

Alexander Spangher

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EDUCATION	Columbia University, B.S. in Neuroscience and B.S. in C.S.	Class of 2014
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	<p>New York Times, NYC, NY <i>Data Scientist</i> 2014-present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Designed and implemented LDA-based article-recommendation algorithm, scaled to all users. Built using Luigi-powered data pipelines, MySQL data storage, and WSGI API layer. see blogpost: open.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/08/11/building-the-next-new-york-times-recommendation-engine/.Explored improvements upon article-recommendation algorithm using multi-layer perceptron, paragraph embeddings, and various linear programming models to incorporate other user behaviors.Explored extensions of article-recommendation algorithm using multi-armed bandit and contextual bandit algorithms to incorporate different approaches for low-read readers versus high-read readers.Designed and implemented Beta-Binomial model for Followable-recommendation algorithm. Experimented using nonlinear optimization packages in Python.Implemented D3-based monitoring dashboard to track performance of products.Conducted statistical analyses of the impact of new products such as automatic comment moderators, new tags, and section recommendations presented using Jupyter Notebooks. <p>Huffington Post, NYC, NY <i>Software Engineering Intern</i> Summer 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Redesigned core framework of UserAPI in Scala.Built HuffPost Hires, an Angular/Clojure/MongoDB-based app to streamline HuffPost's interview process <p>SustainabilityExcellence, NYC, NY <i>Consulting Intern</i> Summer 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted with rating scheme design for the Emir of Qatar's second Sustainability Awards Conference	
ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE	<p>New York Times, Diversity Initiatives: <i>Co-chair</i> of the New York Times Young Professionals Network. <i>Co-author</i> of Lively Morgue Series African Americans for Black History Month, 2016.</p> <p>Marvel Theater: Principle Double Bassist for critically-acclaimed off-Broadway play <i>The Dybbuk</i>.</p>	
ACADEMIC HONORS and LEADERSHIP	<p>John Jay Scholar: Neuroscience and Computer Science, Columbia University</p> <p>Deans List: Columbia College</p> <p>Scholarships: Intel STS Semi-finalist, National Merit Scholarship</p> <p>Boy Scouts of America: Eagle Scout Award, 2009</p> <p>Op-Ed Writer: Weekly Blogger in Columbia Spectrum and HuffPost Blogs</p> <p>Languages & Software: Python, R, D3.js, SQL, Javascript, JQuery, PHP, Matlab, Scala, L^AT_EX, Java, StackOverflow</p>	