

# Scott Clark, Ph.D.

Co-founder & CEO at Distributional, Inc.  
Palo Alto, CA  
github.com/sc932

May 1, 2026  
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**Note:** This is a longform academic CV, for a shortform resume (< 2 pages) see `ScottClarkResume.pdf`

*Summary.* Three-time founder/executive building ML/AI infrastructure across research, open-source, enterprise, and startup settings. Currently co-founder & CEO of Distributional (enterprise AI reliability). Previously VP & GM at Intel (Nov 2020 – Jun 2023, 200-person AI/HPC Supercomputing org) following Intel’s acquisition of SigOpt, where I was co-founder & CEO (2014–2020). Cornell Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics under Prof. Peter Frazier. 15 peer-reviewed papers and ~20 granted US patents (1,200+ citations, h-index 16), 40+ conference talks and podcast appearances.

## Education

- **Cornell University** Ithaca, NY  
*Ph.D. Applied Mathematics; M.S. Computer Science* 2008 – 2012
  - Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellow (full 4-year scholarship; DOE contract DE-FG02-97ER25308; ~20 awarded nationally per year).
  - Dissertation: “**Parallel Machine Learning Algorithms in Bioinformatics and Global Optimization**,” defended Aug 2012.
  - Advisor: Prof. Peter Frazier (ORIE). Committee: Prof. Steve Strogatz, Prof. Bart Selman. Research collaborator (not committee): Dr. Zhong Wang (JGI practicum supervisor + ALE co-author).
  - NERSC Startup + Production Allocation as PI (Cray XT4, DOE contract DE-AC02-05CH11231).
- **Oregon State University** Corvallis, OR  
*B.Sc. Mathematics, B.Sc. Computational Physics, B.Sc. Physics* 2004 – 2008
  - Graduated *magna cum laude* with three separate Bachelor of Science degrees in four years.
  - Minors in Actuarial Sciences and Mathematical Sciences. Paradigms in Physics track.
  - Undergraduate thesis: “Finite Element Modeling on Uncertain Surfaces,” advisor Prof. Malgorzata Peszynska (Mathematics); URISC + NSF Grant 0511190. Computational-physics program led by Prof. Rubin Landau.

## Executive & Industry Experience

- **Distributional, Inc.** — `distributional.com` Palo Alto, CA  
*Co-founder & CEO* July 2023 – present
  - Analytics for AI agents — discovering behavioral signals in agent trace data for continuous AI reliability. 30-person team, \$30M raised (Seed Dec 2023 led by Andreessen Horowitz; Series A Oct 2024 led by Two Sigma Ventures).
  - Co-founders: Michael McCourt (CTO; multi-paper SigOpt-era co-author), David Rosales (COO), Nick Payton (CRO). 11-person founding team sourced from Bloomberg, Google, Meta, Intel, SigOpt, Slack, Stripe, Uber, Yelp.
  - Product evolved 2023–2025 from pre-deployment AI-testing to production behavioral analytics for AI agents — turning raw trace data into actionable insights for AI teams.

- US Patent 12,505,027 (2025, named inventor): anomaly detection in deployed AI applications.

### • Intel Corporation

Portland, OR

*VP & GM, AI & HPC Supercomputing Application Level Engineering* November 2020 – June 2023

- Joined Intel through the \$undisclosed acquisition of SigOpt (Oct 2020). Led a multi-disciplinary ~200-person organization responsible for application-level AI and HPC software within Intel’s Supercomputing Group.
- **Title progression:** *Director & GM of SigOpt* (Nov 2020 – Mar 2021) → *Senior Director & GM of SigOpt and AI Application Enablement* (Mar 2021 – Sep 2022) → *VP & GM of AI and HPC Supercomputing Application Level Engineering* (Sep 2022 – Jun 2023).
- Public face for Intel’s oneAPI open-ecosystem thesis — SC22 theCUBE panel (Dallas, Nov 2022), MLconf 2021 Webinar, Ai4 2021, Intel Conversations in the Cloud Ep. 250.
- Integrated SigOpt’s IP into Intel’s AI Analytics Toolkit; recognized as a leader in AI Software Optimization (Kisaco Research Leadership Council, 2021).

