

Avital Baral

✉ abaral@alum.mit.edu ☎ (206) 669-4023 🌐 avitalbaral.me

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Master of Engineering in Computer Science

Feb 2022 · GPA: 5.0/5.0

B.S. in Computer Science & Engineering, B.S. in Urban Planning & Policy

Jun 2020 · GPA: 4.7/5.0

- **Relevant Technical Coursework:** Data-Driven Systems & Society (G), Network & Computer Security (G), Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Systems Eng., Software Eng., Algorithms I & II, Probability, Discrete Math
- **Relevant Policy Coursework:** Cybersecurity Law & Policy (G), Internet Policy (G), Transportation Policy (G), Global Energy Policy, Negotiation, Transportation & Behavioral Science, Microeconomics

Work Experience

ActBlue Technical Services

Feb 2022 - Present

Data Engineer II

- Majorly contributed to design, implementation, testing of a GraphQL-based data analytics API to efficiently query \$9B+ of transaction data.
- Created and deployed ETL pipelines to integrate new data sources in communication and co-design with stakeholders.

Texas Democratic Party

May — Dec 2020

Data Engineer

- Spearheaded automated generation and daily distribution of 700+ campaign status reports for political campaigns at all scales across the state, including voter and volunteer contact metrics, vote-by-mail & early vote progress. Used Python, SQL, Google Sheets, Google Data Studio & AWS deployment.
- Contributed to machine learning-based partisanship model, including feature selection and engineering and model optimization & validation, predicting political partisanship for 16 million voters statewide.
- Generated deduplicated and prioritized direct voter contact lists based on specifications from stakeholders using Python & SQL.

Bluebonnet Data

Dec 2019 — May 2020

Data Fellow, Team Lead for TX-22 Campaign

- Led a team of 3 centered on data analytics efforts for a down-ballot political campaign, overseeing projects including demographic analysis and projections, and political platform chatbot.
- Programatically created interactive maps of campaign outreach priorities and progress using Python.

ESRI Research & Development

Jun — Aug 2019

Software Engineering Intern

- Implemented correlation tool to compare 10,000+ user geographic datasets and evaluated which were most relevant to one another using a variety of correlation measures, including 40+ additional demographic variables pulled from the Census API.

Microsoft, Inc

Summers 2015, 2016, 2018

Intern, Office Core Experiences Team, Node.js Tools for Visual Studio

- Designed & implemented code live-editing tool on the Office UI documentation website using Typescript & React to allow users to try out and modify UI components directly on the site, saving development time.
- Developed & shipped to production Snippets and Interactive Window developer tools within Node.js for Visual Studio.

Skills

Programming Languages: Python (numpy, pandas, scikit-learn), SQL, Java, GraphQL, TypeScript, Javascript (react, node.js)

Tools: Git, Linux, dbt, AWS, Google Cloud Platform, DataDog, arcGIS, QGIS, Excel/Google Sheets, LaTeX

Research & Teaching

GECCO 2021 Proceedings Paper: 'Coevolutionary Modeling of Cyber Attack Patterns and Mitigations Using Public Datasets'

ACM CHIL 2020 Workshop Paper: 'Dataset Bias in Diagnostic AI systems: Guidelines for Dataset Collection and Usage'

MEng Thesis: 'Continued Measured Improvement: A New Approach to Meeting the Municipal Cybersecurity Challenge'

Undergraduate Thesis: 'Leveling The Democratic Playing Field? Analyzing Seattle's Democracy Vouchers Program'

Teaching Assistant: Taught 1000+ students in Computer Systems Engineering, Introduction to Computer Science

Leadership, Organizing, & Awards

East Campus Dormitory Orientation Project Manager

Jan 2018 — Sept 2018

- Led 30-person project team building a 3-story wooden fort and ropes course & wooden carnival rides for MIT orientation. Obtained city building permits and managed a \$40k budget.

Undergraduate Association Sustainability Committee Chair

Sept 2018 — Jun 2019

- Lead a 60+ person student government committee focused on sustainability initiatives. Projects included campus-wide reuse program, composting program & recycled fashion show.

Awards: Member of MIT Delegation to United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP25), Student Rep on EECS

Undergraduate Advisory Group, Student Rep on DUSP Council, Voting Member of Institute Committee on Curricula