

LOGAN LAWRENCE

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SUMMARY

I am a **second-year PhD student at UMass Amherst** advised by **Grant Van Horn**, where I study vision-language systems for **fine-grained zero/few-shot classification** and **question answering**. Before UMass, I was a **software engineer for four years** where I worked in **search engine design**.

PUBLICATIONS

[CVPR 2026] *RealBirdID: Benchmarking Bird Species Identification in the Era of MLLMs.*

LL, Mustafa Chasmai, Rangel Daroya, Wuao Liu, Seoyun Jeong, Aaron Sun, Max Hamilton, Fabien Delattre, Oindrila Saha, Subhransu Maji, Grant Van Horn.

[WACV 2026 (*Oral*)] *You May Speak Freely: Improving the Fine-Grained Visual Recognition Capabilities of Multimodal Large Language Models with Answer Extraction.*

LL, Oindrila Saha, Megan Wei, Chen Sun, Subhransu Maji, Grant Van Horn.

[ICCV 2025] *Generate, Transduct, Adapt: Iterative Transduction with VLMs.*

Oindrila Saha, LL, Grant Van Horn, Subhransu Maji.

[EMNLP 2023] *Efficient Transformer Knowledge Distillation: A Performance Review.*

Nathan Brown, Ashton Williamson, Tahj Anderson, LL.

[Under Review, 2026] *What Makes MLLM Adaptation Effective for FGVC?*

LL, Oindrila Saha, Subhransu Maji, Grant Van Horn.

[Under Review, 2026] *Direct-Scoring NLG Evaluators Can Use Pairwise Comparisons Too.*

LL, Ashton Williamson, Alexander Shelton.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Data Engineer

June 2020 - September 2024

Saifr, Fidelity Investments

Boston, MA

- Project lead for GOST Crawl, a proprietary search engine for indexing derogatory web content. To date, GOST Crawl has indexed over 23 billion webpages, totaling in ~4 petabytes of uncompressed HTML. It is a highly-scalable, highly-available ETL pipeline and storage system hosted in AWS which houses several machine learning models for tasks such as topic modeling, sentiment prediction, and Named Entity Recognition (NER).
- Research Sponsor for the Clemson University School of Computing. Managed 4 teams of Computer Science seniors to create state-of-the-art methods for NER and entity-centric summarization on long range text used within GOST Crawl. Supervised a paper on the interplay between knowledge distillation and efficient attention patterns (up to 4096 tokens) with respect to model inference costs, which was accepted to EMNLP 2023.
- Science Team lead. Conducted production-impacting experiments on NER, topic modeling, summarization, and Question Answering. Contributed to the methodology of almost all experiments conducted by FTE Science members. Contributed to hiring of 10 employees and planned priorities for the Science team.
- Lead developer for a contracted web forum stock market data and sentiment product. Created an AWS ETL pipeline which delivers over 100k Reddit, Twitter, and Chan articles daily, detects mentioned stock tickers, predicts market sentiment, and aggregates to a internet-wide market sentiment via SFTP.
- Previously Giant Oak Inc., acquired in February 2024 by Fidelity Investments.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

CVL, UMass Amherst. Advised by Grant Van Horn.

September 2024 - *Present*

PALM Lab, Brown University. Advised by Chen Sun.

June 2025 - September 2025

SVCL, UCSD. Advised by Nuno Vasconcelos.

November 2020 - August 2022

Wearables Lab, Rice University. Advised by Ashutosh Sabharwal.

November 2017 - May 2019

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Computer Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Present

M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California San Diego

June 2021

B.S., Computer Science, Rice University

May 2019

B.S., Electrical Engineering, Rice University

May 2019