### • SigOpt Inc. — sigopt.com

San Francisco, CA

*Co-founder & CEO*

*November 2014 – November 2020*

- Commercial Bayesian-optimization platform serving Fortune 500 enterprises in finance, trading, intelligence, and technology. Acquired by Intel (Oct 29, 2020).
- Raised \$17M across seed + Series A + Series A+ + strategic rounds: Andreessen Horowitz (led seed 2015 and A 2016); Blumberg Capital (lead, 2018 Series A+, with Two Sigma Investments co-investing, announced 2019); Data Collective (DCVC), SV Angel, Stanford, In-Q-Tel strategic, Y Combinator (W15), and notable angels.
- Co-founders: Patrick Hayes (CTO 2014–2021), Eric Liu.
- Grew from Y Combinator W15 through Series A+ with customers in algorithmic trading, government/intelligence, enterprise AI, and consumer-tech.
- Awards: Gartner Cool Vendor in AI Core Technologies (2017); Barclays Open Innovation Challenge winner (2017); Kisaco Research KLC Leader (2021).
- Drove research culture and IP: 15 peer-reviewed papers + ~20 granted US patents as named inventor across Intelligent Optimization Platform, Multi-Criteria Optimization, and Multi-Solution Hyperparameter Tuning families.

### • Yelp Inc.

San Francisco, CA

*Data Mining Engineer and Lead on Ad Targeting Team*

*July 2012 – December 2014*

- **Optimization:** Co-developed and led team for MOE (Metric Optimization Engine, [github.com/Yelp/MOE](https://github.com/Yelp/MOE)) — first production Bayesian-optimization open-source package. Third-most-popular Yelp open-source release within 72 hours of launch; basis of SigOpt’s founding.
- **Ad targeting:** Implemented multi-armed bandit strategies for ad selection, sole targeting engineer on mobile ads rollout, developed location-based targeting algorithms.
- **Director, Yelp Dataset Challenge:** created, implemented, and directed [yelp.com/dataset\\_challenge](https://yelp.com/dataset_challenge); used by 100,000+ students worldwide since its inception.
- **Leadership:** Founded Yelp’s internal Applied Learning Group (bi-weekly all-engineering speaker series); MOE team lead; intern and new-hire mentor; 200+ technical interviews.
- Featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, Aug 8 2014 (Elizabeth Dwoskin, “Big Data’s High-Priests of Algorithms”) and the Cornell ORIE alumni spotlight (2014).

### • Bloomberg LP

New York, NY

*Financial Software Development Intern*

*May – August 2011*

- Developed end-to-end portfolio-analytics function in C++ and JavaScript (concept → back-end integration → GUI → PDF reporting).

## Research Experience (pre-PhD and practicums)

- **DOE Joint Genome Institute (LBNL)** Walnut Creek, CA  
*DOE CSGF Practicum under Dr. Zhong Wang & Rob Egan* May – Aug 2010
  - Built open-source genome-assembly validation framework (**ALE**, published *Bioinformatics* 2013, 208 cites).
- **Los Alamos National Laboratory** Los Alamos, NM  
*DOE CSGF Practicum under Drs. Nick Hengartner & Joel Berendzen* May – Aug 2009
  - Metagenomics / local sequence-alignment algorithms in Python, C, and CUDA (**Velvetrope**). This practicum pivoted my dissertation from computational fluid dynamics to bioinformatics.
- **Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems** Dresden, Germany  
*NSF REU under Prof. Steven Tomsovic (WSU)* May – Aug 2007
  - Extreme-value statistics of chaotic quantum systems in MATLAB and FORTRAN.
- **University of California, Davis** Davis, CA  
*NSF REU under Prof. Daniel Cox* May – Aug 2006
  - Computational biophysics / protein folding in Java. Results published in *Prion* (2008).

