Roman Hauksson-Neill

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Education

The University of Texas at Dallas — Dallas, TX
B.S. in Computer Science — *May 2026*

- National Merit Scholar; officer for Cybersecurity Club and Open Source Software Club
- Officer for Philosophy Club: delivered talks on Effective Altruism, Longtermism, philosophy of well-being, and metaethics

Work Experience

Founding Engineer — Aug 2024 — Present
Baby Steps — *Portland, OR (Hybrid)*

- Building web app to help prospective parents decide between IVF clinics using success rate prediction models, for a 3-person startup backed by Astral Codex Ten Grants and a private investor
- Taking full ownership of the stack: running user interviews, building the product, designing our data model, and configuring CI/CD to deploy our machine learning models and connect them to the web app
- React (Next.js), PostgreSQL (Supabase), TypeScript, Python, Modal, Vercel

Software Engineering Intern — Jun 2023 — Aug 2023
Capital One — *McLean, VA (Hybrid)*

- Built a Chrome extension surfacing author info for internal documentation (React, TypeScript, Figma)
- Identified slow Webpack build as a workflow bottleneck and migrated project to Vite, cutting rebuild times by 5×

Software Engineering Intern — Jun 2022 — Aug 2022
Joint Special Operations Command — *Remote*

Research Experience

Research Assistant — Dec 2023 — Aug 2024
Dioptra — *Remote*

- Helped build GameBench, an LLM benchmark for strategic reasoning, and presented it at NeurIPS 2024
- Implemented benchmark task (Python), led literature review, designed rating aggregation method, ran factor analysis
- Researched the Wassenaar Arrangement as inspiration for an international AI regulation framework

Research Assistant → Team Lead → Director — Sep 2021 — Dec 2022
ACM UTD Research Program — *Dallas, TX*

- Directed UTD's flagship undergraduate research program with 15% admission rate; managed 4 teams of 6 students each and hosted poster presentation event for 50+ attendees
- Fine-tuned GPT-3 to generate targeted password guesses, achieving 3× higher accuracy than baseline; won poster presentation contest against 5 other teams; invited to present at Hackers on Planet Earth conference in New York City

Competitions

HackRice 2025: Warp challenge 1st place, TwelveLabs challenge 2nd place — Sep 2025

Manifold Markets post-EAG hackathon: 3rd place — Mar 2023

- Built the market depth chart feature and worked with the Manifold team to push to production the next day

TexSAW 2022 Capture the Flag competition: 1st place — Apr 2022

HackUTD VIII: Project Nebula challenge 1st place — Nov 2021

Miscellaneous

Academic project page template — Jul 2024 — Present

- Built and maintained website template and component library for interactive research demos (Astro, React, TypeScript)
- ~500 GitHub stars; adopted by teams at >200 labs, including MIT CSAIL, NVIDIA, ByteDance Seed, Zhipu AI

Program on AI and Reasoning (Cambridge, UK) — Aug 2023

- 10-day camp on AI and cognition for mathematically talented students, 2.5% acceptance rate