

# BRENDON CHEN

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## SUMMARY

I am a recent graduate from UC Santa Cruz with a Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science, specializing in Artificial Intelligence. My academic background reflects a strong foundation in computer science, artificial intelligence, game design, neuroscience, and psychology. I am excited to leverage my educational foundation and practical skills to contribute meaningfully to projects that require innovative problem-solving and interdisciplinary thinking.

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## EDUCATION

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### Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science with Specialization in AI and HCI

Minor in Computer Science (University of California, Santa Cruz • Dec 2023)

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## PROJECTS

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### Kaggle ML Graph Interpreter

June 2023 - August 2023

- Provides a cost effective and time efficient way to make data graphs accessible to those with learning disabilities.
- Cooperated with team members to plan and develop a Machine Learning model that classifies graphs and extracts relevant information.
- Implemented a 2-stage pipeline that trains a Convolutional Neural Network to classify graphs and a pre-trained model to do data inference, resulting in the elimination of the need for most manual graph-to-dataset conversions.
- CNNs proved to be a reliable way to classify graph types while Google's dePlot model allowed us to extract time-series data.

### Pacman AI

April 2023 - June 2023

- Worked in creating search agents, pathing/search algorithms, and evaluation functions.
- Developed Pacman AI through A\*, Alpha/Beta pruning, MDPs, RL, etc.
- Collaborated with team members to create adversarial agents to win games in a 2 vs 2 capture the flag setting, beating 80% of peer competition and beating all staff agents.
- Used Markov Decision Processes (MDPs) to easily iterate agent versions and implement ideas, allowing us to have an efficient development and testing stage, resulting in a robust agent.

### Video Game Project

March 2022 - June 2022

- Lead group effort in project ideation, planning, and execution.
  - Learned about project development, refinement and project management.
  - Put together a top down cardinal game taking inspiration from the game "Dig Dug".
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## EXPERIENCE

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### Research Assistant

University of California Santa Cruz

June 2023 – Current, Santa Cruz, CA

- Working with Professor Leilani Gilpin and other students to convert existing auto-grader scripts for an Artificial Intelligence class to be easier to use and prepare it for cloud integration.
- Refining and optimizing the auto-grading system to provide timely and accurate feedback on assignments.
- Collaborating with the instructors and co-members to design and engineer solutions to existing problems.
- Conducting thorough testing and validation of the auto-grader's performance.
- Maintaining thorough documentation to support instructors and students using the auto-grading system.

### Crew Member

Chipotle

January 2020 – September 2021, San Ramon, CA

- Provided customer-focused service while upholding high-quality standards and implementing continuous process improvements.
- Collaborated with team members to ensure consistent customer satisfaction, leading to increased throughput and a 50% boost in tips.
- Consistently met responsibilities and demonstrated effective time management and composure in high-stress situations.

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## SKILLS

**Programming:** Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Python, Matlab, C/C++, Java, Assembly, Pandas, Scikit-learn, PyTorch

**Software:** Git/Github, Visual Studio Code, Jupyter Notebook, Docker, Google Colab, Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, PowerPoint, Word), Google Drive Tools, ChatGPT

### Skills:

- Theoretical and Implementational understanding of machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms (e.g. decision trees, random forest, k-means, k-nearest neighbors, logistic regression/linear regression)
- Experienced in data quality assessment, cleaning, wrangling, analysis, and visualization
- Knowledgeable about statistics, experimental design, and numerical analysis
- Oral and written communication skills
- Adept at collaborating and contributing in high-performance teams
- Experience with Natural Language Processing (NLP).

