ss4660@georgetown.edu
(202) 820−4644

Shahzoor Safdar

shahzoor.github.io
linkedin.com/in/shahzoor-safdar

EDUCATION

Georgetown University
May 2025
Ph.D. Economics
TA: Economics Statistics, Political Economy

University of British Columbia
November 2019
B.A.Sc Electrical Engineering & B.A. Economics
TA: Introduction to Probability

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Avalanche Insights (*a tech-enabled public opinion research company*)   **Python, Django, React, PostgreSQL, R**
Software Engineer I   September 2020 — July 2021
Technical Analyst   December 2019 — August 2020

- Core Product Development
  - Conceptualized and created an interactive tool to qualitatively code thousands of open-ended responses into quantifiable themes, delivering $10M in research between 2020-2021
  - Created a tool that allowed analysts to conduct segment-specific analysis twice as quickly
  - Built a data visualization interface using Visx, enabling analysts to visualize as many as 10K responses in half the time
  - Integrated AWS Mechanical Turk into the core product reducing the time taken to use the service by 4x
- Methodological Testing and Prototyping
  - Designed, implemented, and standardized the weighting methodology for sample collection in consultations with the Statistician and the CTO
  - Streamlined data ingestion and collection to increase project capacity 4x by writing custom R packages and Python integrations with external vendor APIs
  - Built a prototype in response to increased business during the final two weeks of the 2020 election to enable analysts to deliver twice the work
  - Conducted NLP experiments testing annotation approaches on large volumes of open-ended text data

RESEARCH

Certec @ Lund University   **Arduino, C++**
Research Intern   May 2019 — June 2019

- Worked in the Rehabilitation Engineering Lab at Lund University to develop communication devices for deafblind children
- Delivered a prototype at the end of the project to be tested by the National Knowledge Center for the Deafblind (NKCDB) in Sweden

Telecommunication Group @ ITESM   **Matlab**
Research Assistant   July 2018 — September 2018

- Conducted research with Dr. Leyre Azpilicueta on using deterministic 3D ray-launching techniques to analyze smart parking wireless communication systems
- Reduced time required to analyze communications data by writing reusable MATLAB scripts that automatically produced key metrics
- Produced 3D models of various campus spaces to feed into

Department of Statistics @ UBC   **R**
Research Assistant   June 2017 — September 2017

- Conducted research with Dr. Edward Kroc on the pitfalls of using linear regression models to analyze nonlinear phenomena
- Analyzed simulated datasets using standard regression techniques in R identifying cases where standard linear regression was inadequate

PROJECTS

shahzoor.github.io: Personal website	**Jekyll**	2022
Predict Football Games: Using FIFA ratings to predict Premier League results	**Python**	2019
Lightning Analysis Tool: Assessed transmission line designs; built for BC Hydro	**VBA**	2019
How to Gerrymander: A review of mathematical models of gerrymandering in economics	**Markdown**	2022
Voting in the House: Compiled a large dataset of House roll call data from 1990 to 2022	**Python**	2022
Where Congress Went to School: Created a dataset of congressional biographies from 1991 to 2020	**Python**	2022

OTHER EXPERIENCES AND INTERESTS

Volunteer Work: Wayfinder at the UBC hospital, web development volunteer at The Ubyssey

Interests: Soccer (Liverpool), books (The Founders, The Undoing Project), podcasts (Acquired, FiveThirtyEight), movies (Goodfellas, The Princess Bride), TV (The Good Place, Succession)