

Kyle Buettner

Pittsburgh, PA, USA | Email: buettnerkr@gmail.com | Phone: 412-973-9166 | LinkedIn: [kyle-robert-buettner](#) | GitHub: [krbuettner](#) | Website: <https://krbuettner.github.io/> | [Google Scholar](#) (7 publications, 40 citations as of 5/3/24)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Vision-language modeling, model robustness under domain shift, foundational AI models, object detection, data-efficient and parameter-efficient training, AI robustness for diverse cultures and languages

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, USA

Doctor of Philosophy, Intelligent Systems

Sep 2021 – Aug 2025 (Expected)

Master of Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Sep 2019 – Apr 2021

- **Graduate GPA:** 3.99/4.00

- **Coursework:** Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Vision-Language Modeling, Theory of Computation, Statistical Methods, Information Retrieval, Computer Architecture

Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering

Sep 2015 – Apr 2019

- **Undergraduate GPA:** 3.94/4.00

- **Coursework:** Computer Vision, Digital Design, Software Engineering, Algorithms

- **Award:** Honorable Mention for Top Computer Engineering Student

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

GatherAI – Pittsburgh, USA

Machine Learning Intern

May 2021 – Aug 2021; May 2022 – Aug 2022

- Enhanced company's drone-derived insight offerings through R&D on new vision pipeline (+20% accuracy inc. for beta)
- Devised an image filtering pipeline that resulted in >3x reduction in error for customer-facing inventory analytics
- Orchestrated full model lifecycles, with frequent error analysis and manual annotation (>1k size) for detection/segmentation

UPMC Enterprises – Pittsburgh, USA

Software Engineering Intern on the NLP Team

June 2018 – Aug 2018

- Engineered visualization tool for EHR domain ontologies (*process time for knowledge dept. moved from hours to minutes*)

EQT Corporation – Pittsburgh, USA

Reservoir Engineering Intern

May 2017 – Aug 2017

- Created decline curve modeling tool with Excel for predictive analysis of region-based economics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, USA

Ph.D. Student Researcher, Intelligent Systems

Sep 2021 – Present

Advisor: Adriana Kovashka

- **Current Project:** adaptation of vision-language models for robustness across geographies and languages
- **Notable Past Projects:** object detection robustness following contrastive pretraining, measuring and enhancing the use of attribute information in vision-language pretraining, modeling climax of video advertisements
- **Accomplishments:** 1st author in CVPR24, WACV24, AAAI23 PracticalDL workshop; 2nd author in BMVC18
- Pretrained/finetuned powerful models (BERT, CLIP, Faster R-CNN) on large-scale datasets (>100k size - COCO, ImageNet)
- Projects frequently entailed prompt engineering (chain-of-thought, exemplar design) with large-language models (ChatGPT)

M.S. Student Researcher, Electrical & Computer Engineering

Sep 2019 – Apr 2021

Advisor: Alan George

- **M.S. Thesis:** Analyzing energy, latency, and accuracy of neural networks for heartbeat classification across AI hardware (neural hardware such as Google Coral Edge TPU, neuromorphic hardware such as Intel Loihi)
- **Accomplishments:** 1st author ISVLSI21, 3rd author HPEC20
- Served as NSF SHREC (Space, High-Performance, and Resilient Computing) rep to Intel Neuromorphic Research Community

SKILLS

- **Areas:** Artificial Intelligence, Computer Vision, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Statistics, Large Language Models, Prompt Engineering, Software Development, High-Performance Computing
- **Programming Languages:** Python, R, C++, C, Java, MATLAB, CUDA, OpenCL, OpenMP, MPI, VHDL, Linux

- **Machine Learning Libraries:** PyTorch, TensorFlow, OpenCV, SciKit-Learn, SpaCy, NLTK, Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Whoosh, Nengo, SNN-Toolbox, Detectron2, MMDetection, NetworkX
- **Software Engineering:** Git, Jupyter Notebook, Agile, Scrum

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Kyle Buettner, Sina Malakouti, Xiang Lorraine Li, and Adriana Kovashka. “Incorporating Geo-Diverse Knowledge into Prompting for Increased Geographical Robustness in Object Recognition.” To appear, *IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, June 2024.
- Arushi Rai*, Kyle Buettner*, and Adriana Kovashka. “Strategies to Leverage Foundational Model Knowledge in Object Affordance Grounding.” To appear, *What is Next in Multimodal Foundation Models? Workshop at IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR-W)*, June 2024. (*=co-1st authors)
- Kyle Buettner and Adriana Kovashka. “Investigating the Role of Attribute Context in Vision-Language Models for Object Recognition and Detection.” *Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*, 2024.
- Kyle Buettner and Adriana Kovashka. “Contrastive View Design Strategies to Enhance Robustness to Domain Shifts in Downstream Object Detection.” *AAAI Workshop on Practical Deep Learning in the Wild*, 2023.
- Kyle Buettner and Alan D. George. “Heartbeat Classification with Spiking Neural Networks on the Loihi Neuromorphic Processor.” *IEEE Computer Society Annual Symposium on VLSI (ISVLSI)*, 2021.
- David Langerman, Alex Johnson, Kyle Buettner, and Alan D. George. “Beyond FLOPs: CNN Performance Prediction with Critical Datapath Length.” *IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC)*, 2020.
- Keren Ye, Kyle Buettner, and Adriana Kovashka. “Story Understanding in Video Advertisements.” *British Machine Vision Conference (BMVC)*, 2018.

LEADERSHIP, TEACHING, AND SERVICE ROLES

Conference Paper Reviewer; Various Conferences 2023-2024

- Reviewed submissions to EMNLP23, CVPR24, ECCV24

Sports Coach, **OpenField - Pittsburgh, USA** Apr 2024 - Present

- Volunteering in OpenField’s youth development soccer program that aims to positively impact people from around the world

Computer Vision Instructor, **Pitt HexAI Research Laboratory – Pittsburgh, USA** July 2023

- Volunteered in the 2023 IEEE Mini Summer Camp on Object Detection/Localization in Medical Images using AI
- Delivered various lessons to high-school students about the fundamentals of object detection/localization

Video Game Design Instructor, **Pitt School of Computing & Information Outreach – Pittsburgh, USA** Oct 2021 – July 2022

- Taught Scratch video game design lessons to kids as part of neighborhood commitment program
- Composed 6-week Python curriculum to provide practical computer science skills

Sports Coach, **West Mifflin Soccer – West Mifflin, USA** Aug 2018 – Aug 2021

- Served as soccer coach in community, running practices and offseason workouts (at youth and high school levels)

Teaching Assistant in Various Courses, **University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, USA** Sep 2016 – Present

- Dependable Computer Architecture, Business Calculus, Precalculus, Java, Human-Robot Interaction, Machine Learning

NOTABLE PROJECTS

[COVID-19 Search Engine Prototype](#) Spring 2022

- Contributed to design of information retrieval system to search for relevant info about COVID-19 pandemic
- Leveraged query likelihood statistical language model and Boolean model for text matching with COVID-19 corpus
- Designed UI through Tkinter, implemented indexing through Whoosh library, used NLTK for text processing

[Paint-By-Numbers Canvas Generator](#) Spring 2021

- Engineered image processing pipeline with OpenCV and Python for creation of a “paint-by-numbers” canvas
- Evaluated GPU/PyCUDA acceleration of color quantization, median filtering, and edge/contour detection (*2.6x app speedup*)

Last Updated: 5-3-2024