

NICHOLAS ROBERTS

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin - Madison

August 2021 - Present

Ph.D. Computer Science

- Advisor: Frederic Sala

Carnegie Mellon University

August 2019 - May 2021

M.S. Machine Learning

- Advisors: Ameet Talwalkar, Zachary C. Lipton

University of California San Diego

September 2015 - March 2019

B.S. Computer Science, Mathematics minor

- Advisors: Sanjoy Dasgupta, Garrison W. Cottrell

- Magna Cum Laude with CSE department Highest Distinction honors

Fresno City College

August 2013 - May 2015

PUBLICATIONS

*equal contribution †alphabetical

UNDER REVIEW

Benedikt Boecking, Willie Neiswanger, **Nicholas Roberts**, Stefano Ermon, Frederic Sala, Artur Dubrawski. (2022). *Generative Modeling Helps Weak Supervision (and Vice Versa)*.

Renbo Tu, Mikhail Khodak, **Nicholas Roberts**, Ameet Talwalkar. (2022). *NAS-Bench-360: Benchmarking Diverse Tasks for Neural Architecture Search*.

Kaustubh D. Dhole, ..., **Nicholas Roberts** (82), ..., (125 authors). (2022). *NL-Augmenter: A Framework for Task-Sensitive Natural Language Augmentation*.

CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Changho Shin, Winfred Li, Harit Vishwakarma, **Nicholas Roberts**, Frederic Sala. (2022). *Universalizing Weak Supervision*. International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2022.

Nicholas Roberts*, Mikhail Khodak*, Tri Dao, Liam Li, Christopher Ré, Ameet Talwalkar. (2021). *Rethinking Neural Operations for Diverse Tasks*. Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021.

Sanjoy Dasgupta[†], Akansha Dey[†], **Nicholas Roberts**[†], Sivan Sabato[†]. (2018). *Learning from discriminative feature feedback*. Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2018.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Chen Zhang*, Yerlan Idelbayev*, **Nicholas Roberts**, Yiwen Tao, Yashwanth Nannapaneni, Brendan M. Duggan, Jie Min, Eugene C. Lin, Erik C. Gerwick, Garrison W. Cottrell, William H. Gerwick. (2017). *Small Molecule Accurate Recognition Technology (SMART) to Enhance Natural Products Research*. Nature Scientific Reports.

PEER-REVIEWED WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

Nicholas Roberts, Davis Liang, Graham Neubig, Zachary C. Lipton. (2020). *Decoding and Diversity in Machine Translation*. NeurIPS 2020 Resistance AI Workshop.

Mikhail Khodak, Liam Li, **Nicholas Roberts**, Maria-Florina Balcan, Ameet Talwalkar. (2020). *A Simple Setting for Understanding Neural Architecture Search with Weight-Sharing*. ICML 2020 AutoML Workshop.

Mikhail Khodak*, Liam Li*, **Nicholas Roberts**, Maria-Florina Balcan, Ameet Talwalkar. (2020). *Weight-Sharing Beyond Neural Architecture Search: Efficient Feature Map Selection and Federated Hyperparameter Tuning*. MLSys 2020 On-Device Intelligence Workshop.

Nicholas Roberts, Dian A. Yap, Vinay U. Prabhu. (2019). *Deep Connectomics Networks: Neural Network Architectures Inspired by Neuronal Networks*. NeurIPS 2019 Real Neurons and Hidden Units Workshop.

Nicholas Roberts, Poornav S. Purushothama, Vishal T. Vasudevan, Siddarth Ravichandran, Chen Zhang, William H. Gerwick, Garrison W. Cottrell. (2019). *Using Deep Siamese Neural Networks to Speed up Natural Products Research*. NeurIPS 2019 workshop on Machine Learning and the Physical Sciences.

Dian A. Yap, **Nicholas Roberts**, Vinay U. Prabhu. (2019). *Grassmannian Packings in Neural Networks: Learning with Maximal Subspace Packings for Diversity and Anti-Sparsity*. NeurIPS 2019 Workshop on Bayesian Deep Learning.

Nicholas Roberts, Vinay U. Prabhu, Matthew McAteer. (2019). *Model Weight Theft With Just Noise Inputs: The Curious Case of the Petulant Attacker*. ICML 2019 Workshop on Security and Privacy of Machine Learning.