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. J Wang, SC Clark, E Liu, PI Frazier. “Parallel Bayesian Global Optimization of Expensive Functions.” *Operations Research* 68(6):1850–1865, 2020. **263 cites.** (arXiv:1602.05149, DBLP journals/ior/WangCLF20.)
2. I Dewancker, M McCourt, S Clark. “Bayesian Optimization for Machine Learning: A Practical Guidebook.” arXiv:1612.04858, 2016. **142 cites.**
3. SC Clark. “Adaptive Sequential Experimentation Techniques for A/B Testing and Model Tuning.” *WWW 2015 Companion*, p. 911.
4. I Dewancker, M McCourt, S Clark, P Hayes, A Johnson, G Ke. “A Stratified Analysis of Bayesian Optimization Methods.” arXiv:1603.09441, 2016.
5. I Dewancker, M McCourt, S Clark, P Hayes, A Johnson, G Ke. “A Strategy for Ranking Optimization Methods Using Multiple Criteria.” Workshop on Automatic Machine Learning (AutoML, ICML), *PMLR* v.64, 2016.
6. I Dewancker, M McCourt, S Clark. “Evaluation System for a Bayesian Optimization Service.” arXiv:1605.06170, 2016.
7. SC Clark, R Egan, PI Frazier, Z Wang. “ALE: a generic assembly likelihood evaluation framework for assessing the accuracy of genome and metagenome assemblies.” *Bioinformatics* 29(4):435–443, 2013. **208 cites.**
8. P Frazier, SC Clark. “Parallel global optimization using an improved multi-points expected improvement criterion.” INFORMS Optimization Society Conference, Miami, 2012.
9. S Clark, E Liu, P Frazier, JL Wang, D Oktay, N Vedapunt. “MOE: A global, black-box optimization engine for real-world metric optimization.” 2014.

10. KC Kunes, SC Clark, DL Cox, RR Singh. “Left-handed  $\beta$ -helix models for mammalian prion fibrils.” *Prion* 2(2):81–90, 2008.
11. SC Clark. *Parallel Machine Learning Algorithms in Bioinformatics and Global Optimization*. Ph.D. dissertation, Cornell University, Aug 2012.
12. SC Clark. “Solving Genomic Jigsaws.” *DEIXIS Magazine* (DOE CSGF outreach), 2010. (DOE CSGF Communicating Science Award, Honorable Mention.)
13. *See also*: 5 more SigOpt-era papers and preprints on Bayesian optimization / ranking / MOE (full list available on Google Scholar mwWbhAUAAA AJ).

*Total citations: 1,221 (Google Scholar, as of 2026). h-index: 16. i10-index: 28.*

### Patents (Selected, as Named Inventor)

~20 granted US patents across 4 SigOpt patent families (2019–2025) plus 1 Distributional patent (2025). Inventor teams include Patrick Hayes, Michael McCourt, Alexandra Johnson, George Ke, Bolong Cheng, Olivia Kim, Kelvin Tee, Jim Blomo, and others. Selected:

- **Intelligent Optimization Platform** (core SigOpt IP, 11 patents 2019–2025): US 10,217,061; US 10,282,237; US 10,445,150; US 10,607,159; US 11,163,615; US 11,301,781; and others.
- **Multi-Criteria Optimization** (7 patents 2020–2024): US 10,528,891; US 10,558,934; US 10,740,695; US 12,033,036; and others.
- **Multi-Solution Hyperparameter Tuning** (2 patents 2022 & 2024, plus pending): US 11,270,217; and others.
- **Anomaly Detection in Deployed AI Applications** (Distributional, 2025): US 12,505,027. Inventors: Clark, McCourt, Bourassa-Denis, Laban, Kim, Dewancker, Cheng.

