Michael McCourt

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Professional History

Distributional - 2023–2025 - CTO & Co-founder

- Co-founded an a16z funded startup, growing to 29 employees and $30M in funding
- Led technical design by 15 employees of our AI test framework
- Led customer success in onboarding 12 SaaS POCs and 3 VPC installations
- Led the research team to develop novel AI agent analyses and submit two patents

Intel - 2020–2023 - Senior Principal Engineer/AI Research Manager

- Managed the SigOpt project within Intel, involving 14 USA-based employees and more than 50 publicly referenceable customers
- Managed the XPU Monitoring project, with 10 China-based employees, to enable monitoring of Intel's forthcoming GPU offerings
- Led research initiatives in sample-efficient optimization resulting in 7 peer-reviewed publications, including at ICML, and 4 patents

SigOpt - 2015–2020 - Research Engineer & Head of Research

- Developed novel strategies for multiobjective Bayesian optimization resulting in 14 peer-reviewed publications, including at NeurIPS, and 5 patents which powered our SaaS solution to satisfy 99.9% uptime SLA for our ML practitioner, finance, and industrial customers
- Composed more than 30 pieces of thought leadership content, including blog posts and invited industry lectures
- Developed our evaluation framework to drive product improvements, including a dozen constrained multicriteria optimization benchmark problems
- Led the technical discovery that underpinned Intel's acquisition (Oct 29, 2020)—positioning SigOpt as the standard platform for scalable model & system optimization across hardware and software stacks

University of Colorado - 2013–2015 - Visiting Assistant Professor

- Conducted research at both our Denver campus and sister school in Beijing on computational statistics resulting in 6 peer-reviewed publications, including a textbook on kernel-based approximation methods

Argonne National Laboratory - 2010–2013 - Lab Grad Associate

- Conducted research as part of my PhD thesis on computational tooling for multiphysics systems resulting in 4 peer-reviewed publications

Education

Ph. D./M. S. in Applied Mathematics	Cornell University	2013/2009
B. S. in Applied Mathematics	Illinois Institute of Technology	2007

Other Projects

QMCPy - Led by Fred Hickernell, an open-source library for developing and distributing Quasi-Monte Carlo methods, focusing on quadrature strategies with guaranteed performance

Attribute alignment - Led by Kyle Emich, a collaboration with business professors to bring new modeling strategies to studying and predicting team performance based on team members having consistent values across multiple attributes

Bayesian materials design - Led by Paul Leu, ongoing research into how to optimally design additive manufacturing processes for nanostructured glass/OLED