

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: Garrison W. Cottrell, Sanjoy Dasgupta

- CSE Highest Distinction and Magna Cum Laude

Fresno City College

August 2013 - May 2015

Computer Science

PUBLICATIONS

*equal contribution

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

N. Roberts*, M. Khodak*, T. Dao, L. Li, C. Ré, A. Talwalkar. (2021). *Rethinking Neural Operations for Diverse Tasks*. To Appear in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2021.

S. Dasgupta, A. Dey, **N. Roberts**, S. Sabato. (2018). *Learning from discriminative feature feedback*. Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2018.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

C. Zhang*, Y. Idelbayev*, **N. Roberts**, Y. Tao, Y. Nannapaneni, B.M. Duggan, J. Min, E.C. Lin, E.C. Gerwick, G.W. Cottrell, W.H. Gerwick. (2017). *Small Molecule Accurate Recognition Technology (SMART) to Enhance Natural Products Research*. Nature Scientific Reports.

PEER-REVIEWED WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

N. Roberts, D. Liang, G. Neubig, Z.C. Lipton. (2020). *Decoding and Diversity in Machine Translation*. NeurIPS 2020 Resistance AI Workshop.

M. Khodak, L. Li, **N. Roberts**, M.F. Balcan, A. Talwalkar. (2020). *A Simple Setting for Understanding Neural Architecture Search with Weight-Sharing*. ICML 2020 AutoML Workshop.

M. Khodak*, L. Li*, **N. Roberts**, M.F. Balcan, A. Talwalkar. (2020). *Weight-Sharing Beyond Neural Architecture Search: Efficient Feature Map Selection and Federated Hyperparameter Tuning*. MLSys 2020 On-Device Intelligence Workshop.

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

N. Roberts, P.S. Purushothama, V.T. Vasudevan, S. Ravichandran, C. Zhang, W.H. Gerwick, G.W. Cottrell. (2019). *Using Deep Siamese Neural Networks to Speed up Natural Products Research*. NeurIPS 2019 workshop on Machine Learning and the Physical Sciences.

D.A. Yap, **N. Roberts**, V.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.

N. Roberts, V.U. Prabhu, M. 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

“Travel” Award 2020

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)

Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award (honorable mention) 2019

Computing Research Association (CRA)

Travel Award 2018

Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)

Best Spotlight Presentation Award 2018

Applied Machine Learning Days (AMLDD)

EXPERIENCE

Talwalkar Lab (SAGE Lab) May 2020 - August 2020

Research Assistant

- 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