### Board & Civic Service

- **Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Board of Trustees** — Portland, OR, Aug 2022 – Jul 2025. Treasurer, Executive Committee member, Chair of the Finance Committee.
- **Oregon State University, College of Science, Board of Advisors** — May 2019 – Jun 2025.
- **Oregon State University, College of Science, Industry and Innovation Council** — Nov 2019 – Jun 2025.

### Honors, Grants & Recognition

Forbes 30 Under 30, Enterprise Technology . . . . .	2016
OSU College of Science Young Alumni Award . . . . .	2016
Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF, \$300,000)	2008–2012
NERSC Production Allocation (PI; 100,000 Cray XT4 hours) . . . . .	2012
NERSC Startup Allocation + Renewals (PI; Cray XT4) . . . . .	2010–2012
DOE CSGF Communicating Science Award, Honorable Mention ( <i>DEIXIS</i> 2010) . . . . .	2010
Cornell University Sage Fellowship (\$55,000, declined) . . . . .	2008–2009
Joel Davis Award in Mathematics (OSU, \$1,000) . . . . .	2007–2008
URISC Undergraduate Research Fellowship (\$1,500) . . . . .	2007–2008
NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (MPI PKS Dresden) . . . . .	2007
NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (UC Davis) . . . . .	2006
Paul Copson Memorial Scholarship in Physics (OSU, \$1,000) . . . . .	2006–2007
Nicodemus Scholarship in Physics (OSU, \$1,000) . . . . .	2005–2006

**Selected Invited Talks, Keynotes, & Conference Appearances**

40+ documented conference and podcast appearances, 2013–2026. Full catalog with video/audio links and transcripts: [github.com/sc932](https://github.com/sc932).

- **Distributional / Intel / recent (2021–2026):** SuperComputing SC22 theCUBE Panel on oneAPI (Dallas, Nov 2022); GenAI Week Silicon Valley 2025; AI + a16z Podcast (2025, with Matt Bornstein); CEO.com (2025); BAM “Coffee with a Founder” (2025); SAIR Podcast w/ Chuck Ng (Mar 2026); Intel CitC Ep. 250 (2021); MLconf Webinar 2021; Ai4 2021.
- **SigOpt (2014–2020):** MLconf SF (2014, 2016); MLconf Seattle (2017); NVIDIA GTC Silicon Valley (2017, 2019); O’Reilly AI NY (2019, co-presented with Matt Greenwood, Two Sigma CIO); Ai4 Finance (2019, panel + solo); TWIMLcon (2019); The AI Conference Startup Showcase (2017); Cornell CAM Notable Alumni Speaker Series (Dec 2019, 76-min career-arc talk); SigOpt Summit 2021 keynote; With The Best online conference; ICML 2017 booth.
- **Yelp / early career (2013–2014):** CMU Silicon Valley TOCS Colloquium (Apr 2013); Yelp Engineering Open House (Nov 2013, “Optimal Learning for Fun and Profit”); Stanford AI Lab; Microsoft Research; UC Berkeley; Cornell CAM; ACM RecSys 2014 (Palo Alto); Hack Lab Zagreb.

**Podcast Guest Appearances (Selected)**

- **TWIML AI Podcast (Sam Charrington):** Episode 50 (2017), Episode 273 (2019, w/ Matthew Adereth of Two Sigma), Episode 324, TWIMLcon 2019, and 2022 fireside chat. 5+ appearances over 5 years.
- **Voices in AI with Byron Reese:** Episode 12 (Oct 2017, 56-min long-form).
- **Emerj / AI in Business Podcast** (Daniel Faggella, 2017); **IT Visionaries** (2021); **Intel Conversations in the Cloud** Ep. 250 (2021); **CEO.com** (2025); **AI + a16z** w/ Matt Bornstein (2025); **SAIR** w/ Chuck Ng (Mar 2026).

