

# NICHOLAS ROBERTS

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## EDUCATION

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**University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA**

September 2015 - Present

BS Computer Science, Mathematics minor, **Expected graduation:** March 2019, **Major GPA:** 3.9

MS/PhD Computer Science, pending acceptance: September 2019 -

**Courses tutored:** DSC 10 (Principles of Data Science), DSC 20 (Data Structures and Python)

## EXPERIENCE

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**Intuit**

June 2018 - September 2018

*Software Engineering Intern - Intuit Futures research group*

- Technologies used: Python, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Gensim, Keras, Jupyter Notebook, Matplotlib
- Researched and implemented a novel deep learning model for controllable text generation as a service within Intuit
- Developed a system for proposing alternative candidate sentences for Intuit content writers using deep learning
- Investigated the use of dynamic topic models for customer support tickets to gain actionable insights over time

**Altum**

January 2018 - May 2018

*Financial Deep Learning Researcher*

- Technologies used: Python, PyTorch, Jupyter Notebook, Matplotlib
- Developed language model to extract NLP features from text data regarding cryptocurrency trading
- Investigated unsupervised learning techniques for extracting sentiment data in real time from online forums

**Teradata**

June 2017 - September 2017

*Software Engineering Intern*

- Technologies used: Scala, SBT, Java, Maven, Teradata SQL, AWS, Python, TensorFlow, Flask
- Developed open source Spark-Teradata connector forked from Databricks connector for AWS Redshift in Scala
- Designed and implemented Teradata stored procedures in Java to mimic Redshifts UNLOAD and COPY using S3
- Improved training methodology and architecture of deep learning time series model used internally

## RESEARCH

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**Learning From Discriminative Feature Feedback**

with Professor Sanjoy Dasgupta (UCSD)

- Implemented a novel algorithm proposed by Sanjoy Dasgupta for learning a subclass of DNF boolean formulas
- Designed new datasets and interactive learning experiments to validate theoretical findings
- Investigated feature extraction algorithms to preprocess image data for use with the DFF algorithm
- Accepted, **NeurIPS 2018** in Montréal, Canada

**Small Molecule Accurate Recognition Technology**

with Professor Gary Cottrell (UCSD)

- Submitted, **ICLR 2019** (under review):
- “Using Deep Siamese Neural Networks to Speed Up Natural Products Research”
- Published, **Journal of Nature Scientific Reports**:
- “Small Molecule Accurate Recognition Technology (SMART) to Enhance Natural Products Research”
- Analyzed performance of deep learning system for use in natural products research and improved the model
- Best Spotlight Presentation at **Applied Machine Learning Days 2018** at EPFL in Lausanne, Switzerland

**Soft Purity**

with Professor Gary Cottrell (UCSD)

- Developed a novel loss function for clustering based on the purity measure
- Proved that the loss function approximately optimizes the purity measure, which cannot be directly used as a loss
- Experimentally validated the loss used in a convolutional neural network trained on images of handwritten digits

## TECHNOLOGIES AND SKILLS

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**Competent:** Python, TensorFlow, Java, Scala, C/C++, PyTorch, Unix, AWS

**Familiar:** SQL, JavaScript, Node.js, OCaml, Maven, Gradle, Docker, Matlab/Octave