Nicholas Hoffs

Charlottesville, VA 22904 | 949-280-2672 | zur3hn@virginia.edu

Education

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA   **August 2022 - Present**
Computer Science B.S. / Mathematics B.A.
• Computer Science degree from School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
• Math degree from School of Arts and Sciences with financial concentration
• 3.913 Cumulative GPA

Laguna Beach High School, Laguna Beach, CA   **September 2018 - June 2022**
High School Diploma
• 4.57 Weighted GPA; 3.97 Unweighted GPA
• 35 ACT; National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist; AP Scholar with Distinction

Stanford University Summer Session, Palo Alto, CA   **Summer 2021**
Math 51
• Rigorous 8 week program covering linear algebra and multivariable calculus

Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, CA   **September 2019 - June 2020**

Experience

Cavalier Autonomous Racing, *Perception/Motion-Planning*   **May 2024 - Present**
• Researching and implementing path prediction and computer-vision algorithms to improve robustness and generalization to unforeseen road conditions
• Interfaced programs with ROS2 to facilitate communication between various components of autonomous driving stack

Caju AI, *Staff AI Engineer*   **May 2024 - August 2024**
• Researched, architected, and implemented comprehensive evaluation suite for AI software, including RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) pipelines, classification models, and entity extraction systems

Unbox Project, *Website Development and Designer*   **June 2020 - February 2021**
• Created website and set up hosting to provide critical information on public food infrastructure to families in need (www.unboxproject.org); thousands of active users
• Led frontend development initiatives in collaboration with a team of 15+ members

Fiverr, *Freelance Writer*   **February 2019 - July 2019**
• Freelance authored web development and videogame content, averaging 10-100k views per post

Projects

• Building tensor backend for TinyGround - a WebGL-accelerated tensor automatic-differentiation website for quickly training, executing, and sharing neural-network based architectures
• Developing techniques for accelerating inference of embedded systems using novel methods of neural distillation
• Reproduced landmark papers in mechanistic interpretability to reverse-engineer neural networks' learned algorithms
• Trained generative algorithms for language modeling/image generation from scratch - GPT, VQ-GAN, Diffusion

Extra Curricular Activities

• High-School/College Water Polo: 4 year Varsity starter at Top-10 nationally ranked high-school team; Assistant-Coach/Player for UVA Men's Club Water Polo program
• White-Belt practitioner of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu at Gracie Charlottesville and Judo Club San Sebastian

Technical Skills

• Machine Learning and Data Science Tools: PyTorch, Tensorflow, TinyGrad, Pandas, LangChain, OpenAI API
• Fluency working with ChatGPT and other generative AI tools
• Programming Languages: Python | C++ | Java | C | MATLAB
• Robotics Software/Hardware: ROS2, LIDAR, RADAR, Camera