NOWELL C. CLOSSER

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EDUCATION

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

PhD Statistics (expected)

August 2022 - Present

o Advisor: Prof. Susan Murphy

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, NY

BS Mathematics, BS Computer Science; GPA: 4.00

August 2009 - May 2013

INTERESTS

- Implementation, theory and analysis of Reinforcement Learning algorithms
- Statistical computing

WORK EXPERIENCE

Medallion (healthcare startup)

San Francisco, CA/Remote

Senior Software Engineer

Jan 2022 - Aug 2022

• Led the building of a modern data analysis environment alongside general full-stack software engineering before beginning graduate school.

Wanderu (transportation aggregation and routing startup)

Boston, MA/Remote

Senior Data Engineer

July 2019 - Jan 2022

- **Primary Role**: Creating reliable data systems via traditional software engineering practices applied to data: testing, monitoring, sharing logic, documentation, etc.
- **Highlights**: Built a system to automate daily intake and reconciliation of international station and route data from dozens of sources. Created a framework for unit testing important SQL logic in real databases and applied it as part of an audit of our multi-currency transaction processing. Modernized data transformation processes with dbt, reducing barriers to get people involved in data analysis and engineering.

Dark Sky (popular weather forecasting app/API, acquired by Apple)

Cambridge, MA/Remote

Backend Engineer

July 2018 - Feb 2019

• Highlights include building a new accounting system from scratch to support a new forecasting API and building custom feature flag functionality for binary toggling of features without code deploys.

Jana (MIT Media Lab spinoff)

Boston, MA/Remote

Engineering Intern \rightarrow Software Engineer (2013) \rightarrow Senior Software Engineer (2016)

June 2013 - June 2018

- Analytics Pipeline Owner: Became the primary engineer for all aspects of an analytics system centered around an Apache Kafka cluster that processed over 1 billion records a day for several years.
- The Rest of Five Years in One Bullet: Full-stack web and Android development for the mCent application with over 1 million daily active users in the developing world, fraud modeling, experiment infrastructure and analysis, system administration, data analysis, etc.

Research Experience

Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Rensselaer

Troy, NY

Funded Research

Fall 2012 - Spring 2013

 \circ Worked with Prof. Victor Chan on a problem in operations research involving the representation of queue simulations as linear programs. Second author on a paper, Sensitivity analysis of linear programming formulations for G/G/M queue, presented at the 2013 Winter Simulation Conference.

Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Rensselaer

Troy, NY

Senior Thesis

Fall 2011

• Worked with Prof. Tom Willemain on a problem involving detecting relationships between recurring events using their sequences of occurrence times. Implementation in R. Thesis: *Identifying Causally Related Temporal Sequences*.

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Fall 2023

Teaching Fellow

• STAT 110: Introduction to Probability

Veritas AI Remote

Mentor May 2022 - Present

- Mentor for three separate high school students on 1-1 machine learning projects, leading to publication and/or software applications.
- Lead mentor for a two-week long course teaching modern machine learning methods to high school students, with lectures, small-group coding sessions, and final group projects and presentations.

Miscellaneous Tutoring

Revelstoke, BC/Remote

Tutor Fall 2021

- Tutored a Stanford undergraduate for Math 51, an introductory Linear Algebra/Multivariable Calculus course (paid).
- Helped a local community college student in a Python programming course (free).

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, NY

Math Mentor Fall 2012

• Led a weekly session and office hours with seventeen first-year Calculus students, serving a role similar to a graduate teaching assistant.

Tutor Time Troy, NY

Tutor Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

• Helped local elementary through middle school children learn math and reading.

Computing Tools

• Regularly-Used: Python, SQL, UNIX, AWS — Have used: A lot of things