Collin Francel

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EDUCATION

University of Alabama: Graduate

Tuscaloosa, AL

Master of Arts in Mathematics

Fall 2025 - Fall 2026

University of Alabama: Undergraduate

Tuscaloosa, AL

Bachelor of Science in Data Science, Minor in Spanish, Randall Research Scholar, GPA: 4.0

Aug. 2023 - Fall 2026

Experience

Undergraduate Researcher

Aug. 2024 – May 2025

 $Tuscaloosa. \ AL$

University of Alabama

- Worked with STANDD Initiative, an initiative to use data analysis techniques to fight human trafficking
- Used language analysis techniques and encoder language models to analyze text data in illicit ads
- Developed method with improvement of 5-10% in accuracy and 10-15% in recall over previous technique

ORISE Undergraduate Research Intern

June 2024 - Aug. 2024

Oak Ridge National Lab

Oak Ridge, TN

- Explored novel approach combining language models and graph neural networks for modeling organic molecules
- Designed and executed large scale hyperparameter optimization on Frontier supercomputer with 100+ trials across 8 nodes per method, ensuring robust and fair comparison between approaches
- Contributed valuable insights on method limitations, leading to accepted NeurIPS workshop paper

Projects

CollinGPT-2 | Python, Cloud Computing, Qwen, transformers, llama.cpp

May 2025

- Developed chat-bot fine-tuned on my personal writing and essays to emulate my personality in conversation
- Synthesized and cleaned dataset of over 30 million tokens of my personal writing for training
- Employed cloud computing resources to efficiently fine-tune the Qwen3-8B model in just 15 minutes
- Utilized the llama.cpp program to quantize the model for local inference on consumer hardware

SQLLM | Python, NiceGUI, HuggingFace, CodeLlama, Git

February 2024

- Created an AI-powered interface enabling non-technical users to query databases using natural language
- Integrated CodeLlama-34B to accurately translate user requests into optimized SQL commands
- Designed and implemented custom prompt engineering techniques to ensure robust SQL generation
- Built intuitive front-end with NiceGUI, resulting in seamless database interaction for users with no SQL knowledge

PUBLICATIONS

Francel, Pasini, Fox. "Chemical Language Meets Geometric Graphs: A Multimodal Fusion Approach for Molecular Properties". In: AI for Accelerated Materials Design - NeurIPS 2024. 2024.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Relevant Coursework: Earned A+ in courses including Data Structures and Algorithms, Software Engineering, Database Management Systems, Theory of Probability, Nonlinear Optimization Theory, and Math Stats w/ Applications

Languages: Python, Bash, C++, C, Web (HTML, CSS, Javascript), SQL

Developer Tools: Slurm, Conda, Git, Github, HuggingFace, VS Code, Jupyter Notebooks **Libraries**: pandas/polars, NumPy, Matplotlib, scipy, scikit-learn, pytorch, Avalanche

Languages: English - Native, Spanish - Intermediate/Advanced