Popular Advances collection** which includes articles which have been very well received by the community.

Resolving Electrocatalytic Imprecision in Atomically Precise Metal Nanoclusters [🔗]

Jan. 2022

CURRENT OPINIONS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

- Electrocatalysis applications of ligand-protected nanoclusters.
- Prospective section on current and possible future applications of machine learning in the field.

Research Experience

Computer-Aided Nano and Energy Lab (CANELA)

University of Pittsburgh

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

June 2021 - PRESENT

- Developed a novel method for calculating cohesive energies of metal nanoparticles that led to a 71% improvement to the previous model.
- Applied quantum/statistical mechanics through Density Functional Theory, Boltzmann statistics, and mixed integer optimization using the genetic algorithm to better understand structure property relationships of metal nanoparticles.
- Organized and presented in several machine learning and software development meetings within the CANELA research group. Notable presentations include: version control using git/GitHub, an introduction to PyTorch and logistic regression, and developing custom Python packages.
- Mentored members of the group (grad and undergrad) about public [🔗] and private code I have developed, ML fundamentals, building models with PyTorch, and evaluating ML results.

The Kitchin Group

Carnegie Mellon University

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

Dec. 2019 - Dec. 2020

- Recreated image analysis tools in Python (originally in Mathematica) to be interactive, fast, and intuitive.
- Trained and deployed a convolutional neural network classifier to extract valuable information from experimental image data.
- Developed a Python package, nb_search [🔗], to efficiently sort through, locate and open Jupyter Notebook files.
- Regressed parameters and used them to cluster different bimetallic catalysts.

Control, Optimization and Design for Energy and Sustainability (CODES)

West Virginia University

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER

Apr. 2017 - Aug. 2019

- Modeled, optimized, and economically evaluated a chemical process in MATLAB — Funded by the National Science Foundation.

Volunteering and Outreach

2022	Fundraising , Organized a profit sharing event with Chipotle to raise funds for people suffering from the flooding in Pakistan	Leadership
2022	Outreach , Volunteered for and helped organize an outreach event with a local public school to help encourage students to consider STEM	Leadership
2021	STEM Education , Volunteered at the Carnegie Science Center, where I conducted science experiments with and answered questions from elementary students	Volunteering

Work Experience

KEF Robotics

COMPUTER VISION ENGINEER

Pittsburgh, PA
Jan. 2023 - Start of Ph.D.

- Significantly improved the robustness of KEF's hazard detection system by evaluating different image segmentation models, selecting a SOTA universal image segmentation model, and fine-tuning the model to segment obstacles that are crucial for a tethered UAV to avoid.
- Implemented a beta version of the tethered UAV operator interface after doing a literature review on HMI's for autonomous vehicles, then conducted user-tests with 10 internal employees and collected feedback to further improve upon the design and experience of the interface.

AithELITE

DATA SCIENTIST/SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Pittsburgh, PA
Dec. 2020 - May. 2021

- Developed web scraping scripts using BeautifulSoup and Selenium to automate data retrieval and updating.
- Developed and automated the feature engineering with Numpy and Pandas.
- Applied machine learning algorithms using Numpy and SkLearn to generate intelligent predictions and insights from the data.
- Built and maintained relational (MySQL) and graph (Neo4J) databases, hosted on AWS.
- Built the frontend and backend of the AithELITE EliteAI website with Django, hosted on AWS.

Projects

SkinsAI [🔗]

Pitt Challenge Hackathon

COMPUTER VISION, DEEP LEARNING

- Developed a free-access, diagnosis tool for classifying moles as benign or malignant.
- Classification model was a small convolutional neural network built with PyTorch and website was built with Django and deployed with Heroku.

Question Answering Model [🔗]

CMU Course

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

- Developed models using SpaCy that can generate questions from a provided text and also find answers to questions about a given text.

Disparity Map Generation [🔗]

CMU Course

COMPUTER VISION, DEEP LEARNING

- Modified the PSMnet architecture for disparity map generation to be used for 3D object detection.
- Implemented asymmetric convolutions and redesigned the SPP module of the PSMNet using residual blocks.
- Modifications led to a 53.65% reduction in parameters and a higher 3-pixel accuracy on I.R. images.

Speech to Text Transcription [🔗]

CMU Course

DEEP LEARNING

- Implemented a combination of recurrent neural networks (more specifically BLSTMs) and dense networks for speech to text transcription.

American Sign Language (ASL) Active Learning [🔗]

Personal Project

COMPUTER VISION, DEEP LEARNING

- Developed a GUI that uses machine learning techniques such as a vanilla convolutional neural network classifier and YOLOv3 object detection to tell a user if they have correctly signed a letter in American sign language.

Honors & Awards & Activities

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

2022	2nd Place , The Pitt Challenge, built SkinsAI which was awarded 2nd place overall (\$2,000 cash prize) out of 24 teams from Pittsburgh universities, including CMU	Pittsburgh, PA
2022	GSA President , Elected President of the Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Association	Pittsburgh, PA

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

2020	3rd Place , Chemical Engineering Masters Student Association Research Forum, Poster Competition	Pittsburgh, PA
2020	Category Winner , The Pitt Challenge, "Largest Impact on Healthcare Workers" Category	Pittsburgh, PA

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

2019	1st Place , AVEVA's National Simulation Competition (Advanced Category)	Morgantown, WV
2019	Vice President , American Institute of Chemical Engineers (WVU Chapter)	Morgantown, WV
2018	2nd Place , Computing and Process Control Division at the National 2018 AIChE Poster Presentations	Morgantown, WV
2018	Member , Omega Chi Epsilon Chemical Engineering Honor Society	Morgantown, WV

Relevant Courses

2021	Natural Language Processing , Carnegie Mellon University (cross-registration), Graduate	Pittsburgh, PA
2020	Introduction to Deep Learning , Carnegie Mellon University, Graduate	Pittsburgh, PA
2020	Introduction to Machine Learning , Carnegie Mellon University, Graduate	Pittsburgh, PA
2019	Linear Optimization (supply chain focused) , Carnegie Mellon University, Graduate	Pittsburgh, PA
2017	Numerical Methods and Optimization , West Virginia University, Undergraduate	Morgantown, WV