Ben Lawson

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Education

Boston University
GPA: 3.8/4

MS Computer Science, specializing in **Data-Centric Computing** *May 2016 - January 2018*

- *Related Courses:* Intro to Data Science, Data Analytics, Data Mining, Advanced Databases, Data Mechanics, Intro to Databases, Computer Vision, Machine Learning

Boston University
GPA: 3.52/4

BA in Computer Science, *cum laude* *September 2013 - January 2018*

- *Achievements:* $1^{st}/42$ and $5^{th}/42$ in Data Mining Kaggle In Class Competitions
- Updated a template for Intro to Databases programming assignment in *Python* using *flask* and *MySQL*

Experience

Senior Quantitative Analyst

WarnerMedia Applied Analytics, *fka Legendary Applied Analytics*, Boston, MA *March 2018 - present*

- Contributing to and leading projects on image and video understanding and consumer audience insights.
- Won internal hackathon with a prototype project that created a trailer from a feature length film.
- Managing cloud resources, leading weekly coding workshops, and maintaining knowledge repository.
- Developing tools using *Python* packages like *sklearn, pandas, keras*, *OpenCV*, *C++*, and *bash*

Course Assistant

CS 131 Combinatoric Structures, Boston University, taught by John Byers & Babis Tsourakakis *Fall 2017*

- Hosted weekly office hours for students to answer questions on logic, proofs, and probability.
- Assisted TA with discussion sections by guiding students through course problem-sets.

Data Science Intern

Legendary Entertainment, Applied Analytics, Boston, MA *May - August 2017*

- Worked on projects focused on image and video understanding within the entertainment domain, including developing tools for word recognition within images and converting raw videos into vectors.

Data Science Intern

Adhark, Inc (a 2017 MassChallenge Finalist), Boston, MA *January 2016 - August 2017*

- Translated market need to a machine learning framework then collected and cleaned related data.
- Developed, documented, and tested machine learning based tools into social media task advisor using tools like *Word2Vec*, *gensim*, *sklearn*, *keras*, *nltk*, *pymongo*, and *pytest* in *Python*.

Research Assistant

Computer Science Dept. BU, Boston, MA, advised by Evimaria Terzi *May 2015 - December 2016*

- Scraped, mined locality information from Twitter and Instagram to discover local hotspots in cities.
- Other projects include monitoring Markov Chains with applications to traffic in cities.

Computer Vision Intern

Systems and Technology Research, Woburn, MA *June - August 2015* and *June - August 2016*

- Integrated an approximate nearest neighbor search algorithm into face recognition pipeline using *dlib* and *OpenCV* in *C++* to gain an speed up of a factor of 10. Automated evaluation with *bash* scripts.
- Developed streaming functionality into face recognition technology and demonstrated capabilities in real-time on a security camera. Implemented using *Apache Spark* and *OpenCV* in *Python*.

Projects

contributions to *sklearn*

scikit-learn/scikit-learn *August 2017 - ongoing*

- Improved sampling methodology in iterative imputation model and wrote non-regression test
- Discovered bug related to serialization of imputation model and fixed it with assistance from a maintainer

project intercept

OneWeek Hackathon 2017, Microsoft HQ, Redmond, WA *July 2017*

- Invited as a guest at Microsoft's annual hackathon to work on a project aimed to disrupt sex trafficking.
- Helped by improving the natural language processing solution currently in place.

Publications

Allerton 2018

Predicting Positive and Negative Links with Noisy Queries: Theory & Practice. Charalampos E. Tsourakakis, Michael Mitzenmacher, Kasper Green Larson, Jarosław Błasiok, **Ben Lawson**, Preetum Nakkira, and Vasileios Nakos.

Technologies

Primary
Familiar

Python: pandas, numpy, sklearn, keras, matplotlib, Jupyter Notebook, flask; git, bash, LaTeX, Unix, AWS
C++: OpenCV, dlib; Windows, MongoDB, MySQL

last updated: April 14, 2019