

Ziheng (Jack) Chen

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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Aug 2023 – May 2025
Master of Science in Computer Engineering GPA: 4.00/4.00
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Aug 2019 – May 2023
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, Minor in Mathematics (Highest Honor) GPA: 3.99/4.00
Relevant Coursework Computer Systems, Distributed Systems, Networking, Fault-Tolerant Digital Systems

Experience

Software Engineer Intern (co-op), StoneX Group – Chicago, IL Jan 2023 – June 2023

- Designed and developed an evaluation pipeline with pandas to benchmark prototypical commodity price indices
- Analyzed the potential profitability of commodity indices generated from 200+ index configurations, surpassed target by 23.3% in 10-year total return and 8.8% in Sharpe Ratio with the top-performing tested index
- Expedited benchmarking processes by parallelizing the execution in Databricks, reducing waiting time by 3,000%
- Collaborated closely with marketing associates to validate index generation and refine evaluation requirements
- Developed a Python script for CI/CD in Azure DevOps to automate Databricks workflow migration across environments, testing intricate logic to handle edge cases effectively, and eliminating manual operations

Data Engineer Intern (co-op), StoneX Group – Chicago, IL Aug 2022 – Dec 2022

- Deployed a proxy microservice to integrate Okta authentication into an existing cloud-native app using Docker
- Optimized the data curation ETL pipeline for a data-serving application to cut waiting time by 20 times to 5 seconds
- Developed a real-time usage analysis dashboard in Splunk, featuring dynamic filters for associates and categories
- Implemented agile methodologies to ensure flexibility and adaptability throughout the entire project lifecycle

Data Engineer Intern (full-time), Ecolab – Saint Paul, MN May 2022 – Aug 2022

- Profiled global sales history table in Snowflake, identifying 201M invalid rows to enhance data integrity
- Automated SQL query generation through Python and APIs to streamline the evaluation of data quality and usability

Projects

Traffic Risk Assessment and Mitigation – Autonomous Vehicles, Safety, End-to-end Aug 2023 – Dec 2023

- Utilized alphashape in Python to calculate the reachable area of a vehicle following a bicycle model to identify risky vehicles in traffic and introduced methods to improve safety in an end-to-end AV simulation
- Executed simulations in parallel with subprocess and ThreadPoolExecutor in Python to generate 30,000+ traces from adverse seed scenarios with varied parameters, e.g., cut-in speed and timing of safety-critical actors
- Cleansed and statistically analyzed generated datasets using pandas, and visualized outcomes with seaborn and matplotlib, proving the efficacy of the proposed metric over current state-of-the-art risk assignment methods
- Implemented a Reinforcement Learning Agent in PyTorch that uses ego-vehicle telemetry and three front-facing cameras in the perception module to achieve a 72.7% reduction in accidents through emergency braking

Friction Model Improvement in CARLA Simulator – Autonomous Vehicles, Simulation Sept 2022 – May 2023

- Studied the physics implemented in CARLA and improved the friction model as a function of weather settings
- Generated and analyzed 8,000+ vehicle traces in varying weather conditions, creating 300% more accidents
- Acquired expertise in modifying the perception, control, and planning modules in the CARLA simulation platform

Coffee4Life OS – Linux System Kernel, System Programming, Operating Systems Mar 2022 – May 2022

- Developed a functional 32-bit Linux kernel in C and low-level x86 Assembly
- Supported paging, RTC, keyboard, terminal, file system, system calls, context switching, and scheduling operations

Skills

Programming Languages Python, C++, C, GO, SQL, JavaScript, TypeScript, Bash, Assembly, CUDA
Frameworks and Tools Git, Linux, Docker, React, pandas, PyTorch, NumPy, Azure DevOps