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Alexander Loftus
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AI researcher & communicator with 7+ years translating deep learning & machine learning research into actionable insights. Kaggle $100k competition winner, forthcoming CUP textbook author, and organizer of a 200-person mechanistic interpretability conference. Seeking outward-facing role (Solutions Engineer / Developer Advocate) where deep technical depth, public speaking, and storytelling accelerate product adoption.

Career highlights:

Textbook author: Authored a 524-page technical book on statistical network ML (Cambridge Univ. Press, Nov 2025)
Organizer & Teacher: Organized the New England Mechanistic Interpretability (NEMI) conference; YouTube lecture series creator; taught hundreds of students through meetups, summer camps, and tutorials.
High-impact presentations: Best poster award at NeurIPS 2023 LatinX workshop, first author work in ICLR 2024, delivered 10+ invited talks to 20-300 attendees;
Strategic Advisory Roles: Advisor for cybersecurity/mechanistic interpretability startup Krnel.ai; summer mentor for Harvard/MIT students.
Competitive Excellence: Part of a **4-person team** that won 1st place in a $100k Kaggle competition (1,249 teams); featured on the cover of *Scientific American*.

Experience

Data Scientist — San Diego, CA
Creyon Bio — 2022-2024

ML for Drug Discovery: Developed a novel contrastive pipeline to predict oligo toxicity from 3-D electrostatic maps; increased classification AUC from 0.73 to 0.88.

Neuron Toxicity Detection: Developed scalable segmentation pipeline to accelerate toxicology workflows and inform R&D prioritization.

All Projects: Presented insights to C-suite, shaping series B narrative.

Machine Learning Research Engineer — Rockville, MD
Blue Halo — 2021-2022

Conditional Image Generation with Generative Adversarial Networks: Replaced GAN pipeline with diffusion-model synthetic data generator. Immediate 10x training run reliability.

Detecting Objects with Enhanced Yolo and Knowledge Graphs: Designed YOLO+ knowledge graph detector. Delivered live demos to program officers.

Geometric Multi-Resolution Analysis: Led infra for document clustering & analysis method.

Research Assistant — Baltimore, MD
Johns Hopkins University — Dr. Joshua Vogelstein — 2018-2021

MRI-to-Graphs: Optimized a diffusion MRI pipeline with Kubernetes and AWS orchestration. Halved runtime and cut cloud costs by 40%.

Graspologic: Co-authored an open-source graph statistics library. Later adopted by Microsoft Research for large-scale employee network analysis.

Assistant Director — Seattle, WA
iD Tech Camps — University of Washington — 2014-2018 summers

Leader and Manager: Managed 10+ instructors/week and 300+ students.

Curriculum Designer: Authored game development curriculum deployed to 50+ locations, impacting 10k+ students nationwide.

Leadership & Community Engagement

Conference Organizer — NEMI
Running 200+ person interpretability conference; Raised $17,000 grant funding. — 2025

Research Mentor — CBAI
Will be mentoring Harvard/MIT students in Summer 2025 — 2025

Strategic Advisor — Krnel.ai
Advisor to cybersecurity-focused startup specializing in interpretability tooling for AI systems. — 2025

Meetup Speaker — SDML
Speaker & organizer for San Diego AI Meetups. — 2023–2024

Hackathon Organizer — NeuroData Workshop
Helped organize hackathon & workshop to explore statistics for high-dimensional testing. — 2019

Talks & Demos

A Shared Infrastructure for Interpretability: *Tech. Innovations for AI Policy Conf., 2025*
Invited demo for policymakers; showcased live editing of GPT2 internals

State of the Art in Knowledge Editing: *A.R. Loftus*, 2023
Survey talk on LLM knowledge-editing methods.

1st Place Solution - Vesuvius Ink Competition: *R. Chesler,* ***A.R. Loftus****, A. Tersol Montserrat, T. Kyi*, 2023
Walkthrough of winning $100,000 ink-detection model.

ICML Conference Highlights: ***A.R. Loftus***, 2023
Selected breakthroughs from ICML. Presented to biotech execs and SDML meetup group.

