Michael McCourt

Telephone: 216.409.4644
Email: mikemccourt1234@gmail.com
Web: https://mikemccourt.github.io/

Professional History

Distributional - 2023–2025 - CTO & Co-founder

- Co-founded an a16z funded startup to interrogate and test deployed AI systems, 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 - AI Research Manager/Senior Principal Engineer

- 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 - Head of Research

- 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
- 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
- Defined SigOpt's public-facing persona through invited lectures and more than 30 pieces of thought leadership content
- Architected our evaluation framework to drive research initiatives and product improvements, including the Constraint Active Search strategy for noisy objectives

University of Colorado - 2013–2015 - Visiting Assistant Professor

- Researched stabilized RBF/kernel methods for global approximation; published a textbook on kernel-based approximation methods

Argonne National Laboratory - 2010–2013 - Lab Grad Associate

- Improved multiphysics solver efficiency by up to 48% to accelerate simulating magnetohydrodynamics for sustainable nuclear fusion

Other Projects

QMCPy - An open-source library for developing and distributing Quasi-Monte Carlo methods with guaranteed performance

Attribute alignment - Joint work with management professionals and psychologists to better model team performance and cohesion; partially funded by the Army Research Institute

Bayesian materials design - Ongoing research into how to optimally design additive manufacturing processes for nanostructured glass/OLED

Education

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