

REUBEN NARAD

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EDUCATION

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

PhD Student, Operations Management, Advised by Michael Wagner and Leonard Boussioux

Oct. 2024 - Present

BA Operations Management, Minor in Data Science

Oct. 2019 - June 2023

- *Research Areas:* Foundation models in Operations Research (OR), Mechanistic Interpretability, Autoresearch in OR Solvers
- Building Deep RL systems for directly solving problems in OR, such as vehicle routing
- Using interpretability techniques (probes, SAEs, steering) on the representations of these neural OR models

WORK EXPERIENCE

Institute of Foundation Models (MBZUAI)

LLM Pretraining Research Intern

June 2026 -Present

- Researching training dynamics and scaling parameterizations for IFM's K2 model family at thousands-of-GPUs scale
- Developing techniques for autoresearch that encourage scalability of discovered artifacts
- Using activation-level diagnostics for training dynamics and scaling behavior in the μP framework

OpenAI

Seattle, WA (Remote)

Software Engineer, Codex (Contract)

August - September 2025

- Contributed to Codex CLI, shipping features related to compaction and [web search](#)

Amazon

Bellevue, WA

Applied Scientist Intern, Fulfillment By Amazon (FBA) Science

June - August 2025

- Built an LLM harness for formulating solver-ready MIP/LP problems from real-world settings
- Developed complementary scalable evaluation framework/RL environment around LLM-written optimization programs
- Paper accepted at Amazon's Consumer Science Summit conference

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

Research Assistant, Advised by Lalit Jain

Oct. 2023 - Oct. 2024

- *Research Areas:* RL, recommendation systems, in-context learning
- Explored Deep RL with transformers for dynamic pricing, framed as in-context multi-armed bandit problems

Surge AI

Code Data Annotator, Freelance

May - Oct. 2023

Sounds Good Audio

Founder, Live Sound Engineer

Sept. 2021 - Oct. 2023

- Built and ran audio systems for live music events, doing 40 live events across 3 states (WA, OR, TX)

PUBLICATIONS

Narad, R., Boussioux, L., Wagner, M. (2026) Beyond Solving: Prescriptive Probing for Neural Routing Solvers *Preprint*. [\[arXiv\]](#)

Narad, R., Boussioux, L., Wagner, M. (2025) Mechanistic Interpretability for Neural TSP Solvers. *Neurips 2025, MLxOR workshop*. [\[arXiv\]](#)

Narad, R., Zhang, J., Chen, J., Suresh, S., Jain, L.K., Nowak, R.D., Mankoff, B. (2025) Which LLMs Get the Joke? Probing Non-STEM Reasoning Abilities with HumorBench. *Preprint* [\[arXiv\]](#)

Zhou, K.L., Chen, J., Suresh, S., Narad, R., Rogers, T.T., Jain, L.K., Nowak, R.D., Mankoff, B., Zhang, J. (2025). Bridging the Creativity Understanding Gap: Small-Scale Human Alignment Enables Expert-Level Humor Ranking in LLMs. *EMNLP 2025*. [\[arXiv\]](#)

Das, S., Mejia Argueta, C., Sadalla Collese, T., Narad, R. (2024). Delivering Locally Sourced Nutritious Food to Indian Households. *Under review, Journal of Operations Management*

HONORS AND AWARDS

Beratauche Transportation Endowment Fellowship, awarded by Foster School of Business

2024

UW Interdisciplinary Honors, awarded for undergraduate research and community engagement

2023

1st Prize, Clean Buildings Case Competition, awarded for best solution to sustainability challenge by the city of Seattle

2021

UW Purple and Gold Merit Scholarship

2019

SKILLS

- Pytorch, Slurm, Distributed LLM pretraining, Mech. Interp. Techniques, Optimization Software (Gurobi, CPLEX), μP