PRESENTATIONS

Searching for Convolutions and a More Ambitious NAS

Plenary talk AAAI 2021 Workshop on Learning Network Architecture During Training.
Online. February 2021.

Model Weight Theft With Just Noise Inputs: The Curious Case of the Petulant Attacker

Spotlight presentation ICML 2019 Workshop on Security and Privacy of Machine Learning.
Long Beach, CA, USA. June 2019.

Small Molecule Accurate Recognition Technology: A Digital Frontier to Reshape Natural Product Research

Spotlight presentation Applied Machine Learning Days 2018.
Lausanne, Switzerland. January 2018.

AWARDS

Prove AI Fellowship	2021
<i>Prove</i>	

First-Year CS Departmental Scholarship	2021
<i>University of Wisconsin - Madison</i>	

“Travel” Award	2020
<i>Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)</i>	

UnifyID AI Fellowship	2019
<i>UnifyID AI Labs</i>	

Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award (honorable mention)	2019
<i>Computing Research Association (CRA)</i>	

Travel Award	2018
<i>Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)</i>	

Best Spotlight Presentation Award	2018
<i>Applied Machine Learning Days (AMLDD)</i>	

EXPERIENCE

Sala Group	August 2021 -
<i>Research Assistant</i>	

· Ph.D. research on Weak Supervision and Automated Machine Learning advised by Fred Sala

Talwalkar Lab (SAGE Lab)	May 2020 - August 2020
<i>Research Assistant</i>	

- Explored two directions for expanding NAS search spaces: large scale edge learning and operation learning
- Gave monthly research presentations to J.P. Morgan researchers

Amazon AWS AI

June 2019 - August 2019

Applied Scientist Intern

- Identified areas for improvement in existing ASR systems when recognizing rare or zero shot entities
- Researched and developed methods for hypothesis rescoring in ASR systems using neural language modeling

UnifyID

February 2019 - June 2019

AI Fellow + Machine Learner Intern

- Developed a novel model extraction attack against deep learning models for computer vision using just noise inputs
- Researched ways to apply network neuroscience findings to deep learning

Intuit

June 2018 - September 2018

Software Engineering Intern

- Researched and implemented a novel controllable text generation model as a service within Intuit
- Identified dynamic topic models as a promising direction for analyzing customer support tickets over time

Altum

January 2018 - May 2018

Applied Scientist Intern

- Developed language model to extract NLP features from text data for cryptocurrency trading
- Implemented SoTA unsupervised sentiment analysis models for classifying streaming online forum data

UCSD CSE Department

September 2017 - March 2018

Data Science Tutor

- Tutored DSC 10 Introduction to Data Science, under Professor Janine Tiefenbruck
- Tutored DSC 20 Principles of Data Science, under Professor Marina Langlois

Teradata

June 2017 - September 2017

Software Engineering Intern

- Improved training methodology and architecture of deep learning time series model used internally
- Developed open source Spark-Teradata connector forked from Databricks connector for AWS Redshift

Skqrl

June 2016 - December 2016

Software Engineering Intern

- Developed web scraping tool to compile product data
- Designed and implemented search pipeline and database using Python, Django, and MySQL

ModSpot

January 2016 - March 2016

Software Engineering Intern

- Implemented new user account, edit profile, and login designs in Objective-C for iOS application
- Refactored analytics code for gathering statistics on app usage

The Comeback Community

June 2015 - September 2015

Volunteer Full Stack Developer

- Developed website for educational nonprofit using Google Cloud Platform

Fresno City College

January 2015 - May 2015

Tutor

- Tutored calculus, linear algebra, data structures, discrete mathematics, and Android app development

Fresno County Sheriff's Office

May 2013 - August 2013

IT Intern

- Replaced malfunctioning hardware in employee PCs

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CMU:	MSML Student Committee 2019-2021	(Virtual) Event Organizer
UCSD:	Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society	House Leader
	Triton Engineering Student Council	Data Analyst
	Data Science Student Society	Workshop Coordinator
FCC:	Google Developer Group Fresno City College	President/Founder
	Science and Engineering Club	Treasurer

TECHNOLOGIES AND SKILLS

Competent:	Python, PyTorch, AWS, TensorFlow, Java, Scala, C/C++, Unix, Docker
Familiar:	SQL, Kaldi ASR, Google Cloud Platform, Matlab/Octave, JavaScript