Working with LLMs: AI San Diego Conference, 2023.
Invited talk: Introduction to LLM engineering. 300+ attendees

Linear Algebra, from Dot Products to Neural Networks: ***A.R. Loftus***, 2023.
Created a YouTube tutorial series on the fundamentals of linear algebra for machine learning.

Skills Summary

Languages: Python, Bash, R, Rust, SQL

Tools & Frameworks: pytorch, pytorch-lightning, tensorflow, jax, numpy, scipy, pandas, polars, sklearn, seaborn, matplotlib, docker, AWS, google cloud (GCP), photoshop, SQL, weights & biases, mlflow, kubernetes, linux, cursor.

Areas of Expertise: Linear algebra, probability & statistics, deep learning, information theory, transformers, diffusion models, convolutional autoencoders, GPUs and CUDA, public speaking, leadership & management, teaching, natural language processing, computer vision

Soft Skills: Public Speaking, Technical Writing, Leadership, Mentorship, Community-Building, Confidence & Charisma

Textbook

Hands-On Network Machine Learning with Python: *Eric Bridgeford,* ***Alexander R. Loftus****, Joshua Vogelstein.*
Cambridge University Press, in copy-editing phase. To be printed November 2025.
Spectral representation theory on networks. 524 pages, 147 figures.

Education

Northeastern University — Boston, MA
PhD Student, Computer Science — 2024-Present
Advisor: Dr. David Bau

Mechanistic interpretability, evaluations, and training dynamics in Code LLMs.

Johns Hopkins University — Baltimore, MD
MSE Biomedical Engineering: Machine Learning & Data Science Focus — 2020-2022
Advisor: Dr. Joshua Vogelstein
Thesis: Hands-On Network Machine Learning

dean's list, highest honors, GPA 3.97/4.0.

Western Washington University — Bellingham, WA
BS Behavioral Neuroscience — *Minors*: Chemistry, Philosophy — 2014-2018
Founder & President, Computational Neuroscience Club
Vice President, Neuroscience Club

Built computational neuroscience club from scratch, taught weekly seminars.

Selected Publications

* indicates equal contribution.
🏆 indicates best poster.

NNsight and NDIF: Democratizing Access to Open-Weight Foundation Model Internals: ***A.R. Loftus****, J.Fiotto-Kaufman*, et al.* ICLR 2025.
Open-source suite for probing & manipulating LLM weights without engineering overhead.

A Saliency-based Clustering Framework for Identifying Aberrant Predictions 🏆: *A. Tersol Montserrat,* ***A.R. Loftus****, Y. Daihes.* Paper, **NeurIPS** LatinX AI Workshop, 2023.

Detects spurious feature reliance via saliency embeddings.

A low-resource reliable pipeline to democratize multi-modal connectome estimation and analysis: *J. Chung, R. Lawrence,* ***A.R. Loftus****, et al.* Paper, in review at Nature Methods, 2024

Transforms diffusion MRI scans into graphs; open-sourced (code)

Fellowships & Awards

First Place Winner
Kaggle Vesuvius Competition, $100,000. 2023

Khoury Distinguished Fellowship
Northeastern University PhD fellowship. 2024

Best Poster Award
NeurIPS 2023 LatinX AI Workshop. 2023

Harvard AI Safety Technical Fellowship 2025
Harvard fellowship for technical work in AI safety.

AWS Research Grant
$10,000 grant for computational research on cloud services. 2019

Teaching

Head Teaching Assistant Johns Hopkins University
Foundations of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, *EN.BME.410/634* Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant Johns Hopkins University
NeuroData Design II, *EN.BME.438/638* Spring 2020

Teaching Assistant Johns Hopkins University
NeuroData Design I, *EN.BME.437/637* Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant Western Washington University
Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience, *PSY.220* Winter 2017

Curriculum Designer iD Tech Camps
Built curriculum used across 50 locations in the United States by tens of thousands of students. Spring 2017

Instructor iD Tech Camps
Taught programming and game design to high school students. 2014-2018 summers

Fun

Gaming: Starcraft 2 grandmaster in high school, local tournament winner

Music: Fingerstyle guitarist; performed at open mic nights.

Dancing: Partner dance instructor and competition winner (Fusion, West Coast Swing, Zouk)