**Press Coverage (Selected)**

- *Wall Street Journal*, “Big Data’s High-Priests of Algorithms / Academic Researchers Find Lucrative Work as ‘Big Data’ Scientists.” By Elizabeth Dwoskin, Aug 8, 2014.
- Cornell ORIE Alumni Spotlight: “Scott Clark Ph.D. ’12 brings his work with ORIE Professor Frazier to Yelp and the open source world” (2014).
- OSU College of Science IMPACT: “Meet Scott Clark, an OSU science alum who built a \$30M AI startup” (Tom Henderson, Jul 2025); “Young Alumni Award Winner Makes Forbes’ 30 Under 30 List” (Nov 2016).
- *DEIXIS Magazine* (DOE CSGF): feature profile (2011, p. 17); author of “Solving Genomic Jigsaws” (2010, DOE CSGF Communicating Science Honorable Mention).
- SiliconANGLE / theCUBE coverage of SC22 (Nov 2022, “VP and GM of AI and HPC Supercomputing Application-Level Engineering”).
- Pulse2 (Amit Chowdhry, Mar 2025) — Distributional profile interview.

### Selected Bylined Writing (beyond peer-reviewed)

- **SigOpt Blog** (2015–2020): 23 authored posts on Bayesian optimization and enterprise-AI strategy ([sigopt.com/blog](http://sigopt.com/blog), via Wayback).
- **Yelp Engineering Blog** (2013–2014): 5 authored posts including the canonical MOE launch (“Introducing MOE,” 2014-07-24) and 3 Yelp Dataset Challenge announcements.
- **Distributional Blog** (2023–2024): Company fundraise announcements.
- **NVIDIA Parallel Forall** (2017-08-03, w/ S. Tartakovsky and M. McCourt): “Deep Learning Hyperparameter Optimization with Competing Objectives.”
- **AWS AI Blog** (2017-05-01, w/ S. Tartakovsky and M. McCourt): “Fast CNN Tuning with AWS GPU Instances and SigOpt.”
- Personal blog ([scottclark.io/blog](http://scottclark.io/blog), 2014, Pyramid/Python self-hosted).

### Open-Source Projects ([github.com/sc932](https://github.com/sc932))

- **sc932/resume** LaTeX  
*This CV and resume (524+ GitHub stars, briefly #1 on Hacker News)* 2011 – present
- **Yelp/MOE — Metric Optimization Engine** Python, C++, CUDA  
*First production Bayesian global-optimization open-source package; basis of SigOpt* 2013 – 2014
- **sc932/ALE — Assembly Likelihood Estimator**  
*Probabilistic evaluation of genome assemblies; published *Bioinformatics* 2013 (208 cites); maintained through 2014*
- **sc932/Thesis** LaTeX  
*Cornell PhD dissertation source (mirrors Cornell eCommons download)* 2012
- **sc932/Velvetrope — Local Sequence Alignment** Python, C, CUDA  
*LANL 2009 practicum output; Chapter 10 of dissertation* 2009 – 2010

### Areas of Expertise

- **Research:** Bayesian optimization, Gaussian processes, optimal learning, multi-armed bandits, hyperparameter tuning, LLM evaluation, agentic-AI systems, AI reliability and testing, experiment design, Monte Carlo methods, bioinformatics and genome assembly, parallel and distributed computing, high-performance computing.
- **Executive:** P&L ownership and strategy at 200-person scale; M&A (sell-side, SigOpt→Intel 2020); fundraising across seed, Series A, and strategic rounds (~\$47M lifetime); board governance (OMSI Treasurer, OSU College of Science).
- **Technical:** Python; LLM and agentic-AI systems design, testing, and evaluation; production-ML observability and anomaly detection; scientific and distributed computing at DOE supercomputer scale (NERSC Cray XT4 PI during PhD); data pipelines; MapReduce-scale distributed ML.
- **Communication:** Several hundred technical talks; extensive podcast circuit; national press quotes; published across industry blogs, peer-reviewed venues, and popular-science outlets.