

# Tyler LaBonte

Ph.D. Student & NDSEG Fellow  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering  
Atlanta, GA, USA

tlabonte@gatech.edu  
<https://tyler-labonte.com>  
<https://github.com/tmlabonte>  
<https://linkedin.com/in/tmlabonte>  
<https://twitter.com/tmlabonte>

## Research Interests

### Mathematical Foundations of Machine Learning

Generalization Theory of Deep Learning  
Convex and Non-Convex Optimization  
Robustness and Scalability of Deep Learning

## Education

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  | 2021–Present     |
| Ph.D., Machine Learning  | GPA: 4.0/4.0     |
| <i>Advisors: Jacob Abernethy and Vidya Muthukumar</i>  |                  |
| UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  | 2017–2021        |
| B.S., Applied and Computational Mathematics, <i>magna cum laude</i>                                      | GPA: 3.73/4.0    |
| Minor in Computer Science  | Ph.D. courses: 4 |
| <i>Thesis: Finding the Needle in a High-Dimensional Haystack: Oracle Methods for Convex Optimization</i> |                  |
| <i>Advisor: Shaddin Dughmi</i>   |                  |

## Publications

### WORKSHOP ARTICLES

1. **Tyler LaBonte**, Vidya Muthukumar, and Abhishek Kumar. Dropout Disagreement: A Recipe for Group Robustness with Fewer Annotations. In *Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2022. Workshop on Distribution Shifts.

### CONFERENCE ARTICLES

1. **Tyler LaBonte**, Yale Song, Xin Wang, Vibhav Vineet, and Neel Joshi. Scaling Novel Object Detection with Weakly Supervised Detection Transformers. In *Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*, 2023. Preliminary version in *Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* 2022 Workshop on Attention and Transformers in Vision.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Michael Shindler, Natalia Pinpin, Mia Markovic, Frederick Reiber, Jee Hoon Kim, Giles Pierre Nunez Carlos, Mine Dogucu, Mark Hong, Michael Luu, Brian Anderson, Aaron Cote, Matthew Ferland, Palak Jain, **Tyler LaBonte**, Leena Mathur, Ryan Moreno, and Ryan Sakuma. Student Misconceptions of Dynamic Programming: A Replication Study. *Computer Science Education*, 32(3):288–312, 2022.
2. Michael C. Krygier, **Tyler LaBonte**, Carianne Martinez, Chance Norris, Krish Sharma, Lincoln N.

Collins, Partha P Mukherjee, and Scott A. Roberts. Quantifying the Unknown: Impact of Segmentation Uncertainty on Image-Based Simulations. *Nature Communications*, 12(1):5414, 2021.

#### THESES

1. **Tyler LaBonte**. Finding the Needle in a High-Dimensional Haystack: Oracle Methods for Convex Optimization. Undergraduate Thesis, University of Southern California, 2021. Winner of the USC Discovery Scholar distinction.

#### MANUSCRIPTS

1. **Tyler LaBonte**, Carianne Martinez, and Scott A. Roberts. We Know Where We Don't Know: 3D Bayesian CNNs for Credible Geometric Uncertainty, 2019.

### Awards

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Simons Institute Deep Learning Theory Workshop Travel Grant (\$2,000)                  | 2022      |
| DoD National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (\$170,000)           | 2021      |
| – One of two undergraduates to receive both DoD NDSEG and NSF GRFP in Computer Science |           |
| NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000—declined)                                  | 2021      |
| USC Discovery Scholar (Research distinction for <100 USC graduates)                    | 2021      |
| USC Viterbi & USC Dornsife Dean's List   | 2017–2021 |
| Neo Scholar (Top ~100 CS undergraduates in America) – NEO                              | 2020      |
| U.S.S. Bowfin Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000)   | 2020      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Computer Vision Project – TREEHACKS, STANFORD UNIVERSITY         | 2019      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Healthcare AI Project – TREEHACKS, STANFORD UNIVERSITY           | 2019      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Data Analytics Project – HACKSC, USC                             | 2019      |
| Admiral Bernard Clarey Memorial Scholarship (\$7,000)                                  | 2018      |
| National Top 20 Ethical Hacking Finalist – MAJOR LEAGUE HACKING                        | 2018      |
| USC Trustee Scholar (\$250,000)  | 2017      |
| USC Viterbi Fellow (\$24,000)  | 2017      |
| Dolphin Scholarship (\$13,600)   | 2017      |
| Rear Admiral Paul Lacy Memorial Scholarship (\$6,500)                                  | 2017      |
| National Merit Scholar (\$3,000)   | 2017      |

### Industry Research Experience

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| MICROSOFT RESEARCH                      | Redmond, WA |
| <i>Machine Learning Research Intern</i> | 2021–2022   |
| <i>Advisor: Neel Joshi</i>              |             |

Developed Transformer model for weakly supervised object detection with multiple instance learning.

GOOGLE X

Mountain View, CA

*Machine Learning Research Intern*

2020

*Advisor: Daniel R. Silva*

Developed novel deep learning architecture for temporal identity preservation in object tracking.

SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Albuquerque, NM

*Machine Learning Research Intern*

2019–2020

*Advisors: Carianne Martinez and Scott A. Roberts*

Developed Bayesian deep learning model for geometric uncertainty in engineering applications.

## Talks and Presentations

1. Microsoft Research ML Area Intern Symposium – REDMOND, WA 2021  
Weakly Supervised Detection Transformers for Effortless Computer Vision
2. USC Computer Science Theory Group – LOS ANGELES, CA 2021  
The Distance Oracle for Convex Optimization
3. Mineral Tech Talks at Google X – MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 2020  
Temporal Identity Preservation in Multiple Object Tracking
4. USC Computer Science Theory Group – LOS ANGELES, CA 2019  
3D Bayesian CNNs for Credible Geometric Uncertainty
5. USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society – LOS ANGELES, CA 2019  
3D Bayesian CNNs for Credible Geometric Uncertainty
6. USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society – LOS ANGELES, CA 2019  
Machine Learning Fairness in Word Embeddings

## Open Source Software

1. BCNN: 3D Bayesian CNNs for credible geometric uncertainty 2019–2020  
<https://github.com/sandialabs/bcnn> ★ 48 📄 15  
Transitioned to a production environment by Sandia National Laboratories  
11<sup>th</sup> most starred Sandia repository (out of 165)
2. Tendies: Decoupling deep learning development and deployment 2018  
<https://github.com/tmlabonte/tendies> ★ 38 📄 10  
Transitioned to a production environment by the Air Force Research Laboratory

## Advising

1. John C. Hill – Georgia Tech undergrad
2. Pratik Deolasi – Georgia Tech undergrad → MathWorks
3. Rishit Mohan Ahuja – Georgia Tech undergrad

## Teaching

1. Undergraduate Teaching Assistant | University of Southern California  
CSCI 270: Introduction to Algorithms and Theory of Computing 2021
2. Curriculum Lead | USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society  
Introduction to Machine Learning 2019
3. Undergraduate Teaching Assistant | University of Southern California  
CSCI 170: Discrete Methods in Computer Science 2018

## Service and Leadership

1. Organizer, Georgia Tech ML Theory Reading Group 2021–2022
2. Projects Lead | USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society 2019
3. Associate Director of Robotics Outreach | USC Viterbi K-12 STEM Outreach 2018
4. Volunteer VEX Robotics Mentor | USC Viterbi K-12 STEM Outreach 2017–2018