

# ALEX ZHAO

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## EDUCATION

### University of California, Berkeley

*Expected May 2021*

B.S. Electrical Engineering & Computer Science/B.S. Business Administration  
Management, Entrepreneurship, & Technology Program (M.E.T.)

**Honors:** Regent's & Chancellors' Scholar, Dean's List from 2018-19, Accel Scholars 2020-21, EECS Honors Program

### Berkeley Artificial Intelligence Research (BAIR)

August 2019 - present

*Undergraduate Researcher*

*Berkeley, CA*

- Develop a simulation framework ([github.com/berkeley-reclab](https://github.com/berkeley-reclab)) for evaluating fairness & accuracy of recommender systems with Ben Recht & Michael I. Jordan.

### Berkeley Laboratory for Information & System Sciences (BLISS)

August 2019 - present

*Undergraduate Researcher*

*Berkeley, CA*

- Work with Kannan Ramchandran & Yaoqing Yang to construct novel neural pruning algorithm for boosting model robustness against adversarial perturbations (conference submission pending).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Coral Genomics

June 2020 - August 2020

*Machine Learning Intern*

*San Francisco, CA*

*YCombinator-funded startup applying artificial intelligence to personalize medicine*

- Collaborate with two other engineers to create computational pipeline for product launch.
- Develop novel autoencoder model for genotype imputation on 1000 Genomes data and patient samples.
- Devise unsupervised clustering methods for high-dimensional clinical genotype data with missing values.

### Zalando

June 2019 - August 2019

*Data Science Intern*

*Berlin, Germany*

*Largest e-commerce company based in Europe, headquartered in Berlin*

- Applied machine learning models in Pytorch to customize size & fit recommendations for customers, outperforming existing models across all accuracy metrics.
- Co-authored paper on recommendation algorithms (accepted at Workshop on Recommender Systems in Fashion 2020).

### Pivotal Software

May 2018 - August 2018

*Software Engineering Intern*

*San Francisco, CA*

- Updated & integrated command line interface written in Golang to support new Cloud Controller API.
- Pair-programmed daily with small team for 12 weeks on Cloud Foundry, an open source multi-cloud platform.
- Gained experience in distributed architecture, test-driven development, & continuous deployment to AWS & GCP.

## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

### The Daily Californian

February 2020 - present

*Data Journalist | Projects Editor*

*Berkeley, CA*

- Report on challenges in higher education through data-driven journalism ([dailycal.org/author/alexzhao/](https://dailycal.org/author/alexzhao/)).
- Analyze data & create compelling visualizations in Tableau & D3.js to tell stories in a web-first format.

### Berkeley Consulting

September 2017 - present

*Internal Vice President | Project Manager*

*Berkeley, CA*

*Student-run consulting firm working with Fortune 500 companies, startups, & non-profits*

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

K. Hajjar, J. Lasserre, **A. Zhao**, R. Shirvany, "Attention Gets You the Right Size & Fit in Fashion." Paper presented at *Workshop on Recommender Systems in Fashion at Recsys*, 2020.

K. Krauth, **A. Zhao\***, S. Dean\*, W. Guo\*, M. Curmei\*, B. Recht, M. Jordan, "Do Offline Metrics Predict Online Performance in Recommender Systems?" Paper presented at *NeurIPS Workshop on Consequential Decision Making in Dynamic Environments*, 2020.

**A. Zhao**, K. Monroe. "Integrative Complexity in Election Cycles: Lessons from American Presidential Candidates." *Annual Conference of the International Society on Political Psychology*, 2017.