Nicholas Wall

https://www.walln.dev

#### **EDUCATION**

## Southern Methodist University

Dallas, TX

• Master of Science in Computer Science - Lyle Discovery Scholar Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Specialization Jan. 2023 - Dec. 2023

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### Southern Methodist University

Dallas, TX

 Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science - SMU Distinguished Scholar Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Specialization Aug. 2019 - Dec. 2022

# EXPERIENCE

IBM

Dallas, TX

Software Development Intern

May 2022 - August 2022

- Applied Research: Collaborated with research teams to develop systems using custom state-of-the-art models for knowledge extraction and conversational AI. This involved putting research artifacts into practice, developing production-grade software, and performing experiments.
- Knowledge Extraction and Visualization: Designed a framework for working with directed cyclic graphs in Python, which converts unstructured data into knowledge bases. Developed a React-based tool for visualizing and manipulating these knowledge graphs with thousands of nodes, enhancing data interpretation for two high-priority projects.
- Training Models: Trained BERT-based models for various natural language processing tasks, including co-reference resolution, named entity recognition, and relationship extraction. These models performed on par with state-of-the-art methods on internal benchmarks.
- Dataset Curating: Created and curated datasets to improve machine learning model performance through detailed annotations and cleaning. This improved word error rate performance by more than 10% for Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) applications.

 $\mathbf{IBM}$ 

Dallas, TX

Application Development Intern

May 2021 - January 2022

- Generative Chat: Created a chat-based application to streamline complex workflows for thousands of users. The
  chat system integrated with user-uploaded images using computer vision systems, leveraged retrieval augmented
  generation, and had a mobile application frontend.
- Realtime Dashboard: Built a React-based real-time dashboard to monitor generative chat applications, reducing monitoring latency by a factor of 10 and enabling non-technical users to perform administrative tasks. Utilized MongoDB and Node.js to create the monitoring service.
- Speech-to-Text: Trained and deployed Speech-to-Text machine learning models leveraging technology such as wav2vec. Optimized the models for low-quality phone calls, achieving word error rates under 15, comparable to state-of-the-art.
- AI Education: Guided a team of more than ten colleagues with less technical experience in applying AI for Natural Language Processing through dataset construction and developing models. This enabled a better understanding of the user experience and higher-quality datasets for our models.
- Backend Development: Added new features and integrated AI systems into event-driven microservice-based applications. This involved designing for Domain-Drive-Design patterns and distributed systems. Projects were deployed onto Kubernetes clusters and worked with containerization technology on our public cloud.
- Optimization Algorithm: Implemented a demo application using mathematical and constraint programming methods as well as high-performance computing for decision optimization models.

## PROJECTS

- Hooper: Open source full-stack LLM-based chat experience for basketball news and analytics with generative UI to render dynamic HTML based on the context. Includes fine-tuned Llama 3, Next.js, and serverless architecture.
- Scratch: High-quality annotated implementations of machine learning papers in Python with JAX, such as Mamba, Swin Transformers, Llama, attention variants, and accelerator kernels.

# PROGRAMMING SKILLS

• Languages: Python, JavaScript, C++, SQL, Rust Technologies: AWS, JAX, PyTorch, Docker, Git, Linux