**Silver Bullet:**

Everyone wants a silver bullet solution, so today here is mine: (I use python, if you are an R user you can find the equivalent.) The most popular data science libraries in python are Sklearn, Numpy, Theano, PyTorch, Pandas, and Keras. You could even consider Scipy and Skimage. Clone these open source projects and read every line of code, understand all functions, classes, etc. Know these so well that you now know them better than anyone else. Doing this will also teach you core data science functions and methods you may not be familiar with yet. Now that you know these code bases inside and out commit meaningful contributions to all of them. Blog about these commits and why you did them, let the community know. Now on your resume include your commits for these libraries and what you did. Based on the significance and creativity of your contributions, and ultimately their acceptance into the main code base you will stand out from everyone else. You would have the most compelling resume I have ever seen. This recommendation is the best I could think to get as close to industry as possible and improve what industry is using today. It also seems like the most efficient use of time. You may have some foundation work like reading some data science books or taking courses for you to be successful with this exercise.